

## European Development Days 2015 /

# RESUME OF ALL SESSIONS

EDD15

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## 1. Halting climate change and building resilience

### a. Auditorium Session

➤ [A climate change agreement: Towards Paris and beyond](#)

**Key Points :**

- Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) offer a unique chance to determine where support is needed to curb climate change.
- Many developing countries lack the capacity and finance to submit complete and accurate INDCs
- The EU is committed to remaining a large donor for climate change initiatives.
- Any agreement at the UN climate change meeting in Paris in December will require political commitment, financing, the use of new technologies and capacity building.

**Synopsis :** Scientists and policy-makers are pushing for a 25 % reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030. To reach this target, countries must keep their promises, making sure their pledges are kept. Some countries are doing what they need to do, yet others are not.

Central to the lead-up to the Paris meeting is the commitment made by countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions through Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). Many are sceptical about the impact INDCs will have, while doubt has been cast over the degree of political commitment from some governments.

Several speakers agreed that INDCs are essential and Paris will be a unique opportunity for every country to make its contribution to curbing climate change. The EU is the world's biggest aid donor and is committed to climate change through financial and political support. INDCs offer a unique chance to see where this support could be used best.

Ethiopia has put in place a number of climate change mitigating measures such as renewable energies. However, a lack of resources is hampering progress. Ethiopia's commitment is conditional on developing countries providing more support, as it simply does not have the capacity or resources to meet the targets.

Bhutan is also working to reduce emissions, as a 2°-C temperature drop would have a devastating effect on this Himalayan nation. Thanks to investing in hydropower and expanding forest land, Bhutan is now carbon negative. However, a lot more work needs to be done and that international support and global partnerships are vital.

Kenya is taking action against climate change through a number of initiatives, including enacting a new national climate change bill, which will soon be approved by the country's senate. But vague guidelines and a lack of means of implementing INDCs are a challenge for the country and other developing countries. Access to solid historical data needed to complete INDCs is also lacking.

The UN conference in Paris is not the end to tackling climate change, but just the beginning, and will require political commitment, financing, the use of new technologies and capacity building. A 'complete package' for Paris is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Insight :** At home or in the office, ask yourself how you can put the climate into everything you do. You can change climate change.

## b. Debate Sessions

- [Nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation: From deforestation to forest restoration](#)

### *Key Points:*

- Deforestation accounts for almost 20 % of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; there are 2 billion hectares of degraded forest land in the world.
- Global deforestation contributes to a loss of traditional cultures whose existence depends on their natural habitat.
- Forest and landscape restoration (FLR) is a nature-based solution that can help balance conflicting land use interests in forest areas.
- There is a strong linkage between ecosystem protection and poverty reduction.

**Synopsis:** Forest degradation and deforestation are responsible for nearly 20 % of greenhouse gas emissions. The main causes for this are agro-industrial plantations, conversion to pastureland, infrastructure development, fires, fuel wood collection, industrial logging and mining. In 2009, the Earth's forests absorbed an amount of CO<sub>2</sub> equal to about half of fossil fuel emissions that year.

The experience of the Blawong community in Indonesia is one example of a range of hazards posed by deforestation. Its people have lived on steep hill slopes in central Java for generations, but recently the village has been heavily affected by landslides. These caused major damage to land, properties and houses, causing alarm for the population and local authorities. Other examples include the Congo Basin, known as the world's "second lung", which, according to a major report, is struggling to maintain its rich biodiversity amid deforestation, poaching and the worsening effects of climate change.

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti caused one of the worst natural disasters the Western Hemisphere has ever seen, but day-to-day disasters, closely linked to development problems, are almost the norm and go unreported and unrecognised. The question is how competing ecological, social and economic demands can all be reconciled to tackle such problems.

Sustainable and integrative land use approaches, such as forest and landscape restoration efforts (FLR), offers one possible answer. FLR brings a range of benefits, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, income generation, enhanced biodiversity and improved rural livelihoods. Such nature-based solutions help balance conflicting land use interests in forest areas. In doing so, they can also meet development, environmental and sustainability concerns.

Wolfgang Baum, Programme Manager of 1mTrees, Fairventures Worldwide GmbH, noted that, largely for economic demands, "many governments have little interest in conservation." But the 1mTrees project in Borneo, which seeks to develop multi-species timber, is one way of finding a nature-based solution to "revitalizing" degraded land.

Thomas Hirsch, General Manager, Pacific Ring Europe GmbH, outlined how the fast-growing, low-density species of tree his company uses for its timber products helps protect virgin forest land. "We have shown that, with the right stakeholders, one can make agro-forest projects sustainable and provide value added."

According to Edmond Moukala N'Gouemo, Chief of Africa Unit, World Heritage Center, UNESCO, global deforestation is taking place at an "unprecedented" rate, adding, "with it, we also lose natural heritage and traditional cultures whose very existence depends on their natural habitat. This is why these issues must be given the highest priority."

Cristiana Pasca Palmer, Head of Unit, Climate Change, Environment, Natural Resources, Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid), gave a snapshot of what the EU does in this field. The EU Biodiversity Before Life programme is one example, she said, of the linkage between ecosystem protection and poverty reduction, one of the objectives of the European Year of Development and also the EU DevDays 2015.

Patrick Wylie, Senior Forest Policy Officer, Global Forests & Climate Change Programme, IUCN, stressed that efforts to tackle climate change mitigation must be “rooted” in action at the domestic level. “It is all well and good having lofty and aspirational targets and goals, and there is nothing wrong with this of course, but what really counts is that these are actually implemented,” he argued.

**Insight:** We live in an age of austerity and protecting the environment is not immune to funding issues. Financing the cost of climate mitigation has to be addressed, but the international community also has to put some sort of value, other than economic, on nature.

➤ [Disaster risk reduction, resilience, climate change adaptation: Connecting the dots](#)

**Key Points:**

- Disaster risk reduction is the cornerstone between humanitarian relief and development.
- It is the poor and marginalised who feel the main impact of disasters. We can support their fight for resilience by ensuring coherent policy that is implemented on the ground.
- The great majority of disasters are small scale and localised, so they do not get national and international attention and have to be tackled primarily at the local level.
- Governments, civil society and academia need to improve connections between the policy areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development.

**Synopsis :** Disaster risk reduction is not a sector. It is a way of conducting development in areas prone to disasters, such as flooding or drought. So it is important to break down the barriers between the various policy sectors involved.

The starting point is the local level. Donors and NGOs should support grass-roots initiatives. The problem must be tackled through local-level activism, and international support should aim to build up capacities. A global network that enables local action is needed. It has to address the underlying causes of people’s vulnerability to disasters, and to recognise the impact of those disasters on their lives, livelihoods and assets.

This is a crucial year for disaster risk reduction. In Sendai, Japan, in March, governments agreed on a new international framework. A number of other major international conferences this year will focus on its structure and financing.

For its part, the EU is trying to involve as many sectors as possible in its new disaster reduction framework, from agriculture and education to culture and healthcare. Above all, it is setting out to promote resilience at the local level. The European Commission is reorienting its aims to emphasise ‘coordinated resilience’ in its cooperation with third countries. It has a number of projects in which it acts with local people and supports local capacities.

The EU is also promoting ‘resilient investment’ as a means of stimulating economic development without running down natural resources. Development cannot be sustained unless it is resilient. For example, investing in schools in an earthquake zone without making them earthquake proof would be an irresponsible use of funds. One suggestion was that a study should be funded into the

financing, ordering and construction responsibilities for the schools that collapsed in the Nepal earthquake.

One of the most important discussion points in Sendai was the need to strengthen the capacity of local authorities. The European Parliament has pointed out that financing is crucial to disaster risk reduction. Adaptation of social protection systems to cope with disasters is also essential. And coherence within the EU – among institutions and national governments – is important for an effective policy on this complex of issues.

Disasters are not always natural. Conflict disasters are obviously due to human intervention, but flooding, too, is often at least partly due to human intervention on infrastructure and the environment. Understanding ecosystems is central to reducing disaster risks, and local people have the closest knowledge of those systems. This has implications for the political process. Smallholders are often marginalised, while corporations are prominent. To achieve sustainable agriculture, all the stakeholders must have a voice.

It is also important to capture best practices on resilience, and to draw lessons from them. In Sendai, the European Commission launched its Resilience Compendium, a book describing practical examples.

Sustainable land management, sustainable water management, and early warning and action on disasters and climate change were among the priorities cited by the speakers.

**Insight:** ‘To our surprise, many people in Somalia did not know what climate change is... But in their fields, they have seen kinds of vegetation coming up that they’ve never seen before... and which is unpalatable to their livestock. So they know that something’s happening in the wild that is affecting their livelihoods.’ – Charles Kevin Otieno, Somalia Program, World Vision International

➤ [Vanuatu and the Pacific: From the Pam disaster to rehabilitation and sustainable development](#)

**Key Points :**

- Climate change is a dangerous and long-term threat to African, Caribbean and Pacific nations.
- Island states are particularly vulnerable due to their location and lack of agricultural and economic diversity.
- Climate-smart agriculture is a long-term approach to building resilience in food production in the face of increasingly frequent and intense natural disasters.

**Synopsis :** Roy Mickey Joy, Ambassador of Vanuatu to the European Union and President of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Committee of Ambassadors, opened the session with an impassioned description of the devastation Tropical Cyclone Pam had on Vanuatu when it hit the island nation on 13 March 2015.

Despite the Category 5 rating, there were only 11 casualties, thanks to the early warning system, the island chain’s comprehensive mobile telephone network and people’s use of traditional knowledge to shelter from the storm. However, 90 % of the nation’s crops were destroyed and over half the population displaced with more than 40 000 people requiring shelter. Public infrastructure had been reduced to zero.

Out of an estimated US\$ 495 million required for reconstruction, only US\$ 8 million have been collected so far. Joy said he is organising an international pledging conference in Brussels in the run up to UN climate change meeting in December, where he hopes the recently formed forum

for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will have a significant role to play in generating a global agreement recognising their plight.

Len Ishamel, Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States and Mission to the European Union, represents four tiny islands, microstates with populations from 2 500 people to 180 000, located in a cyclone-prone areas and where all resources and utilities are coastal. Often heavily reliant on tourism, if hotels or airports are out of action, economic activity comes to a stop, she said.

Cyclones hit everything in one sweep; up to three years of gross domestic product can be wiped out in 20 hours, as opposed to 1 % in the case of Hurricane Sandy in the US. Rebuilding diverts scarce resources, reducing investment in the future. In addition, as these islands are supposedly graduating into middle-income status, they will lose concessions and have to pay for their own development.

The World Bank is working on catastrophic risk mechanisms, though poor data sets restrict the islands ability to put a real value on coastal assets. There are efforts to reduce activities that increase vulnerability, such as mining of sand dunes or deforestation, and establish regional pooling of key construction skills.

Michael Hailu, Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), spoke of the need to help communities prepare for, resist and recover from disasters. He warned that the focus on humanitarian action risks putting long-term development into 'second place'.

Though Vanuatu has proved resilient and proactive in rehabilitating its agricultural sector, long-term thinking is critical. It shares the major weakness of its Pacific neighbours: a heavy reliance on food imports that puts pressure on budgets whereas local foods would be healthier and more resilient to natural disasters.

Jethro Green, Executive Secretary of the Caribbean Farmers Network, which brings together over 500 000 smallholders, also focused on mitigating and managing climate change. He is keen to see advantage taken of low-hanging fruits, in this case roots and tubers such as sweet potatoes, yams and cassava: they are healthy, environmentally friendly and stand up to flooding. He would also like to see people reduce their intake of Western junk food and prepare more local dishes for the tourists, reducing imports and waste.

Dominique Burgeon, Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, agreed on the importance of agriculture, considering estimates that the sector absorbs about 22% of the total cost of disasters is probably conservative. By coincidence, the weekend of the cyclone also saw the UN agree on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

It is hoped the Sendai Framework will help achieve a more integrated way of building resilience, promoting for instance a stronger role for sectors such as agriculture or fisheries in developing policy and generating data, assessing needs and identifying actions for the reconstruction phase.

While building resilience to shock, Bourgeon insisted it was important for islands to diversify to make the most of their natural advantages and that the approach to technology transfer should recognise local knowledge, so that best practices can be shared and the right balance found between existing practices and innovations.

**Insights:** The Pacific and Caribbean need to work together on a global strategy with other Small Island Developing States so that donors focus resources on real needs and improve collaboration between institutions, getting everyone to walk together in enhancing food security and addressing climate change.

## 2. Sustainable energy for growth

### a. Auditorium Session

#### ➤ [Energy for Africa: New partnerships for EU-Africa investment](#)

##### **Key Points :**

- Energy is a basic prerequisite for development. Without it, healthcare, education and business simply shut down.
- Africa has for too long left its development to others. Now is the time for Africa to take responsibility for its own development, including sustainable energy, through better policies and institutions.
- Energy can be a profitable business, but it is also risky. Public financing should be used to leverage much larger pools of private financing.
- Energy is a utility and often the responsibility of local authorities. Projects to promote energy access must involve partners at a decentralised level.

**Synopsis :** The correlation between access to energy and development indicators is almost perfect. Energy access remains one of the greatest markers of persistent inequality.

Energy is a vital prerequisite for development. Without it, healthcare, education, telecommunications, trade and business cannot function. In Nigeria last May, a massive collapse in energy generation led to hospitals shutting down and doctors sending their patients home to die. 'There is no possibility of life without energy', said one speaker.

For decades, Africa has relied on development aid from outsiders. Now it is time for African leaders to take responsibility for the continent's development, using Africa's rich assets. Good governance and leadership are key. In Nigeria, the former president amassed a collection of 11 private jets. By contrast, president-elect Muhammadu Buhari thrilled his people and became a hit on social media recently by flying premium economy.

'It is impossible to build a successful sustainable energy sector without the foundations of good governance', said one speaker. Unless the right policies and institutions are in place, investments into energy will be wasted. It is not enough simply to innovate – there has to be a political plan to create reform.

While there was consensus that access to energy is a right, that right needs money to become reality. Energy generation and distribution can be good business, but it's often risky. Governments and donors can reduce the risk by partnering with the private sector and offering guarantees. But public financing must be used to leverage a much larger pool of private financing. USAID committed US\$ 7 billion into energy projects in Africa and was able to leverage a further US\$ 30 billion of private funds. Financing needs to be long-term to ensure sustainable energy creation. Microfinance is another good source of funds. However, inviting in multinationals to exploit a country's oil reserves is not the way to ensure that local people benefit from better energy access.

As well as engaging the private sector, other creative, decentralised partnerships are vital. Energy is a utility most often managed at a local municipal level, so town councils need to be engaged. The EU is initiating a programme for twinning mayors of cities in Africa and European countries. Such partnerships can form the basis for transferring technical skills and building badly needed domestic capacity in science and innovation.

Meanwhile, start-ups such as GloW Energy from Germany are connecting youth in Europe with youth in Africa, creating solutions to improve the efficiency of domestic stoves and reduce the



death toll from smoke inhalation, which currently kills more people than malaria and HIV/AIDS combined.

**Insights:** Investments into energy need to be profitable, but profitability can be social as well as financial. The social and developmental value of improved energy access needs to be properly accounted for.

## b. Debate Sessions

### ➤ [Sustainable energy: Unleashing the private sector's potential](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- Improvements in innovation and affordability will drive private sector investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- The provision of renewable and sustainable energy is now part of the mainstream debate, attracting billions of dollars of investment.
- Local banks can fill the financing gap, particularly in small-scale projects, creating new business opportunities for their investors.
- Renewable energy projects in Kyrgyzstan are helping give security to the domestic market and reduce the output of greenhouse gases.

**Synopsis:** Advances in innovation and affordability are helping make sustainable and renewable energy sources an attractive opportunity for private sector investors.

The issues surrounding such energy sources are becoming part of the mainstream debate. Billions of dollars of private and public money are now being funnelled into projects across the globe, ranging from giant solar power systems in South Africa to household schemes in the central Asian state of Kyrgyzstan.

Energy experts believe that investments will flow once financial institutions have found the risks to be no greater than in any other segment they are financing.

This is particularly the case for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small-scale renewable energy projects. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank, has recognised the best way to fill the gap in small enterprise investment is to work with financial institutions. The IFC now has 900 private banks worldwide actively involved in energy financing.

The success of these investment models is in making credit lines scalable. 'Local banks are the main messengers that need to be leveraged,' said Jan-Willem van de Ven, Senior Carbon Manager at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). 'It's good for these banks because normally they would just focus on trade finance or real estate investment. Now they are able to expand their business lines.'

At the beginning of June, it was announced that a landmark renewable energy project in Kazakhstan, the country's first large-scale solar plant, was to be co-financed by loans of well over EUR 80 million from the EBRD and the Clean Technology Fund (CTF).

Meanwhile, neighbouring Kyrgyzstan has already taken a step forward in energy security with a renewable energy project designed to cut its dependence on electricity imports and reduce CO2 production by 23 000 tonnes each year.



Nurzat Abdyrasulova, General Director of Civic Foundation UNISON, said one of the main drivers for change was climate change, which had left reservoir levels depleted and reduced the production of hydroelectricity. This meant the country was ripe for a renewable energy drive, with a US\$ 20 million fund providing for 480 new energy projects, most of them for households. 'Our government started to understand that in order to manage energy demand they had to manage energy efficiency,' Abdyrasulova added.

The right policy framework was necessary for the proper development of renewable energy, according to Marie Donnelly, Director of Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency, at the European Commission. 'Even those who really and truly believe in a transition to sustainable energy are not naïve enough to think it is going to happen without the right policy in place,' she added.

Thanks to an appropriate policy framework the South African government was able to harness renewable solar and wind energy. 'South Africa created the programme from scratch,' said Germán Bejarano García, Head of International Institutional Relations and Advisor to the Chairman, at ABENGOA.

'They were quite flexible in listening to all advice (available), and the whole programme has been very successful,' he said. 'I would say it is the most successful of its kind—it was introduced in a very short period of time, and all players involved in wind or solar energy are present in South Africa. This is good for the country and good for the communities.'

**Insight:** 'Going forward, the energy system for all of us will end up being highly capital intensive. That's a serious shift in funding, from both the financial and operator's sides. That's one of the things you have to think about in terms of the measures you put in place. At the end of the day, electricity as a system will rely on the very highly intelligent use of data and capital. It will have almost nothing to do with electrons. It will be big capital investments up front, and lots and lots of IT to manage the capital to get the best return.' Marie Donnelly, Director of Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency, European Commission.

➤ [Sharing the load: Public and private sector roles in addressing poor people's energy needs](#)

**Key Points :**

- 1.2 billion people across the world have no access to energy.
- Various small energy companies have sprung up, offering innovative energy products and services to remote areas.
- The EU wants to connect 500 million people by 2030.
- Better regulation and new policies, including financial instruments, are needed for developing countries.
- Capacity building is also required.

**Synopsis :** Globally, 1.2 billion people have no access to energy. According to this session's moderator, at least US\$ 50 billion is needed to address this need.

Various companies have set up shop in developing countries, attempting to find solutions to the problem, providing services such as small grid technologies and 'pay as you go solar'. One such company is Kenyan-based SteamaCo that develops cost effective power services and smart technologies to people and organisations in remote areas. Another is DIFFER, with biomass stoves and wireless solar utilities two examples of its product offering. Both companies were represented on the panel.

Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General at the European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, said that the EU is the largest donor in the world and is committed to energy. He noted that much progress has been made at international meetings over the past three years on how to provide energy to the people who do not have it. 'Now the issues are clear,' he said.

Rudischhauser also spoke about the EU's new rural electrification financial instrument known as 'Electrify' and the EU's ambition to help connect 500 million people by 2030. With solutions such as those already offered by the companies on the panel, he questioned why more people in these remote areas are not already connected.

In response, Jorund Buen, co-founder of DIFFER pointed to a skill shortage due to migration and a lack of education. He also said that many small energy projects find it difficult to survive as there is no funding available for their preparation phase.

Fabby Tumiwa, Executive Director of Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR) in Indonesia, blamed a shoddy regulatory framework. He said policies in his country are outdated and that the government does not understand energy issues or needs of the population. He called for a 'more flexible regulatory system' to be put in place to connect the '50 million people in our country currently living without energy'.

Rudischhauser added that few countries have regulatory systems in place and this needs to change across the board.

Lucy Symons, General Manager and Co-founder of Village Infrastructure, said that equity is good to get companies on the right path, but she called for more diverse sources of financing such as crowdfunding.

Despite the challenges, Sam Duby, founder of SteamaCo, remained positive saying that the developing world will soon be connected. 'We just need to grease the wheel,' he said.

The moderator concluded that the Commission should look at the lack of regulation in developing countries and introduce new policy measures. He also called on energy stakeholders to try and influence policymaking at both regional and national level.

**Insights:** Developing countries should introduce renewable energies ahead of other energy sources. This clean energy would minimise CO2 emissions from the outset.

### 3. An urban world: challenges and opportunities

#### a. Auditorium Session

➤ [Sustainable cities: Good for the global North, but not the global South?](#)

**Key Points:**

- The benefits of urbanisation will depend on the way we plan it, and the way we put people at the centre.
- There is no magic recipe. Urban planning should start with national policy, and then needs the participation and consultation of people living in the cities.
- At least 50 % of land in cities should be public land for roads and open spaces. In Africa the rate is about 10 %.
- Design and urban and financial planning are the pillars of urbanisation.
- To improve the conditions of slum dwellers, programmes must be developed around their priorities. The process must be driven by demand.

**Synopsis:** Some African and Asian cities will double in size in less than 15 years in a transformation that is unplanned and messy. Mistakes are being repeated.

But well-planned cities can play an essential role in supporting economic development and reducing poverty. Most of gross domestic product (GDP) is produced in cities, so they are essential for growth and development.

Urbanisation is an opportunity for growth and development in Africa. Government on both the local and national levels must realise this link. The benefits of urbanisation will depend on the way we plan it, and the way we put people at the centre.

Many big cities in developing countries have been mismanaged, resulting in slums and a lack of services. Proper organisation is a prerequisite of sustainable city development. If cities are well managed, prosperity is also increased.

A city is a complex living organism that needs both organisation and a clear vision. Urbanisation – which is led by infrastructure or sectoral intervention with a motorway or a hospital – is usually not integrated in a vision and this makes solutions more complex.

What is also lacking is good relations between local and national government. Laws on urbanisation, security policy and other issues are made at national level, but blame for security problems, for example, is directed at city mayors.

There is no magic recipe to solve all the problems, but efforts should start with national policy, followed by participation and consultation of people living in the cities.

Cities should be designed. They need a legal framework and a design for the physical and urban aspects. Financial design is also needed. Since there is expenditure, there is a need for income. It must be shown that money can be raised for investment.

These are the pillars of urbanisation. Political will is required to bring them all together.

At least 50 % of city land should be public land, for roads and open spaces. In Africa the rate is about 10 %. Indeed, there is a deficit of public land in most cities. It is a huge challenge.

Most of countries in Africa have an institutional structure that is highly centralised. This impacts on how support is delivered. Dialogue with municipalities has to be increased.

Slum dwellers are the new stakeholders of the cities of the developing world. About 70% of the cities of Africa consist of slums whose dwellers have been sidelined for too long.

A town such as Monrovia, Liberia, has 1.6 million people living in city built for a small population. Some 70 % of Monrovia's are slum dwellers living illegally on publicly owned land. The city's mayor believes in working with them to help improve their conditions. It is important to ask them what they want done.

Programmes must be developed around the priorities of the slum dwellers. The process must be demand driven. It is important to get their involvement, as the number of people who are demanding change will eventually cause a transformation.

While the issues affecting cities in developing countries are not radically different from those in the North, new challenges are being faced by city developments driven by players from the East, such as the Chinese.

**Insight:** Cities are engines of future growth, but are blighted by weak policy frameworks and the lack of national government support.

## b. Debate Sessions

- [Megatrend urbanisation: Metropolitan governance as a chance for sustainable urban and regional development](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Urban living is the dominant lifestyle of the future.
- Metropolitan regions can spur economic and social development.
- The concept of a city no longer reflects the urban reality.
- Fragmentation in metropolitan areas is catastrophic for decision making.
- There can be a mismatch between policy and reality.

**Synopsis:** Urban living is the dominant lifestyle of the future. By 2050, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. But how can the authorities cope with this?

Experts agree that the existence of metropolitan regions can spur economic and social development. But political will and international commitment are not always enough to make this development a reality. Challenges include dealing with diverse localities and cutting through administrative obstacles.

According to a German study on effective metropolitan governance, authorities should carry out a 'needs assessment' to get a clear picture of what is happening on the ground. Rural-urban linkages such as migration, commuting and resource recycling have great ecological and social potential, the study states. How to manage these linkages is key, said Verena Maier of the German think tank GIZ. Choosing the right structure, making economies of scale and effectively managing the layers of government involved is vital. 'Authorities need to cooperate, not compete,' she said.

In presenting the experience of Stuttgart, Germany, as an example of good practice, Thomas Kiwitt from the city's regional planning and development department said that opportunities and challenges do not stop at the city limits – the 'functional area' is much bigger, as cities continuously expand. It is important to provide new infrastructure and residential areas, and to

stay competitive for inward investment. A solid legal framework is needed. 'It is never easy – existing structures have to be altered and competences changed,' he said. 'This can cause a lot of problems.'

According to Rudiger Ahrend from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), studies have shown that metropolitan areas are more productive than rural areas, while more educated people live in these built-up areas. He also said that economic growth increases in areas near to large cities.

However, government structures in metropolitan areas can be highly fragmented, such as those in Paris or Chicago, and this fragmentation has resulted in confusion among government departments and a lack of decision making.

'The government structure in these cities does not work,' Ahrend said. 'For a given population size, economic productivity is 6 % lower when the number of municipalities is doubled.' He concluded by calling for less administrative fragmentation in government to reduce the negative impact on productivity.

William Cobbett of South Africa's Cities Alliance highlighted the so-called 'mismatch' between policy and reality in some metropolitan areas in Africa. He said that the huge growth we have seen in urban areas had not been planned. In some cities, there can be a lack of coordinated planning, as well as competition between government departments and resistance to change – all hampering progress.

A good example of a city dealing with war was given by Ellen Pratt from the Urban Monrovia City Corporation in Liberia. After the war, essentials such as roads and sanitation facilities were built in Monrovia and across Liberia. Now, with these basics in place, the city is looking 'holistically' at issues such as capacity development, better government structures and the upgrading of slum.

In addition, Monrovia recently introduced a strategic development plan and hopes to implement a national decentralisation policy. Coordination between national and local governments is the key.

**Insight:** Metropolitan governance should focus more on social issues, especially given the new situation created in some countries due to migration. The impact of national policies on matters such as social housing is underrated and needs to be thought through, as these policies may have negative side effects in the longer term.

### ➤ [Feeding the urban world: Local solutions for global challenges](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- The world population is expected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050, with more than 50 % living in urban areas.
- The population of cities will top 3.5 billion by 2025, and by 2030, approximately 80 % of the developing world's population will live in cities.
- Increasing urbanization trends, particularly in Asia and Africa, will affect food security and food supply chains.
- Addressing urban planning, food security and nutrition holistically can foster more integrated and inclusive urban development.

**Synopsis:** We live in an age of urbanisation with more than half of the world's population currently live in cities. This ever-growing trend presents policymakers with a range of complexities and puts social economies and urban ecosystems under pressure on different fronts. It touches on

everything from water and air quality, social dynamics and food security to waste management, transport and relations between urban centres and regions.

More than 800 million people suffer from hunger and one of the causes is the myriad food supply chains that take food from, mostly, rural areas to, usually, urban ones. However, there are solutions. One notable success story is the City Region Food Systems initiative, which brings together international organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) cooperating in raising awareness on how improving city region food policy can foster more integrated and inclusive urban development. The scheme aims to enhance cooperation and knowledge exchange over a two-year period with the focus on developing the role of local food systems.

Cities can learn from each other and a good example is how Milan is using its role as host of this year's Global Expo to develop an Urban Food Policy Pact. This involves several of the world's leading cities and seeks to develop principles for the development of food systems, based on sustainability and social justice. Andrea Calori, Project Manager, Milan Food Policy, Italy, noted that many cities already work on food issues but lack a general strategy. He added, 'That is why it is important to raise awareness of the role food can play in the well-being and resilience of a city.'

According to Marielle Dubbeling, Director, RUAF Foundation (Resource Centers on Urban Agriculture and Food Security), everyone needs to 'take responsibility' for addressing the issue. Urbanisation increasingly shapes the issue of food security. It is both a challenge and opportunity for the urban world and as such Dubbeling advocates more 'flexible' EU policymaking.

Makiko Taguchi, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UNFAO), forecasts the growth in urbanisation will occur 'mostly' in Africa and Asian countries, regions with the most limited resources to address the issue.

'I am not saying that everything should be more local, but current food systems are not working and are not sustainable. Things like urban planning, food security and nutrition all need to come together,' she said.

Cristina Toscano, Fondazione Cariplo - International Cooperation Officer and DEAR Ambassador/European Project EATHINK 2015, wants to see policymakers involve young people more in the food policy debate. One example of good practice is the EATHINK 2015 project involving primary and secondary schools with the aim of boosting understanding of food security and sustainable food systems. The motto is "Eat Local, Think Global" and this, according to Toscano, is a particularly good illustration of how young people can get involved in the discussion, stressing that 'youngsters are the consumers not only of today but tomorrow.'

Session moderator David Edwards, Assistant Director - Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit, noted that coping with a burgeoning urban population is a key global challenge, one mired in a complexity of issues. 'I believe that the issues we care most about in life, such as pollution, public health and employment, resonate most loudly at the local level. These are very exciting times for those of us working in this area and I predict a sea change ahead.'

**Insight:** Knowing what we eat, where that food comes and the potential impact it has on the environment is a simple but deep question. It is also one that is well-worth all of us ruminating upon.

➤ [Urban future leading the development agenda](#)

**Key Points :**

- The replacement of the Millennium Development Goals with the Sustainable Development Goals will have a significant impact on urban development.
- Integration of governance structures is key for the long-term development of cities.
- Urban challenges can be overcome through integrated public policies and local governance.
- Public-private partnerships are an effective method of supporting sustainable urban development.

**Synopsis :** This year is a crucial year for urban development, especially with the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their replacement with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will serve as a new social contract for the post-2015 development agenda.

The key to establishing the success of the SDGs, said Johannes Krassnitzer, ART Programme Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is establishing a sustainable and inclusive economic model that benefits citizens, the natural environment and cities. This relates not only to large, so-called 'mega cities', but also smaller, mid-sized cities, which make up the bulk of urban centres; currently the biggest capacity gaps are found in small and medium-sized cities. Krassnitzer added that it is important to target local economic development for these centres through connections with all levels of government: city, local and regional.

The success of the SDGs depends on creating effective links between the SDGs and decentralised cooperation. According to Octavi de la Varga, Head of Office for European and International Strategy, Directorate for International Relations, Barcelona Provincial Council, it is about establishing a cooperative balance between cities, involving all stakeholders and including all levels of administration in cities and surrounding territories.

With urbanisation set to continue globally over the next decades, many issues affect planning and development – employment, resource management, demographics and local services. Ultimately, the challenge for cities, noted de la Varga is to bring these issues together under the umbrella of good governance, and a need to move from a needs-based approach to a more strategic approach. The latter, he said, is all about long-term planning.

Issues relating to local services, transport or housing within an urban centre, as well as those relating to its relationships with its hinterland and rural surroundings, cannot be sorted-out in isolation. Urban challenges can be best overcome by the application of integrated public policies and local governance.

'Governance is the key,' said de la Varga. You have to take it into account when you relate to the hinterland and rural areas. This has consequences for people moving, for example. It is about how you manage your city, and how you relate to the surrounding areas, how you relate as politicians, as citizens within all levels of governance.'

**Insight:** A snap online poll of session participants found that the majority believed that efficient use of resources is the greatest challenges facing cities, and that public-private partnerships are the most effective method of supporting sustainable urban development.

➤ [The Human Scale: For people-centered sustainable cities](#)

**Key Points:**

- It is natural instinct for people to want to be together with others and public spaces allow this to happen.



- Policy has been driven from the top by people who do not understand the needs of the majority who live in cities; people have to be central to the creation of public spaces.
- In many cities, public spaces are being re-introduced with successful results.

**Synopsis :** Historically, people moved to cities for a better life, but cities are not necessarily designed for that. In the 1960s, people moved en masse to cities, but they were just a 'machine for living'. The planners and architects did not try to understand the aspirations and needs of the people; the 'modernists' in city planning managed a plan to kill city life. The problem has been that policy has been driven from the top by people who do not understand the needs of the majority who live in the city.

In China, the massive move to the city has taken the Chinese away from their traditional houses arranged in courtyards and places of meeting. They have had to adjust to new 'linear' housing developments on the city fringes from which they commute.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, has been expanding at a rate of half a million people each year, and is unfortunately following the China/Western model of building capacity for cars, roads and the massive use of energy. Modern planners in Dhaka believe that if they could control the resources, they could have a successful city.

Rickshaws, which represent a source of employment, were banned from the streets in favour of cars. Automobiles are now a major problem and the World Bank needs to provide a US\$1 billion dollar loan for new roads. Is this the right model?

To counter this trend, public spaces are being re-introduced with successful results in many cities around the world. In Copenhagen, for example, the widespread introduction of pedestrianisation has influenced people's behaviour. Public life is coming back, where 'mainstreet' has become a 'walking street' and the main square has become a public square, as it used to be.

After the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, which destroyed the inner city, authorities decided not to rebuild the town as it was, but to ask the residents what kind of city they would like to see. The 'Share an Idea' project generated 106 000 ideas about what it should be like: low rise, more public spaces, more gardens, smaller retail areas, a city for people. They also wanted the cathedral to be the tallest building and be able to hear the sound of people talking and birds singing, not car engines.

It is estimated that 80 % of people will live in cities by the end of the century. As such, public spaces will be more important than ever. Public spaces are the future and people have to be central to their creation. 'If you have more space to live in, you will have more public life.'

**Insight:** People in cities instinctively flock to public spaces; they are the key to making cities more liveable in the future.

### ➤ Solid ground: Access to land for vulnerable people in developing countries

#### **Key Points:**

- 3.9 billion people today live in urban areas. That is 54 % of all humankind. By 2030, it will rise to 60 %.
- 90 % of the urban growth will be in Africa and South Asia by 2030.
- 1 billion people currently live in slums.
- In developing countries, people are moving to cities at an increasing rate in search of a better life, better access to services, better education for their children and better healthcare.

- Most of these new urban dwellers are obliged to live in informal, illegal settlements, where insecurity of tenure makes them particularly vulnerable.
- EU development cooperation policy covers access to land, but so far this has been mainly in the context of rural areas and farming.

**Synopsis:** In Africa more than 350 million people will move to the cities over the next 25 years. That is more than the current total of city dwellers in Europe. It will be one of the biggest and fastest migrations in human history. But when people arrive in African cities, they find that they cannot access legal land markets, affordable land or housing. They then become illegal citizens – a dire prospect for the cities' future.

These illegal citizens have to access services informally, with all that implies in terms of corruption and exploitation. The land they can occupy is very often on slopes that are subject to landslides, or even on beaches. Up to now, the international development community has seen land as a rural issue. But if 'resilient cities', which is a future Sustainable Development Goal, are to be achieved, the problem must also be tackled urgently in the urban context.

The current situation has been created by a number of complex causes. But the main problem is that the planning systems, which consolidate land and make it available for development, are simply too slow. Unless a new system of making land available to people in sufficient quantity is created both to clear the backlog and to make way for new arrivals, slum cities will continue to exist – and they will not be 'resilient'.

This challenge must be taken up to mobilise many more partners and resources. All over the world when land is developed, plans come first, then come services and then settlement. But the reality is that land is increasingly being settled first, then the services are provided informally, and any planning is an afterthought. The need is to start thinking about planning in a way that permits settlement, but does not block future opportunities for the provision of services.

The Liberian capital of Monrovia is an example. Measuring just 22 square miles, it was originally intended to house 500 000 people. Now, due mainly to the recent conflicts in Liberia, the capital's population has grown to about 1.6 million. This has created enormous challenges for sanitation and housing – 70 % of inhabitants now live in slums, on land owned either by government or by individuals.

Decentralisation may be one way to solve this problem. Under its new Agenda for Transformation, Liberia intends to devolve power to local authorities so that they can develop their regional cities. Urbanisation would then spread across different counties, rather than being concentrated in Monrovia. Public services would also have to be decentralised.

In the run-up to the Habitat 3 conference, the EU is building a policy response to urban land issues. This will include a focus on the gender aspect – it is important to improve women's currently low access to land.

**Insight:** 'In Liberia, you have to find the land first. Then you start planning.' – Clara Doe Mvogo, Mayor of Monrovia.

## 4. Gender equality

### a. Auditorium Session

➤ [Ending gender inequality by 2030!](#)

**Key Points:**

- On existing trends it will take 50 years for women to achieve political parity and 80 years for economic parity.
- Development results depend on achieving gender equality. If inequality is not ended before 2030, poverty and hunger will not be eradicated.
- Gender needs to be integrated in all aspects of dialogue with country partners and across all policy sectors.
- Valuing the role of women alone, from giving birth to caring for the elderly, will achieve structural change.

**Synopsis :** The figures are in and they make for depressing reading. The number of female parliamentarians may have doubled, but parity is at least 50 years away. And there are still very few women in local government. More women than men graduate, but girls continue to drop out of school at an alarming rate. This has led to 64 % of adult illiterates being female.

Women have improved access to labour markets, but they are a long way from achieving parity and face an average pay gap with men of 24 %, rising to 70 % in some countries. Very few women own property, despite contributing up to 80 % of family income. Gains of 15 % of Gross National Income (GNI) that could be achieved through full equality remain a distant dream.

Gender equality should not be seen as a combat between men and women, but as a struggle for development and better societies through reducing power-sharing imbalances. Sixty per cent of the billion poorest people on the planet are women. They will only be able to make their full contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) if they are full actors in society. Women are crucial to post-conflict restoration and preventing a renewal of the conflict. However, only 16 % of 585 peace agreements between 1995 and 2010 refer to women.

Gender-sensitivity needs to be mainstreamed across all policy areas. Negotiations are underway for next year's World Humanitarian Summit, but gender issues are not yet on the agenda. The growing global consensus also needs to be matched with the political will to drive implementation on the ground and engagement by men and boys, for example through the 'He for She' campaign.

Innovative local actions can help women put their strength and resilience to better use. Village loans and savings associations are enabling women to invest and empowering them in local politics and education. But straightforward steps can bring immediate benefits: investment in childcare or sanitation infrastructure will help them be less time-poor and avoid long walks for water.

Equality is a question of the dignity of all human beings. Men have abused their power, but women are often not seen as good enough, because they don't think of themselves as good enough. They have not learnt to identify themselves separately from fathers or husbands. Meanwhile, though some countries have seen dramatic improvements, there has been next to no progress overall in combatting violence against women, undoubtedly the worst attack on their dignity.

**Insight:** One aspect of inequality is the presumption of choice. Policymakers wrongly assume that girls faced with an arranged marriage have the choice to accept it or not. But child brides are often

content to get married, presuming they have chosen to be in agreement with their parents' decision on the basis that 'they know best.'

## b. Debate Sessions

### ➤ Women's empowerment: Key lessons for financing and measuring gender equality

#### *Key Points:*

- Financial gaps are slowing down women's empowerment.
- A number of action and policy reforms are needed to increase domestic resources.
- Innovative financing can address some of the financial gaps and areas of under-investment.
- Measures are needed for national governments to be more effective when using data collection and monitoring tools.

**Synopsis:** Expanding on the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals offer a chance to strengthen the national statistical capacity needed to reduce gender inequalities and thus contribute to shaping policy. These new opportunities include the measurement of social norms and their impact on social development.

The lack of gender equality must be argued through facts and figures, and funding is essential for such data to be collected. Gender statistics suffer from a number of gaps: key empowerment issues are overlooked, such as access to land, inheritance, violence against women and a woman's status within the household. There is also a large data gap concerning age, as most surveys do not interview women (or men) above the age of 46. The World Bank has done work on new ways of conducting household surveys, which highlights the unreliability of the older methods.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Centre has produced an index – the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) – that looks at such issues as early marriage and unpaid care work and their effect on women's health and education.

SIGI recently launched its first project in the field, a country pilot involving interviews with some 7 000 men and women in Uganda in an exercise that revealed marked regional differences in attitudes to women's rights. An awareness of such regional divergences should be a key element when drawing up policy. Other key issues in data collection include the need to build bridges between the data collectors and the policy-makers, as better data means better policy.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has engaged in monitoring exercises across the world, and notes that progress is uneven and slow, partly because of persistent funding gaps. The financial framework needs a game change, which means making it more local and guaranteeing the commitment of women in helping local governments to identify and address their specific needs.

UN Women is calling for the transformation of financing from all sources at all levels, and stresses the need for increased private financing. Policy actions would include progressive tax systems that do not involve taxing the parallel economy, encouraging women to participate fully in the economy with a guarantee of fair work, and making sure that donors spend on a wide enough variety of issues.

**Insight:** Pitifully small sums of money go to organisations dealing with women's rights compared with budgets of other non-governmental organisations.

➤ [Empowering women and girls in Central Asia: Stories from the field](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gender equality projects in Central Asia are having a positive impact on the lives of women and girls in the region.
- Cultural sensitivity and active partnerships with government and local authorities are essential to the success of projects aimed at empowering women and girls.
- Combatting domestic violence, from male partners and household matriarchs, is a precondition of gender equality.
- Women who benefit from gender equality projects often become effective ambassadors for change, creating strong links in a chain of sustainable development.

**Synopsis:** Victors Makarovs, Parliamentary Secretary for Development, Latvia, said gender inequality was one of the main reasons why the Millennium Development Goals fell short of some targets. As the current President of the EU Council, Latvia believes it is vital to capitalise on the current global political momentum behind gender equality to ensure it becomes a core priority within the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue, so investment in women's organisations should go beyond health and education and also focus on agriculture, infrastructure and other mainstream economic sectors.

Iluta Lace, Director, Resource Centre for Women - Marta, stressed the importance of respecting cultural differences when working in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, but added that preventing violence towards women, which is still often considered the 'norm' in the region, is a precondition for equality.

Gulshod Sharipova, Representative, MIR - Office for Initiative Development, said that violence against women in Tajikistan frequently involves mothers-in-law who dominate their young daughters-in-law. Tajik girls traditionally marry at 17 or 18 years old, becoming 'the labour force' for their husbands' families. While the state increasingly recognises the need for the police to act against violence towards women, local attitudes still need to change. The donor community also needs to recognise the issue of women-on-women violence.

Olga Nogaeva, International Project Manager, Formaper - Agency of the Milan Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Craft & Agriculture, highlighted the benefits of taking a holistic, step-by-step approach to empowering women who have suffered violence. She said that projects aimed at helping such women first offer psychological counselling. Next they give legal advice, often focused on property rights, child support and access to welfare payments, with economic support provided later.

Working closely with local public and private organisations can reap considerable additional rewards. For example, one partnership with a local association of craftsmen gave women the official status of 'craftsperson' which exempted their businesses from taxation, allowed them to hire family members or other women in need, and gave them pension rights.

Making such breakthroughs is the result of extremely hard work, Nogaeva said. She added that project workers have to be incredibly sensitive to the culture they are working within to identify which opportunities will work best in that particular place.

Non-governmental organisations should not worry too much about local men resenting the arrival of foreign women development workers. Men often ask to be included in their projects. 'We always say, if men come, don't exclude them,' Nogaeva said.

Asked if women empowered by their projects ever become 'ambassadors' for gender equality, the panellists agreed this often happens. Many women who have been helped to become independent economically find it a life-changing experience. They are keen to share their knowledge with other women as mentors and volunteers.

**Insight:** The activities of radical Islamic movements in Central Asia are another, less well-known threat to efforts to achieve gender equality in the region. According to speakers, these groups take advantage of a lack of local knowledge about their non-traditional practices to gain a foothold in communities. Forewarning women about these groups can help them to protect their families from inadvertent radicalisation.

➤ [A matter of birth, life and death: Walking in the shoes of women and girls without access to water, sanitation and hygiene](#)

**Key Points:**

- 40 billion working hours a year are lost per year collecting and carrying water in the developing world.
- The right to access water and adequate sanitation is a key priority of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Women's rights' groups are among the least-funded of all global non-governmental organisations.
- Involvement of women in areas of sanitation ensures standards are maintained.

**Synopsis:** The right to access water and adequate sanitation is a key priority of development policy, first through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and later this year with the completion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to improving sanitation and hygiene facilities in many parts of the globe, the right to access water has a huge impact of the rights of women and girls in the developing world, and remains an issue that affects education, employment and empowerment.

In a world where discrimination against women and girls in the decision-making process persists, as well as taboos around hygiene, a lot of work still needs to be achieved in this area if development targets are to be reached.

Often insufficient planning and implementation of policy issues around public health issues exasperates existing problems; public facilities, including schools, are often poorly guarded or set-up for the needs of women and girls, leading in many cases to a threat of violence from male intruders. Girls are often afraid to use such facilities.

The design and construction of these facilities are often developed by men without consultation about the needs of women, who – owing to a variety of cultural and social reasons – are not aware or able to proclaim their basic rights.

In this sense, existing models of patriarchy, often constructed as a social norm, need to be overcome, explained Chiara Capraro, Gender Policy Advisor, Christian Aid. This should go hand-in-hand with education and providing a more progressive model of masculinity, and examining how masculinity is constructed in society. In this, men can play a part in altering societal norms.

Governments also need to extend their outreach through the involvement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and increase capacity building among various sectors, such as education and finance, said Ismat Jahan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium and Luxembourg and Mission to the European Union, and member of the UN Committee on Elimination of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Involvement of women in matters such as sanitation and female empowerment makes sure that standards are maintained, she added.

International means of providing support for sanitation and gender issues include ensuring overseas development aid is more flexible, according to Jane Wilbur, Equity, Inclusion & Rights Advisor at NGO WaterAid. Tariff structures, she noted, need to be more equitable and water needs to be made more affordable to those living in rural areas. Often, it is the most deprived that pay the biggest costs.

In addition, international tax systems need to be more equitable, according to Capraro. Taxes often hit women harder in developing countries, she said. 'No taxes are gender neutral.'

**Insight:** To gather more accurate statistics of the situation of women in the developing world, data needs to be collected relating not just to gender, but also to age and disability. Disabled women in rural parts of the developing world are disproportionately discriminated against when seeking access to public sanitation facilities, and remain hugely under voiced.



## 5. Right to health

### a. Auditorium Sessions

#### ➤ [Defeating Ebola and building up resilient health systems for a better future](#)

##### *Key Points :*

- The World Health Organization is setting up mechanisms to deal with future health emergencies.
- The EU's emergency coordination response centre was used during management of the Ebola crisis.
- The international community needs to learn lessons from the Ebola crisis, such as speeding up response time.
- Work on the interface between human and animal health is underway.
- Investments could be made in local health clinics.

**Synopsis:** On 9 May 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak in Liberia to be over. While this is good news, the Ebola crisis is ongoing in Guinea and Sierra Leone and the borders between the three countries are very porous. WHO has nearly 1 000 staff in the three countries and plans to stay until Ebola has been eradicated there.

WHO is working to prevent the recurrence of this type of outbreak by setting up a programme for health emergencies and a global health emergency workforce and by developing new business processes to facilitate a rapid and effective response. These all need to be funded.

For its part, the EU has an emergency coordination response centre that was used during the Ebola crisis to coordinate national health, research, development and military departments via daily teleconferences. This is a new way of working on crisis management for the EU.

The international community did not have mechanisms in place to act quickly enough in the Ebola crisis. It needs to learn lessons from this failure and translate them into specific actions so that it can cope with a new pandemic if one occurs.

If there is another pandemic in a fragile or failed state environment, then international health regulations will not be sufficient. WHO needs to have an emergency operational service so that people can be sent out immediately. Future emergency operations could be modeled on the architecture of humanitarian aid, for example with a logistics cluster (to move ships, etc.) embedded in the World Food Programme (WFP) and a food security cluster, also under the auspices of the WFP.

Ineffective surveillance and lack of treatments and vaccines were major problems during the Ebola crisis. There is a need for robust surveillance. Many countries are still in crisis because there is still no vaccinations taking place and there is no trust in national health systems. A further problem is that countries do not have much incentive to declare an epidemic because such a declaration can harm trade and investment and cause panic in the country.

An initiative called One Health – in which WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are working together – is looking into the interface between human and animal health. Some 70 % of new human diseases arise first among animals. The initiative will look at the science and see how it can feed into the development of strategies to deal with diseases. Countries' agriculture and health departments also need to work together.

It was also suggested that countries should invest in local health clinics. This would provide the local community with healthcare and help to ensure that governments are alerted when an outbreak takes place. International donors could look at such investments and check that they are being developed, for example if new clinics are being properly staffed. Another idea is for countries to look at the human resources and skill sets that they have in the health sector.

**Insight:** The resistance and reluctance of local communities to cooperate with response teams has been one of the problems faced during the Ebola crisis. WHO believes that outbreak containment depends on local community engagement.

➤ [Realising the right to health for all by 2030: Time for a paradigm shift towards equity in healthcare](#)

**Key Points:**

- International donors need to continue to work with countries that upgrade from low- to middle-income to ensure they continue to offer good quality healthcare.
- There should be more investment in health facilities in rural areas to broaden take-up and to train more health workers.
- Civil society organisations play an important role in monitoring and implementing public healthcare, and should be involved at all stages.
- New methods for financing and regulating healthcare systems are needed to ensure there are no financial barriers to access and that private provision is included.
- The right to healthcare for all people must be stressed, as in some African countries the barrier is legal or social rather than financial but legal or social – for example some clinics may not treat homosexuals with HIV/AIDs.

**Synopsis:** A tough question in giving international support for healthcare is whether donors should continue to support countries when they 'graduate' from the low- to the middle-income bracket.

If international finance is withdrawn, governments are not necessarily automatically willing or able to offer decent public healthcare. To remedy this problem, it was suggested that when a partner country withdraws funding, it should work with the recipient government to design strategies to promote domestic funding.

All speakers agreed that health delivery needed to be strengthened at the local level. In the past some African health ministers have commented that they are simply the 'minister of hospitals', whereas a well-functioning health system must go into the community and invest in more local health workers. More rural clinics would also reduce the incidence of HIV among adolescent girls – one of the largest groups of HIV sufferers to seek treatment – by an estimated 60 %, and allow them to become 'women with opportunities'.

There is often inherent disagreement between governments and civil society organisations (CSOs) on the role that the latter should play in a country's public health system. CSOs perform an important function in both monitoring the delivery of public health services and in providing some services. But some governments are antagonistic to their playing such a large role and try to reduce it.

In some countries, CSOs seek co-decision making, an idea that is reflected at the international level where civil society is assuming a bigger role in the health field. The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has encouraged the active engagement of all stakeholders, an example being followed by other international agencies.

Speakers agreed on the principle that 'no-one should be left behind' in healthcare, and discussed various funding methods. It was noted that when Rwanda introduced a healthcare system based on a government-approved insurance scheme take-up fell sharply, while in Uganda, take up by young people fell following the introduction of on-the-spot payments.

Given the growing recourse to private healthcare by people in middle income countries, it was agreed governments needed to adopt regulations and take private provision into account in government planning in order to ensure equity for all.

The non-financial barriers to healthcare are often based on local customs and national laws. In Uganda where homosexuality is illegal, AIDS sufferers have no access to medical facilities, and in many countries health facilities are denied to marginal groups such as drug users, prisoners and migrants, who often in urgent

This is why there is a move towards a rights-based approach to health, and targeting access to healthcare for all by 2030. The Global Fund has helped to move public opinion in this direction by its insistence on the right to health, which needs to be reflected in national health systems.

**Insights:** While the right to universal health care is not a Sustainable Development Goal, international policymakers are beginning to consider that it should be adopted.

## b. Debate Sessions

### ➤ [90-90-90: An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- Governments, health experts and civil society must take advantage of the next five-year window to meet the 90-90-90 target to tackle AIDS.
- Early treatment can reduce infection rates by 90 %.
- A paradigm shift in HIV/AIDS treatment has seen average drug prices fall from an average of US\$15 000 to US\$ 80.
- Health systems will improve as a result of investment in HIV/AIDS treatment; financing from the international community is indispensable.

**Synopsis:** UNAIDS, with support from Luxembourg, is helping change attitudes to how the global health community views the AIDS epidemic, pushing for a 90-90-90 target where 90 % of all people living with HIV will know their status, 90 % of all people diagnosed with HIV are receiving antiretroviral therapy and 90 % of all people on treatment are virally suppressed.

Until a few years ago, the cost of treating poor people against the disease was so high that many believe they simply could not be treated. That is no longer the case as AIDS treatment today has fuelled global activism backed by civil society. The role of civil society is crucial if the 90-90-90 target is to be met, which means treating everyone however poor or socially isolated. The change in dynamics has seen the average price of HIV/AIDS drugs fall from an average of US\$15 000 to US\$ 80.

Viewing health system as a whole and health as a human rights issue is part of the major paradigm shift in development aid and the treatment of HIV/AIDS. Moreover, the signal from the medical world is that early treatment can reduce infection rates by 90 %. In Cameroon, someone with AIDS who is not receiving treatment will probably die by the age of 29, but if treated will live until 58.

When it comes to AIDS, the notion of poor and rich countries is obsolete. Investment must focus on the fragile key populations from 'Baltimore to Bamako' – gay men, sex workers, drug users and

prisoners. Despite being a middle-income country, Russia is seeing its AIDS epidemic growing faster than it is in Africa.

Financing from the international community is indispensable, but should be supplemented with national funds and the active involvement of local politicians. In the last five years, 83 countries have increased their contribution towards the treatment of HIV/AIDS. South Africa is now spending US\$ 2 billion of its own budget, and Ethiopia is leading the world in its progressive handling of prevention and treatment by devoting most of its resources to health workers and by changing its data collection system. Laos, a country that has opened up to the world quite recently, has a low prevalence of AIDS because it has favoured a strong and uninhibited prevention programme, including the encouragement of condom use, and targeting sex workers and gay men.

**Insight:** This will be the first time in its history that the UN will achieve a target before the date it has set itself, according to Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

➤ [Refugees and internally displaced persons: Right to health, right to life](#)

**Key Points:**

- Good coordination among organisations is key to providing the best possible healthcare to refugees and displaced persons.
- Preserving the right to health at a time of emergency linked to violence is a shared responsibility among health providers, NGOs, states and parties to the conflict.
- This problem has arrived back on Europe's doorstep, due both to the influx of asylum seekers from conflict zones overseas and to conflict in Europe itself, in Ukraine.
- Refugee crises are becoming more protracted, and increasingly involve people displaced within countries as well as cross-border refugees.
- Despite the difficulties, there are some grounds for optimism. Big resources are going into healthcare for refugees and displaced people. These include major allocations from the EU's assistance budgets.

**Synopsis:** Around the world, some 55 million people are currently displaced. More people are fleeing from violence today than at any time since World War II. Their needs are highly diverse. Both communicable and non-communicable diseases have to be treated. Mental healthcare, care for children and maternity care are also required. More than half of the world's refugees are women and children.

Particular difficulties include language barriers and cultural differences.

Health services to refugees have to be accessible and affordable, but also culturally acceptable. Preparedness, risk tolerance and upscaling are vital qualities for NGOs that are providing care to refugees. As first responders, smaller organisations can often act faster than major agencies. But when the assistance is upscaled, great care must be taken to avoid duplication of effort.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has held a series of expert meetings around the issue of 'healthcare in danger' and has developed a series of practical tools, which are available on the ICRC web site.

Development aid and humanitarian assistance are becoming more closely intermeshed. The terms, buzzwords and efficiency measurements used by these two sectors may need to be aligned.

Ultimately, resolving healthcare crises in conflict zones means resolving the conflicts themselves. We must not lose sight of the need for lasting peace, the panellists emphasised. In Palestine, for example, where the crisis has been going on for 65 years, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) provides 137 primary health centres. But in places like Syria and Palestine, the health of refugees is also a political issue. Hospitals are protected spaces in terms of international law, an obligation that must be respected by all concerned. Similarly, primary health care is of little use to people whose homes are continually being bombed.

Europe is now facing a major displacement crisis on its own doorstep. In Ukraine, some 4.2 million people have so far been driven out of their homes by the conflict, the country's health minister, Alexander Kvitashvili, reported. That figure is continuing to grow. A total of 120 health facilities have been completely destroyed, and others are severely damaged. A country that was unused to providing food and shelter to displaced people has had to gear up very quickly. Well-targeted international assistance is vital.

**Insight:** 'The paradox is that the places where healthcare is most needed are the places where it is most difficult to provide,' said Benjamin Charlier of the ICRC.

➤ [Pills, pricing and profitability](#)

**Key Points:**

- Millions of people across the developing world still lack access to vital medicine.
- African entrepreneurs want to contribute to healthcare solutions, but the continent produces few of its own drugs. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 30 % of medicines are produced locally.
- Promoting local pharmaceutical production is a solution to the problem of access to medicine.
- Local pharmaceutical industries in Zimbabwe were the first in Africa to respond to the HIV crisis by producing antiretrovirals through a partnership with funds from the government.
- Bringing together stakeholders from a range of government agencies helps in efforts to establish local pharmaceutical industries and improve access to affordable medicine.

**Synopsis:** Policy coherence is vital if local pharmaceutical industries are to be able to provide universal access to health and medicine.

Millions of people around the world still lack access to medicine. At present, sub-Saharan Africa produces just 30 % of the pharmaceuticals needed and must import the rest, placing a burden on national health budgets.

The belief is now gaining ground that local, private-sector producers of medicine are best placed to overcome these shortages by providing the drugs that are needed at the right price and with the appropriate quality. The benefits are obvious: a thriving pharmaceutical industry contributes to a nation's wealth, provides jobs and allows for a structured supply of much-needed medicines.

Faced with expensive Western medicines, and with the Indian generics market possibly shifting its attention from sub-Saharan markets to Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) markets, local pharmaceutical companies can play a significant part in national health security in developing countries, said Christoph Spennemann of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where he is a legal expert within the Intellectual Property Unit.

Companies are capable of increasing access to affordable medicines, said Emmanuel Mujuru of Zimbabwe, an entrepreneur and advocate for local pharmaceutical production who is also chair of the Southern African Generic Medicines Association.

However, the efforts of local pharmaceutical producers risk being undermined when the national policy environment contradicts the needs of the industry.

Citing an example in his home country, Mujuru said that local producers at one time contributed 60 % of the local supply of medicines, but that the industry shrank following Zimbabwe's economic collapse. The problem was exacerbated by policies that made it cheaper to export finished products duty-free, while raw materials were subject to import tariffs.

After bringing together stakeholders to discuss the issue, the duties on raw materials were removed at the beginning of this year, giving a timely boost to local drug production.

Juergen Reinhardt, senior industrial development officer with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), said that over the last few years there had been a convergence of opinion on promoting local pharmaceutical production as one of the solutions for improving access to medicine.

'Policy coherence is indeed very important in this area,' he said. 'It makes little sense if, in one government, one ministry does one thing and the other does another. If the idea is about supporting local pharma production and they do not create a level playing field, and importers are favoured, there is obviously an issue.'

Strengthening local pharmaceutical industries requires long-term strategy and perseverance, as capacity building is not possible in the short term.

The German think tank Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) was commissioned to develop a project to provide access to high-quality and affordable medicines in Africa and Southeast Asia. Corinna Heineke, head of the 'Access to Medicines' project, said that a new approach to funding had allowed her programme to address policy cohesion by partnering with multiple agencies, including industrial development and health bodies.

Speaking about a project in Thailand, she said she had been struck by the fact that everyone concerned with access to medicines had been together in one room. She added: 'This working together allows Thailand to identify ways of making medicines available through their universal health coverage system at a cost that is affordable, be it through local production or negotiating prices with foreign suppliers.'

**Insight:** The development of local pharmaceutical industries is key. 'Once we succeed in establishing a proper business environment that allows business to flourish, we will see the entrepreneurial spirit make advances,' said Juergen Reinhardt, senior industrial development officer with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

➤ [Access to sexual and reproductive health and rights: A prerequisite for youth economic empowerment](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sexual reproduction and health rights (SRHR) are key to the EU's post-2015 development agenda.
- The biggest cause of mortality amongst girls and young women aged 15 to 19 in the developing world is childbirth.
- Two-thirds of the world's working poor are women.
- By participating longer in education, employment prospects for women greatly improve.



**Synopsis:** There are compelling arguments, both from a human rights and economic point of view, for investing in the promotion of sexual reproduction and health rights in the developing world. According to Renate Bahr, Executive Director of Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), investment in education around these subjects is the 'key to economic empowerment' in many developing countries, where lack of education hits the female population hard, denying them economic rights and social development. To ignore the issue will ultimately prove to be more costly for economies in the long run.

Key to this is investment in youth, which is 'not only smart investment, but also the right investment', according to Preethi Sundaram IPPF Policy and Advocacy Officer, SRHR and Economic Empowerment of Young Women. By staying in school for longer, a woman's access to the job market greatly increases.

Government investment in women's rights needs to improve, she says, which will have great benefit for the community at large as well as the wider economy. With so many women in the developing world denied proper employment prospects, it is now evident that poverty is 'not gender neutral', she said.

From a purely economic point of view, investing in gender equality and SRHR can have a 'tremendous' return on investment, said Günther Taube, Head of the Department of Education, Health, and Social Protection in Germany. 'When you invest in SRH, it is the best investment you can do,' he said. 'There is a very clear rationale for this, both economically and for human rights.' To target investment more efficiently, the EU should coordinate better with other bilateral donors, which together would add up to being the 'biggest donor in the world'.

From a European political side, discussions on the issue progressing, according to Heidi Hautala, former Minister of International Development of Finland, although establishing a coherent strategy across EU Member States with diverse policies and approaches can be difficult. However, gender rights advocates are on the verge of convincing the majority of a once-sceptical European Parliament for SRHR to be given a bigger role in development policy. The key is to continue the dialogue between both sides of the debate, which has proved fruitful in recent years in changing the character of the debate to a more pragmatic one.

According to Hautala, the EU needs a revised gender equality plan, which is necessary to ensure that all commitments made so far are implemented. All the EU institutions agree that 'this is where it is at' now, she said. Gender equality and SRHR is the EU's most important work over the next six months.

**Insight:** For every US\$ 1 spent on promoting access to sexual and reproductive health rights in the developing world, an estimated US\$ 120 return on investment by 2030 has been predicted.

➤ [Shared responsibility for the right to health in the post-2015 agenda](#)

**Key Points:**

- The issue of Universal Health Care (UHC) fosters a wider debate about social protection and solidarity at the global and local levels.
- Healthcare systems must start from needs, not diseases.
- Inequalities have to be addressed as we introduce the Sustainable Development Goals.
- If UHC is seen as an international goal, then it includes the responsibility for rich countries to support poor countries.
- The new health-related Development Goals should strike a balance between horizontal and vertical approaches to healthcare.



**Synopsis:** The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) drove the creation of numerous global health initiatives, which led to huge increases in health development assistance. But this progress also resulted in the fragmenting of health policy and governance. Insufficient attention has been paid to the factors that impact upon health beyond healthcare.

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer an opportunity to advance towards a more holistic approach to health systems, combining ecological concerns with human rights commitments.

In the SDGs, health has been integrated into a rich and broad agenda for sustainable development. But health is still treated on a 'vertical' basis, disease by disease, said Professor Peter Hill of the University of Queensland, Australia. Healthcare systems must start from 'needs', not 'diseases'. Sustainable development cannot be achieved through the funding of vertical programmes such as, for example, HIV/AIDS.

It is necessary to reframe health from the poverty-reduction focus of the MDGs in order to embrace the social sustainability paradigm that underpins the new sustainable development goals. 'We need to speak to and listen to other sectors of the whole sustainable development agenda and construct universal health goals,' Hill stressed. 'We need to envision the global governance structure to deal with this.'

Professor Albrecht Jahn of Heidelberg University said that universal health coverage (UHC) was an expression of the right to health. It implies access to all the care we need, without extra payment. This is a burning issue in both developed and developing countries. Defining which health aspects are covered in UHC requires a process of societal negotiation.

Financing UHC is particularly contentious, as its full cost – salaries, maintenance, operating costs – has to be funded sustainably. Healthcare financing in Ghana, for example, was started as a free system in line with its British heritage. Increasing costs led to the introduction of user fees in 1985, and finally in 2003 a national health insurance scheme was introduced.

While this system is surviving without international assistance, most other countries cannot provide basic care to their citizens and need financial help. It is estimated that 5 % of gross domestic product needs to be dedicated to healthcare.

If UHC is seen as an international goal, then it includes the responsibility for rich countries to support poor countries. Expenditure of the poorer countries is about US\$ 25 per person; more is required to meet minimum standards. The issue of UHC fosters wider debate about social protection and solidarity at global and local levels. Without participation there can be no meaningful healthcare system, said Ana Lorena Ruano of the University of Bergen.

The EU has made small steps towards encouraging social dialogue on health. In its programme with Tunisia, there has been dialogue with people at all levels to define a new national health policy, said Walter Seidel, Head of Sector, Health, at EuropeAid.

The new health-related SDGs should strike a balance between horizontal and vertical approaches to healthcare, while effectively accounting for the constraints of developing countries in improving health outcomes themselves.

For health to remain central in the post-2015 SDGs, it will need to be present in each of the dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and not quarantined from them.

**Insight:** The issue of funding and international financial commitment underpins the whole debate on Universal Health Care, and in the current economic climate this is difficult to resolve.

## 6. Inclusion and inequality

### a. Auditorium Sessions

#### ➤ [Social enterprise: Stemming the tide on income inequality](#)

##### *Key Points:*

- Social enterprises cannot solve the problem of growing inequality alone, but they need to be part of the mix.
- Young people often take the lead.
- No single model should be imposed: social enterprises are as diverse as the world in which they emerge.
- Governments and institutions like the World Bank provide little support for social enterprises; financial institutions rarely address their needs.

**Synopsis:** Social enterprises cannot stem the tide on income inequality alone but that they can play an important role in the solution. That was the consensus among panellists and in a straw poll of the audience taken during the session.

The generally accepted definition of a social enterprise is: a for-profit endeavour that addresses a pressing need or problem in society.

Income inequality has been increasing around the globe in recent decades – most remarkably in developing countries such as Nigeria and Indonesia that have maintained strong rates of economic growth as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Meanwhile social enterprises such as the Grameen Bank have also flourished, marking them as players in any potential drive to encourage greater equality.

Many leading social entrepreneurs are young people who have no reasonable expectation that existing institutions will address their problems or provide employment. It was noted that young people are unemployed because they are looking for jobs. Instead they should be developing their own businesses.

In China's Guizhou province, village women use traditional handicraft techniques to create high-end bags, clothing, accessories and home furnishings that are sold across China by a company called Shengshi Jingxiu. The women earn five to 20 times the normal income of a rural worker in the region.

Many of the best-known social enterprises have, like the Grameen Bank, addressed market failures. But several different models were offered. In the UK, a retail outlet adheres to profit sharing, a chain of day care centres subsidizes its work in poor neighbourhoods by also serving upmarket clients, and an upscale restaurant sends its waiters to school. A start-up in India provides agricultural prices to poor farmers via mobile phones – substantially increasing agricultural incomes, while the company rakes in revenues at just a few pennies a head.

For the most part panellists agreed that this diversity should be encouraged, rather than held down by a myriad of regulations.

The total amount of investment channelled to social enterprises is a pittance of what the World Bank alone invests in the traditional private sector. There is no clear strategy for donors. Private sector banks offer them few financial instruments.

Beyond grants and loans, social enterprises could benefit if big institutions, including governments and multilateral banks, would add labour, social and environmental criteria to their procurement procedures instead of choosing suppliers based solely on price and quality. By giving business to social enterprises, governments and other institutions can not only help them to grow but also encourage traditional businesses to become more socially responsible.

**Insight:** Entities that would today be classified as social enterprises have a long history. The Catholic Church encouraged them around the turn of the 19th to the 20th century. Multilateral institutions promoted them in Europe after Second World War.

## b. Debate Sessions

### ➤ [Building a caring world: A common challenge for Europe and emerging countries](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- Seventy per cent of people live in countries where income inequality has increased in the last 30 years.
- The issue of social inclusion is growing on the international agenda and is now considered a key element in promoting sustainable development.
- To tackle inequality, more understanding is needed about requirements for a global world that is becoming increasingly urban.
- By creating 'organisations of the poor', people are becoming active participants in transforming the world and tackling inequalities.
- Inclusive education: Countries with fair, egalitarian background conditions are more successful with education and have a narrower gap in standards between children from poor backgrounds and those from more affluent ones.

**Synopsis:** The widening gulf between the rich and the poor is threatening to compound problems of social inclusion and equality. According to Oxfam's Chief Operating Officer, Patrick Canagasingham, seven out of 10 people in the world now live in countries where the inequality gap has grown in the past 30 years.

The issue is not confined to developing countries; in the EU there are growing disparities within and among Member States. This can be seen in areas such as material prosperity, income development, income poverty, education and skills development.

However, Philippe Orliange, Executive Director for Strategy, Partnership and Communication for the French Development Agency, believes the issues surrounding social inclusion have emerged in the post-2015 agenda in a way not previously reflected in the MDGs. 'It is now rightly looked at as a key element in promoting sustainable development,' he said.

While much northern development assistance continues to be closely focussed on rural communities, Sheela Patel, Chair of the Board for Shack/Slum Dwellers International, says the world needs to look at issues in cities.

'The global world is calling these southern cities the engines of growth, but they are representing even worse polarisation of the rich and poor,' she said. 'We are living in an urban time-bomb.'

But while the global world was currently 'confused and completely out-of-step' with how to bridge the divide between the urban rich and poor, social movements in 33 cities across Asia, Africa and Latin America was proof that giving the poor a voice was helping to tackle inequality.

‘We create conditions by which poor people’s leadership – here I say men and women – look at ways by which they understand the politics of poverty. They don’t get lost in what they don’t have. They understand the politics of development, engagement, dialogue and negotiations so they transform not only their lives, but the future of their cities,’ she added.

Ending inequality in education remains a significant challenge throughout the world. There is a huge disparity among member states, where there is a growing divergence between countries like Poland and Germany that were investing heavily, and others that are cutting deeply into the public education effort.

‘Education and investment in human capital at large is key for long-term prosperity, but you need a drive that opens education to kids, and to people coming from poorer social circles and less educated parents. To do that in a successful way you need general background conditions, which are sufficiently egalitarian. That holds over the whole planet,’ said Frank Vandenbroucke, former Belgian minister of social affairs.

Ending on a positive note, Canagasingham said: ‘We need to have some hope in terms of what can be achieved. Not everything is lost. We can act, it is never too late for us to act.’

**Insight:** ‘The EU must reclaim its founding values of social progress, cohesion and fairness and have the political will to tackle this if we are to move forward. It’s not just about making choices, it’s about making the more difficult choices about what it would take to move away from stringent austerity policies to rebalancing equalities and supporting developing nations to do the same.’ Patrick Canagasingham, chief operating officer, Oxfam.

### ➤ [Measuring well-being and social cohesion for sustainable development](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- What we measure shapes what we do.
- New indicators are receiving more attention as the Sustainable Development Goals process wraps up.
- Gross domestic product is a poor measure of human development.
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and others are developing new indicators.

**Synopsis:** What we measure determines what policies we adopt and how we implement them. That assumption serves as a basis for work at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and in several countries to develop indicators to replace or supplement gross domestic product (GDP).

These efforts are rising to prominence as the final touches are put on the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which are expected to include many measurable targets.

Policymakers who rely on GDP make two assumptions, said Isabelle Cassiers, professor of economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain and research associate at the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research: first, that economic development can be reduced to GDP growth, and second, that economic development always leads to greater well-being.

‘Well-being is confused with GDP growth,’ she said, while common sense often tells us otherwise. African villagers pool their labour to dig a well, and GDP stands still, even though human well-being is advanced. When water and air pollution ooze from a new factory, economic growth gets

a boost despite detrimental health effects. 'Many people believe that GDP is obsolete,' Cassiers added.

On the eve of the Arab Spring, life satisfaction indexes were declining in the Middle East and North Africa even though most affected countries had robust economic growth, said Romina Boarini, Head of Section, Statistics Directorate, OECD.

The OECD measures 11 material and non-material conditions for its life satisfaction index. Material measures include income, employment and housing. Non-material measures include work-life balance, health and civic involvement.

Bhutan's Global Happiness Index (GHI) emphasises 'the achievement of human values', Cassiers said. 'The task of the government and international institutions is to bring about the societal conditions for that in the long-term. Today's happiness cannot destroy the happiness of future generations.'

Social cohesion is judged according to three categories: social inclusion, or how jobs, healthcare and housing are distributed according factors like class, ethnicity, geography and age; social capital, involving trust (of others and government), social networks and family ties, civic involvement, etc.; and social mobility.

Where social cohesion is high, citizens are more likely to pay their taxes, giving the government more resources for social programmes, said Alexandre Kolev, Head of the Social Cohesion Unit, OECD Development Centre. Where it is low, instability may arise, with the Arab Spring again as the example.

'There is growing dissatisfaction with the traditional development model where [overall] income growth comes first and inequality is put on the back burner,' he added.

Different measurements can engender different policies. Bhutan rejected donor funding for educational reform because the country's leaders disagreed with the underpinning philosophy. The GHI was also cited in Bhutan's decision to not join the World Trade Organization, even though membership was expected to bring economic growth.

**Insight:** Based on work in Bhutan and elsewhere, Professor Isabelle Cassiers, Professor of Economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain, outlined four factors for new human development indicators: sustainability, sharing, care and resilience.

➤ [Democracy support under pressure: Challenges for EU democracy support in the Middle East and North Africa region](#)

**Key Points:**

- The development of democracy that followed the Arab Spring has not lived up to the hopes of many.
- In Egypt, there are fears that the public space necessary for political discourse involving civil society has actually begun to shrink.
- Citizens driven by a desire for democracy and human rights need to find a 'third wave' of discourse, outside the views of pro-dictatorship and ideological movements.
- Support for democracy requires a long-term view to have any impact on social equality. Short-term goals do not deliver.
- Economic support from EU Member States could be used to foster the development of democratic principles in the long term.

**Synopsis:** The dates 14 January and 25 January 2011 live long in the memories of people from Tunisia and Egypt respectively. They represent the moment pro-democracy protesters finally believed they had thrown off the shackles of the old, authoritarian regimes.

Sadly, the reality of the past four years has, in the eyes of some, fallen short of delivering the hoped-for reforms that brought people into the streets.

Tunisia finds itself progressing along the path to democratic change. Lobna Jeribi, Founder and President of Solidar Tunisia, said the country had experienced a successful transition, with a presidential election last November. 'It was the first time in 60 years, that the results had not been known in advance,' she said.

In Egypt, however, movement towards democracy has been uneven, and there are many who believe that the public space for political activity and discourse involving civil society groups has begun to shrink. Even in Morocco, considered by some to be an Arab Spring success story, voices are excluded, according to Aboubakr Jamaï, former journalist. 'In terms of freedom of expression, the year 2011 didn't change much; or if it changed something it was for the worse,' he said.

'One of the indicators of a successful transition towards democratisation is when the ideological groups and societal groups which were excluded from debate are more prominent in public space' following an uprising, he said. 'In Morocco, all of the groups who were part of this movement which pushed for constitutional reform are still excluded.'

Sally Sami, Executive Director, Egyptian Observatory for Training and Consultation, said the transition towards democracy needed to include all sectors of society, including all non-violent movements, both political and ideological.

'Civil society organisations, pro-democratic movements or parties are stuck between two evils,' she said. 'We don't have to make a choice between these two evils. We can try and force a third choice. It can have an ideological banner but it can be as simple as people who believe in human rights, and will not compromise those values, and people who believe in democratic values.'

That current situation makes efforts by the EU to foster a culture of democracy much more challenging. Ken Godfrey, Executive Director of the European Partnership for Democracy, said the EU's policy in the region was promoting Europe's short-term interests – relating to issues around migration and security – over its long-term values.

'The vast majority of development assistance is not focused on democracy,' he said. 'We argue the EU should be more strategic in the way it uses its development cooperation, particularly in the democracy-assistance sector. Programmes focus on the short-term results rather than long-term impacts these projects can have on a political system.'

Perhaps the main challenge in the political transition is building sustainable economies. In countries such as Egypt, there are critics who contend that those behind the protests – among them, unemployed but educated young people – have been failed by the new regimes when it comes to new job opportunities.

That is why this week's state visit to Germany by President Abdel Fattah El Sisi of Egypt will add a new dimension to negotiations surrounding the country's future. Sami said she was not against the visit as long as trade cooperation between the EU and Egypt was linked to conditions surrounding democratic change.

**Insight:** Trade agreements that provide the economic background for growth are key to a successful transition to democracy. Lobna Jeribi, Founder and President of Solidar Tunisia, said: 'We should think of a new kind of economic synergy. Our young, when they go to the death boat



or when they go Jihadist, it's because they have no hope, because there is unemployment, because there are social problems. Let's really find deep solutions to these problems.'

➤ [Tackling inequality: From measurement to policy imperatives](#)

**Key Points:**

- The concept of shared prosperity is the new way of talking about inclusive growth.
- A World Bank report urges for a two-pronged approach: impose a minute extra tax on the wealthy to raise the income of the very poor.
- Measurements can also be used to assess the complexities of inequities.

**Synopsis:** Inclusive growth and development are today's buzzwords. To understand what drives inequality data and measurements are needed to give information about the situation on the ground. Knowing that economic growth does not automatically trickle down to the poorest, the question is what kind of public policies should be adopted--redistribution or support to the least well-off? Measurements cannot capture all that is happening, but they can help push decision-makers in the right direction.

Dean Jolliffe, Senior Economist at the World Bank, presented thoughts contained in the 2014 report, 'A Measured Approach to Ending Poverty and Boosting a Shared Prosperity', which laid the analytical foundation for the bank's goal to end extreme poverty by 2030. The view that growth can be calculated according to average incomes has been demonstrated as non-egalitarian and to place the emphasis on the wealthy. The Millennium Development Goals' aim to reduce the percentage of the world population living on US\$ 1.25 a day to 3 % is not possible without a new approach. 'Business as usual won't get us there,' according to the report.

Another approach might be to boost the income of the poorest 40 % of the population in each country, introducing the notion of shared prosperity, or a different way of talking about inclusive growth. The idea would be to create synergy between the two goals, reaching the 3 % target while boosting the incomes of the 40 %. This might be done by taking a small percentage tax off the 60 % richest people in one country and giving to the poorest 40 %. The more unequal the society, the less there is to take from the very wealthy.

An added appeal of this system is that it is easier to communicate competing measures and to identify the poorest 40 %. The report looks at the many challenges posed by data collection, including how the questions asked can affect results, and the need to differentiate between urban and rural policies and to consider a variety of geographical differences. Graphs may show that rural poverty is higher than urban poverty, but the reverse is true if the cost of living is factored in.

Measuring global poverty does not help design better policy; for that data quality needs to be improved at the country level, including poverty maps that are a useful tool. It was also pointed out that quality is more important than frequency for data.

Amanda Lenhardt, Research Officer at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), described a research project that explores an alternative method for measuring inequality by looking at 'intersecting' inequalities, or poverty that intersects with discrimination and exclusion on the grounds of geography or ethnic background. The appeal of this approach is that it develops a base line that can be used to shape policy for targeting specific groups, specifically the poorest who usually face overlapping cultural, geographical and ethnic disadvantages.

**Insight:** Measuring inequity poses different political challenges in different places, and a standardised measurement may not be useful. Defining situations in the local context is what counts.



## 7. Feeding the planet together

### a. Auditorium Sessions

#### ➤ [Joining forces to make undernutrition history](#)

##### *Key Points:*

- With top billing at European Development Days, nutrition is finally getting the attention it deserves.
- Malnutrition, in addition to the personal tragedies it engenders, weakens the entire society, as people are unable to live up to their potential.
- The EU as well as many individual countries and many leading donors are backing up their rhetoric with hard cash.
- Women's empowerment must be a leading component of the drive.
- Linkages need to be made among agriculture, health, sanitation and other areas to tackle malnutrition.

**Synopsis:** The public sector and the donor community agree that the dream of eliminating poverty and guaranteeing human development for all cannot be achieved unless they tackle malnutrition. By giving the issue top billing at EDD 2015, they are making a symbolic statement – one that is being backed by actions, including substantial and firm financial commitments.

Some 160 million children under the age of five are stunted due to malnutrition. Malnutrition contributes to half of child deaths. But until now, only 1 % of Official Development Assistance has gone to addressing the problem.

The UN's Second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in 2014 was a landmark event. Since then the European Union has reinforced its commitment to working with local partners to combat malnutrition around the world. Among the initiatives backed by the EU: the development of National Information Platforms for Nutrition that will help provide better data for measuring the problem and monitoring the success of efforts to combat it.

The 2012 Nutrition for Growth summit in London also helped drive the current cycle of commitments. As host, the United Kingdom took the lead by setting specific targets for funding and results – notably by offering to match investments by other actors. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation numbered among those who accepted the UK challenge, significantly increasing its outlays.

As host of the next G7 summit, Germany wants to push the battle against malnutrition to the top of that organisation's agenda. Leading by example, Germany launched a campaign called 'One World, No Hunger' and backed it with EUR 1.4 billion. The programme has two main goals: to address hunger and malnutrition now by focusing on women and nursing mothers, and to ensure that future generations have food by working on value chains in food production from the farm to the table.

Nigeria ranks second in the world in both deaths due to malnourishment and stunted individuals. With its endowment of US\$ 1.25 billion, Nigeria's Dangote Foundation is making inroads in the battle against malnutrition. One programme feeds 10 000 people three times a day, 365 days a year. An economic empowerment program helps people find ways to earn better incomes. The foundation also works to encourage more investment in the area by the African private sector and local philanthropists.

Women's empowerment must be a key element of the drive. Women are important players in their roles as farmers, consumers and mothers. This initiative would include encouraging mothers to breast feed, returning to what had always been the traditional method of feeding infants. Another initiative would be to focus on women and their children from before conception to age two.

Several speakers noted that nutrition cannot be tackled by addressing any single cause. Linkages must be made among a range of development issues that include agriculture, health, water and sanitation, and education.

**Insight:** Although they are low-income countries with scarce resources, Bangladesh and Ethiopia have managed to reduce malnutrition appreciably in recent years.

➤ [Feeding the planet together](#)

**Key Points:**

- The private sector has an important role to play in boosting the world's food supply.
- Climate-smart interventions will be needed to meet the challenge of assuring food security while not damaging the environment; such interventions must take account of local needs.
- Information and technological innovation and, to a lesser degree, mechanisation can play a part in boosting food production.
- The EU is promoting food security through its development and trade policies and through its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

**Synopsis:** By 2050 the world's population will have risen by more than 2 billion to about 9 billion, and will consume more food than has been produced in the past 400 years. Even today nearly 800 million do not get enough to eat.

The challenge is how to increase food production in an environmentally sustainable way. There is no single solution – improved technology, better financing, improved education, easier market access and good governance all have to go into the mix.

In Africa, investment is required to boost productivity, cut waste and help farmers get their produce to market. The private sector has an important role to play. In Côte d'Ivoire, the government promotes cooperation between farmers and the private and state sectors with its framework initiative. It has succeeded in tripling productivity in some crops such as rice and cassava.

One panellist saw no need for a green revolution in Africa. The concept of a green revolution, in which land use sharply rises, belongs to a time of cheap energy and the intensive application of inputs such as phosphates. What is needed is a global revolution in agriculture, a technologically smart revolution that contributes to development and is sustainable.

But productivity certainly needs to rise. Wastage also must be tackled because 30 % of all food produced is lost. This is crucial not just to increase food availability, but also to protect the environment.

Climate change poses a challenge to farmers in southern Africa who can no longer predict the weather. Flash floods or delays in annual rains can both cause havoc. A vote in the audience showed that a majority felt that addressing climate change and focusing on sustainable development offer the best routes to achieving food security. In another vote, the majority also rejected the use of genetically modified (GMOs) crops.

While better technology will clearly be important, the panel was less certain about greater mechanisation in sub-Saharan Africa, where many farms are too small for tractors to be of much use. But greater mechanisation, together with more technology, could help to attract young people to farming; 350 million young people will join the labour force in Africa over the next 15 years and other sectors are not able to provide the jobs.

The European Union's development policy supports initiatives that are environmentally sound and increase productivity. It focuses on developing value chains in developing countries and strengthening local markets. At the same time the EU is encouraging its agribusiness firms to invest in developing countries and help develop markets there. Its trade policy gives duty-free access to agricultural goods produced in least developing countries.

Finally, the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has removed all the farm subsidies that once distorted trade and its emphasis is now on research and innovation. As a long-term policy of agricultural and rural development, the CAP offers an example to developing countries.

**Insight:** Food security equals security; it is the basis of a peaceful and prosperous society. The cost of inaction on food security is going to be greater than the cost of action.

## **b. Debate Sessions**

### ➤ [Small-scale farming and sustainable food systems](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- Small-scale farming should be protected and supported and considered as a key model for improving food security in the developing world.
- Local communities must be given training and support so they learn how to manage themselves.
- The cooperative system has to be strengthened to organise, teach and support the local farming community.
- Women must have equal access to and control over resources underpinning food production.
- Agriculture must change to a nutrition-based system, with fewer inputs.

**Synopsis:** In a world of plenty, more than 800 million people go hungry every day. More than 3 million children die from undernutrition and malnutrition. Small-scale and family farming is a key model, which should be supported to ensure sustainable food production.

The small-scale farming model today concerns some 2.8 billion people (45 % of the world population) and accounts for 30% to 60% of the world's least developed countries' gross domestic product. By supporting this model, millions of families can live decently from their work. Civil society organisations such as Caritas are key partners for the EU and Member States to implement effective action on the ground and support local farmers.

There are 25 000 cooperatives across Ethiopia, explained Abdelghani Sourji, Senior Consultant, Agriculture and Rural Development, Caritas. It is a large network put together in a short time. As a result, many lack infrastructure and resources, such as capital and storage capacity; it is a system that needs to be strengthened. Caritas is helping to build the infrastructure for the cooperative union, building storage to buy and sell grain.

In Ethiopia, the developing multipurpose farmer cooperative unions are providing vital services for members such as improving seeds, technical services and loans/credit services for members.

Previously, farmers had to sell to local merchants and were often cheated. Now they sell grain in their own villages and receive dividends via the cooperative. With appropriate training and support, they can learn how to manage themselves and become responsible for the own development.

The cooperatives are run as a business, which has to make a profit and sustain itself. Caritas has helped set up a guarantee fund in which the risk is shared 50-50 with a cooperative bank. One condition of having access to loan funding is to have a business plan. And there has to be monthly accounting, checking of stock, etc. It must have a general assembly and financial audit, or access to bank funding will cease.

Smallholders should be treated as a business, and they should either 'move up or move out,' said Dr Shenggen Fan, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute. It is not fair to keep them on farms that cannot sustain them adequately.

Providing micro-credit to farmers is very important and women play a key role; 94 % of members benefiting from funds are women. Women must have equal access to and control over resources underpinning food production.

Adriana Opromolla, International Advocacy Officer, Caritas Internationalis, highlighted an international survey among its 160 members on food security.

The responses which represented 84 % of the world's population showed that the principal causes of food insecurity are: lack of resources such as land and seed; absence of finance/loans; poor access to markets for small farmers; low agricultural productivity; and impact of climate change.

There are, however, significant differences from one continent to another. In sub-Saharan Africa, low productivity and climate change are key problems. In Asia, the priority is the lack of access to resources and lack of governance. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the main problems are seen as food prices, speculation and the lack of infrastructure. And in the Middle East, the key issues are conflict and the lack of clean water.

The consequences of food insecurity go beyond poverty and affect issues of migration, health, crime, corruption and others. By 2050, developing countries will need twice as much food. Priority has to be given to producing more nutritious food, using less water and other inputs. The green revolution has produced more food, but at the expense of the environment which has been degraded and more carbon emissions generated.

Farmers should be producing enough for them to live on, and sell surplus to gain a decent income. They need to be trained in agricultural techniques. Through 'agricology', degraded land can be recuperated; depleted soils can be restored.

Food will be the most important EU intervention area for the next 7 years. 'We must invest more in nutrition security,' stressed Jean-Pierre Halkin, Head, European Commission's Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid. 'We must also make agriculture and the food system more sustainable by using fewer resources to do more.'

**Insight:** The small farmer is key to ensuring a sustainable local economy and must be helped to make an adequate living for his family.

➤ [Revolutionising data use to feed the planet](#)

**Key Points:**

- More than 50 % of the world's population lives in cities.

- More than 800 million people do not have enough food to lead a healthy life.
- This figure rises during food shortages triggered by conflict or natural disaster.
- More than 500 million family farms produce most of the world's food.
- Every minute the world generates enough data to fill more than 360 000 DVDs.
- More data was created in 2013 than in the whole of previous human existence.

**Synopsis:** Big data can be mined to help prompt major changes in agriculture and other fields. Phone data is available in Africa and the mobile penetration rate there is very high but, overall, there is a dearth of information in African Caribbean and Pacific countries.

A reasonable balance must be found between the protection of privacy and the accumulation of sufficiently rich data that can be processed to benefit society.

African agriculture is changing rapidly and this tests the relevance and accuracy of data collection. Rising investments and policy interest in Africa's agriculture demands an up-to-date picture of the reality on the ground.

The possibilities are immense. But regular checking and fine-tuning facts is critical to ensure that renewed investments and policies supporting Africa's agriculture and food security are well directed.

Big data – information from different sources ranging from high-tech connected devices to sensors and GPS to community-based knowledge gathering and management tools – offers enormous potential for developing innovative products and services.

Using big data and blending it with community-generated information is the key. New insights gleaned from collating such data should complement official statistics, survey data and information generated by early warning systems.

Chris Addison, Senior Coordinator on Knowledge Management, Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CTA), noted that improved data collection can increase productivity, promote trade and increase market access for farmers.

'A global revolution is going on, partly because data can now be shared and is machine-readable. But Africa is far behind other regions of the world in making data useable and having the capacity to use it,' he said, adding: 'data is nothing is nothing if you are not aware of it.'

Luc Christiaensen, Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region, The World Bank Group, noted that data on everything from the livelihoods of individual families to agricultural practices is now available, but much of it is outdated.

According to some statistics, women are responsible for 60 % to 80 % of agricultural work in Africa, but the figures drop dramatically in some countries such as Nigeria and Uganda, where they stand at just 37 % and 56 % respectively.

More up-to-date information would help close the gender gap, 'unlock labour' and productive work to more households across the African Continent.

Fleur Wouterse, of the Regional Farmers Organisations Project, suggested that generating value at the different stages of the data value chain would be at the centre of the future knowledge economy.

'Reliable data is crucial for agricultural growth in Africa where smallholders are spread out and face discrimination,' she said.

One way of improving transparency is to conduct 'organisational diagnostics' at the grassroots level in order to gather data on how much land is owned by a smallholder. Other data such as what and how much they produce, should also be gathered.

The 'Agriculture in Africa – Telling Facts from Myths' project analyses representative household surveys from six African countries under the 'Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture.' But the initiative was launched back in 2009 and needs updating, according to Bernard Rey, Deputy Head of Unit, Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission.

'A lot of governments lack the resources to collect reliable data on a regular basis. We have got to turn the problem around,' he added.

**Insight:** As mobile phones, tablets and improved connectivity spread across the world, the amount of data being gathered and stored is increasing exponentially. With every satellite launch adds further data in increasing detail. Data and information are the foundation of knowledge but the question is whether agriculture is making the most of the data revolution.

## 8. Trade and financing

### a. Auditorium Session

#### ➤ [Trade for inclusive and sustainable growth](#)

##### *Key Points :*

- Trade is vital to economic development and poverty reduction.
- Economic Partnership Agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries are important instruments in the EU's development cooperation strategy.
- Regional free trade agreements must also play an important role.
- Some African countries have made important strides in creating business-friendly environments, while others remain mired in inefficiency, incompetence, corruption and poor infrastructure.

**Synopsis:** Trade and development are linked. Trade helps in the fight against poverty and fosters economic development. Trade is an important part of the European Union's relationship with Africa. Key instruments in the EU's trade relations with Africa are the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) the EU has been negotiating with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region countries.

EPAs are aimed at promoting trade between the two groupings – and through trade development, sustainable growth and poverty reduction. EPAs are intended to open European markets to African exporters and African markets to European exporters.

The challenge now is to ensure that these agreements are fully implemented to provide African nation signatories full access to EU markets. These agreements are complicated with some aspects aimed at strengthening infrastructure and governance to improve the business environment in African countries.

One EPA recently concluded is between the EU and the 16-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS' leaders view this EPA as a development agreement, a vehicle for wealth creation and growth through promotion of private enterprise. The goal is to promote African businesses that create jobs and pay their fair share of taxes. This is what Africa needs. Poverty fosters violence and terrorism.

West African countries are also working on regional trade liberalisation, including regional identity cards that will promote the free movement of people and a customs union. This should encourage much needed investment both from investors in the developed world and from Africans themselves.

There are huge opportunities. In Central Africa there are 140 million potential consumers. Nigeria alone has 170 million people. The challenge and the goal are to develop these markets.

The situations in the many African nations vary widely. Some African countries, such as Cameroon, have made significant progress creating business-friendly environments. Others remain mired in inefficient, incompetent and corrupt governments and bureaucracies where cronyism and nepotism are common.

To promote trade and development, greater efforts to create an environment that promotes investment are required. The European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU's long-term lending institution, provides some financing for projects in Africa. However, the EIB has difficulty attracting



other investors for African project because most other investors seek a substantially higher rate of return than most African projects yield.

To attract foreign investment, African countries need to provide stability, predictability, transparency, the rule of law and necessary infrastructure. There is also a need to develop the African financial sector to promote investment in Africa by Africans.

Young people in Africa now make up about 50 % of the population. They need successful entrepreneurs as role models. African youth favour trade over development aid because they do not know where the aid money goes.

**Insight:** There was sharp disagreement on the panel as to whether African governments are doing enough to promote business-friendly environments.

## b. Debate Sessions

### ➤ [Unlocking private and public finance for sustainable growth](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- Estimates for financing the ambitious post-2015 agenda for sustainable development are in the trillions rather than the millions.
- Official Development Assistance (ODA) still matters, but alone it will not lead to the change necessary for sustainable development. Instead it could be used to leverage private finance investment.
- Private sector finance can be viewed not as one big lump sum of money, but as funds directed to a wide variety of different sectors with different levels of return.
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have their critics, but the different objectives of the private and public sectors are not at cross-purposes.
- Private sector investment is now being channelled into areas it had previously avoided, such as healthcare.

**Synopsis:** As the world prepares to take its first steps towards the ambitious post-2015 agenda for sustainable development, it is estimated the cost will run into the trillions.

The good news is the cash seems to be there. The money locked away in savings, including those held by corporations, investment funds and private accounts, already surpass the needs of the new development goals.

Thus it is now less a question of creating new funds than unlocking those private sources to complement public investment in sustainable development. But to tap this potential cooperation in development finance, the right conditions need to be in place.

Manuel Sager, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), said: 'A functioning business environment that helps companies to be formed and to expand, a business environment that is free of corruption and where the state guarantees property rights, educates its workforce and encourages economic development is a pillar of sustainable development.'

While Official Development Assistance (ODA) still matters and will remain critical in the pursuit of sustainable development, it will be nowhere near sufficient for financing, he added. Instead, it could be used to leverage both public and private sources of funding.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund focusses (UNCDF) primarily on the 49 least developed countries which have a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of less than US\$ 2,000.

‘The key role of ODA must be to create broader, deeper and more sustainable economies. This can only happen through deeper financial inclusion, and by ensuring the funds available are invested in local economies and not simply in the real estate of the capital cities or main commodity export areas,’ said David Jackson, Director, Local Development Finance, UNCDF.

Private sector investment operates at different levels in an economy, and generates different levels of return. Beyond large investment organisations, local domestic banks can have excess liquidity that could go into local structured projects rather than overseas. This would not only contribute to economic development, but earn the banks an inflation-plus return. Once impact and other investors see that domestic banks are investing in these areas, they would be encouraged to come in too, Jackson added.

In Tanzania, local banks extended a US\$15 million loan to develop a market place, bus station and small shopping malls. In Laos, private sector finance initiatives helped to foster democratic involvement among villagers who were asked to specify their development needs.

Critics of PPPs claim they either distort the markets by allocating private resources into non-profitable enterprises, or subsidise profits by supporting activities that would have been developed anyway.

Heike Ruettgers, Head of Mandates Management, European Investment Bank (EIB), said private finance was entering development areas it had previously avoided, such as healthcare. She said the EIB was now becoming involved in a fund to foster a purely private sector investment in healthcare infrastructure.

Everybody has followed the tragedy of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, and all of a sudden people are aware that the economic impact is enormous because of weak healthcare systems, she added.

**Insight:** There is untapped potential in cooperation between the public and private sectors in development finance. The objectives of the private sector to make profits to sustain the business are not at cross-purposes with those of the public sector. Manuel Sager, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

➤ [Getting the right information into the right hands: Harnessing open data for development](#)

**Key Points:**

- Data transparency enhances civil society.
- Data transparency helps tackle corruption.
- Open data can be used to advance economic growth.
- Information is power.

**Synopsis:** ‘Transparency is the cornerstone of the development agenda,’ said Fernando Frutuoso de Melo, Director General of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development. Transparency measures have the potential to reduce corruption and increase government revenues for development projects. Alongside these measures, we must address illicit revenues and profit shifting.

Donors have set the end of 2015 as the deadline for implementing the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), but that date is unlikely to be met except by the European Commission, the UK and Sweden. This is an open data framework, which allows for the publication of comprehensive and comparable information on development finance. Other countries and institutions are moving forward, with the Netherlands and Denmark making good progress, along with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and France.

Speakers recognised that while there is some short-term pain in creating a data set, there is very definitely long-term gain. A data set in the public domain creates efficiency gains and accountability. To increase access to data, the European Commission is currently developing an app that will enable stakeholders to access available information more easily.

Panel members spoke of their progress towards meeting the IATI standards and creating open data. 'Information is power, and in the world of open data, then this power is available to everyone,' said Rupert Simons, chief executive officer of Publish What you Fund.

He strongly recommended that donors and organisations publish frequently and in a timely manner. Taking the example of the Ebola crisis, he spoke about the importance of constantly updating the information available when faced with a constantly changing situation.

Sarah Lacoche, Head of Division, Strategic Steering and Accountability, at the Agence Française de Développement, spoke about the challenges that can occur when permission to publish data is needed from funding recipients. Learning from this, the agency has now introduced a transparency clause in its contracts.

Panel members also discussed 'the virtuous circle' that can take shape when access to high-quality data generates a demand for more.

Katarina Ott, director of Croatia's Institute of Public Finance, spoke about her passion for transparency. Openness is a cornerstone for democracy, she said, particularly if citizens are dissatisfied and when trust in government organisations is decreasing. She cited an example of good practice from Croatia in which citizens of a city in Istria were given access to information on budgets and spending, enabling them to become more engaged in civil society.

Lucreția Ciurea, head of the Monitoring and Evaluation Division at the State Chancellery of Moldova, spoke about Moldova's experiences as a recipient of development aid. 'Using and applying data in daily working life can help bring about positive developments in civil society,' she said. 'It makes us think about how to use our resources better and also how we should be increasing direct investment and building local economic development.'

She highlighted the importance of making information available across the board, and said that reliance on the internet and apps would exclude many older people, for example.

Questions from the floor engaged speakers in a discussion about barriers to change and how to overcome them. Data literacy was thought to be less problematic than issues of communication. Simons put it this way: If you produce data, publish it; if you have it, use it; if you don't have it, demand it!

**Insight:** Providing a high-quality, transparent data set gives confidence to donors and recipient countries alike. Information, when available to all, can be used to enhance society.

➤ [Greening finance: Sharing experiences between China and Europe](#)

**Key Points:**

- The transition to a green economy requires changing the incentives that govern financial markets.
- Regulation from governments, including a robust deal on addressing climate change following the Paris conference, could trigger a whole wave of new green investment.
- Central banks in China and the UK are leading the way in green financial reform.
- Financial institutions need to find better ways of quantifying the environmental and social impacts of projects.
- Partnerships between governments and the private sector can improve the understanding of natural capital and reduce the risks of investing in green technology.

**Synopsis:** Over the past two decades, there has been 'a divorce of the financial sector from the real economy, (which) persists because it is of enormous benefit to the key players', said Mark Halle, Executive Director, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)-Europe. Green investment funds have only ever accounted for 2 % to 3 % of global investment. The only way to affect the other 97 %, is to 'change the rules that govern financial markets' in order to incentivise investment into the green economy, he added.

Regulation is one way of driving change. Brazil recently passed a law that ensures investors share the liability for environmental damage with project promoters. This has made the issue of environmental risk a much more significant factor in assessing project viability. Looking ahead, a robust deal on addressing climate change to emerge from the Paris conference in December 'could trigger a whole wave of new green investment'.

For Ali Askouri, President, Leadership Office of the Hamadab Affected People, the problem in Africa is that governments, financiers and contractors often work together to find a way around the existing legislation to deliver substandard projects. 'I'd really like to see the EU working with African countries...to develop a new set of environmental standards to govern the whole process of investing in Africa', he said. Such standards should safeguard local communities from the threat of land grabbing.

Central banks, with their mandates to ensure long-term stability, are leading the way in driving green financial reform. The Bank of England has begun stress-testing insurance companies to check their exposure to climate change. The Bangladesh central bank lends money at preferential rates to projects investing in sustainable development. The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) began looking at the environmental and social risk of their lending portfolios as far back as 2006-2007, said Sun Yiting, Sustainable Banking and Finance Program Manager, WWF-China. The regulator published 94 key green performance indicators (KPIs) in June 2014 and will monitor the sector against these KPIs from this year.

A major challenge has been the problem of defining what is a green investment, and how to measure the social as well as environmental impacts. Askouri said that bankers assessed project feasibility by internal rates of return, which take no account of environmental or social issues. 'The problem is that financial analysts cannot quantify this amount, they cannot find a scientific way to put them as added value in the project,' he said, adding: 'It's high time for the financial institutions to work this out.'

Eva Mayerhofer, Senior Environment Specialist, European Investment Bank, pointed out that the World Bank has moved away from focusing on safeguards towards assessing the positive social impacts of the projects it finances.

Mayerhofer said governments need to work more closely in partnership with communities and the private sector to understand the value of natural assets, and to assess the broader impacts of projects. One positive example is the partnership between the World Bank, the Brazilian

government and Petrogas to research biodiversity in coastal marine areas. In the area of green technology, governments need to co-finance projects with the private sector to reduce investment risks.

Mariana Silva, Sustainable Finance Officer at IISD, called on central banks to buy more green bonds as part of their quantitative easing. She also said there were not enough bankable green assets to invest in and suggested 'green securitisation' as a way of aggregating assets for the market.

**Insight:** 'The Chinese leadership has woken up to fact that the mismanagement of the environment over the past 50 to 60 years is so serious that it is becoming a threat to the legitimacy of the government itself.' Mark Halle, Executive Director, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)-Europe

➤ [Creating a fairer and more sustainable international tax system: What is the EU's role?](#)

**Key Points:**

- International tax reform is a global challenge that requires global solutions.
- Developing countries' tax interests need parity with developed countries' objectives at international talks about reform.
- Members of European Parliament serving on the Development Committee are calling for an ambitious action plan from the European Commission to help developing countries fight tax avoidance and evasion by multinational corporations.
- The European Parliament rapporteur on this issue hopes to receive EU Member States reactions to the parliament's report before the UN conference on financing for development in Addis Ababa in July.
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is expected to remain the lead institution on tax reform while the UN tax committee remains underfunded, even though powerful economies such as Brazil, China and India are not abiding by OECD rules on taxation.

**Synopsis:** The international tax system is creaking under competing pressures from multinational companies seeking to pay the least taxation possible, governments competing for tax revenues, and intermediaries such as lawyers and accountants who are aggressively seeking tax loopholes for their clients to exploit, according to Mick Moore, Chief Executive of the International Centre for Tax and Development.

'The problem of the global tax system is going to get worse and worse, rather than better and better,' he forecast.

Moore added that despite the best efforts of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to include developing countries within its decision-making processes about tax reform, 'I don't think (the OECD) is adequate' for the task. 'China, India and Brazil are each saying to the OECD: we aren't going to openly contest your rules, but we aren't going to abide by them either.'

Professor Annet Wanyana Oguttu of the University of South Africa pointed out that the needs of capital importing and capital exporting countries are different, and the reform process must take each into equal account.

'All countries have a shared interest in ensuring multinationals pay a fair share of taxes,' she said. 'It is important that countries don't just look at their own interests.'

She added that developing countries are increasingly aware that they must get their own tax laws in order to stem the loss of potential revenue. This process is uneven in Africa, in part due to a lack of administrative capacity to handle the complexities of international taxation legislation and treaties.

'It is no longer business as usual,' she said. 'This discussion about the international tax system is not going to end.'

Iina Soiri, Director of the Nordic Africa Institute, warned there is a danger that the growing belief that domestic tax revenues within developing countries can fund the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – as exemplified by African nations calling for African solutions to African problems – might become a backdoor for cuts in development budgets. She noted that EU Member States' position on development aid has always reflected domestic political priorities, even in Nordic countries that have a strong sense of social responsibility.

A recent report by Members of European Parliament (MEPs) serving on the Development Committee called for all multinational companies, especially those that extract natural resources in developing countries, to report annual profits on a country-by-country basis, with all data about their subsidiaries' operations made public, plus additional measures to prevent 'shell companies' hiding illicit financial activities.

Elly Schlein MEP and rapporteur for the report, said she expected the European Commission to broadly support the report, and hoped to hear reactions from EU Member States before the Third UN Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa in July. This is the final preparation for the UN meeting in New York in September which is due to endorse the new SDGs.

Schlein said that in addition to developing countries having an equal footing with developed countries at Addis Ababa, gender equality should also be central to these talks.

**Insight:** Questions from the audience suggested that development experts from non-governmental organisations and other tax specialists were less optimistic than panel speakers about the pace of progress in international taxation reform. They noted that tax remains part of fiscal policy, which is jealously guarded as a sovereign national issue. Meanwhile, tax intermediaries widely advertise loopholes, and multinational companies continue to shift profits by trading assets and income between subsidiaries. In response to these negative points, Iina Soiri, Director of the Nordic Africa Institute, noted, 'We have a saying in Finland: pessimists never get disappointed ... but pessimists don't get anything done either.'



## 9. Migration

### a. Auditorium Session

➤ [Migration is development: Making migration a driver for development](#)

**Key Points :**

- The world currently has some 250 million international migrants and 750 million domestic migrants: one person in every seven is a migrant.
- There are now 33 million internally displaced people – the highest figure since the Second World War; 22 million people were displaced in 2013-14 alone. Today, some 70 million people around the world are refugees.
- Migration is a major driver of growth and development both in the migrants' countries of origin and in the receiving countries.
- Remittances sent home by migrant workers are an important source of development funding.
- The new European Agenda on Migration rests on four pillars: reducing the incentives for irregular migration; saving lives and securing the EU's external borders; strengthening the common asylum policy; and developing a new policy on legal migration.

**Synopsis:** Recognising migration as a development enabler is one of the central themes of the new European Agenda on Migration, noted Matthias Ruete, Director General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs. By addressing political, economic and social instability, development cooperation helps to ensure that migration is 'a choice rather than a necessity'.

Politicians, civil society representatives, academics and business leaders all have a responsibility to speak out against xenophobia and 'dismantle some of the worst myths' about migration. The media should 'give migrants a human face' and 'help move society away from stereotypes'. As for the Commission and the EU: 'I am convinced that over the past few months, we have turned a page and we are at least prepared to willingly engage in this battle in a much different way than before,' he added.

While migration was absent from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it does feature in the new proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Notably, migrants are mentioned in SDGs on protecting labour rights, facilitating orderly, safe migration, reducing the transaction costs on migrants' remittances to less than 3 % by 2030, and capacity-building for data collection in developing countries.

As well as being workers, migrants are also potential employers, entrepreneurs and investors, said Laura Thompson, Deputy Director-General of the International Organization for Migration. Facilitating legal channels and safe migration is important, she emphasised – also for enabling migrants to contribute to the societies of destination. Protecting migrants' human and labour rights and their health is vital, she said. So far, the focus has been more on how migration affects development. We also need to look at how development affects migration.

Imelda Nicolas, Chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, pointed to the state-led initiative called Migrants in Countries in Crisis. The EU, together with seven other countries led by the Philippines and the US, is closely involved in this drive, and is funding six targeted regional consultations on the problem. It has been defining the issues on migration, looking at best practices, building an evidence base, and pointing the way towards to a better international capacity to manage migration triggered by crises such as civil unrest and natural disasters.

When it comes to migration and development, there is too much focus on what the public is interested in and too little on the public interest, according to Gibril Faal, Interim Director of the Africa-Europe Development Platform. The bulk of funding for development projects tends to go to large organisations for administrative reasons. Intermediaries could help to redress the balance, by establishing a grant fund to be passed on to smaller actors.

'Migration is development. Development is migration. They go hand in hand,' said Dilith Ratha, Manager, Migration and Remittances Unit and Head, KNOMAD, Development Prospects Group, World Bank.

Migrants' remittances are a major source of revenue and development for their home countries, he emphasised. So are the savings built up by the diaspora, and their massive support for philanthropic projects.

*Insight:* 'If we really want to make migration a resource for development, then why aren't the poorest people allowed to go along on that journey? Migration has to be a right for all, not just the rich.' Birwe Habmo, Future Leader.

## b. Debate Sessions

### ➤ [Migrants matter for development: New actors and energies in a new development agenda](#)

#### *Key Points:*

- Local authorities can play a bigger role in helping migrants.
- Migrants can be active partners in development and not a burden on society.
- Policymakers are starting to reflect on the link between the diaspora and the private sector.
- Incoherencies between EU policies need to be ironed out.
- A programme is underway to support the rights and dignity of domestic workers and trafficked persons.

*Synopsis:* Local authorities can play more of a role in helping migrants. Currently migration tends to be framed by national legislation and dialogue between governments, but there is a need to engage with local authorities nationally and internationally as they will be the main actors in implementing the future development agenda.

'Keeping things at the national level does not allow us to harness the potential of migration,' said Cecile Riallant, the Programme Manager for the United Nations Development Programme's Joint Migration and Development Initiative. For example, local authorities could help by certifying migrants' skills. In Ecuador, a provincial authority has set up a human mobility unit with a specific budget to provide services to migrants and the whole population.

Migrants can be active partners in development and not a burden on society. Migrants are capable of not seeking social benefits, of renting their own apartment and helping to develop the local economy, said Farah Abdi Abdullahi, a young refugee who has had a tough life after fleeing Somalia when she was just three years old.

The Solutions Alliance brings together, inter alia, development actors, governments, UN agencies, the private sector and academia, to find solutions for refugees and internally displaced people to reduce their reliance on humanitarian aid. A key aim is to promote the potential of refugees so that they can become more self-reliant. The alliance was set up in 2014 and has national groups looking into solutions in, for example, Somalia and Zambia.

Policymakers are starting to reflect on the link between the diaspora and the private sector. There is growing recognition by the commercial sector that the diaspora has been involved in business for a long time. Policymakers are starting to reflect on this.

'Partnerships that work are those that strengthen the link between enterprises and the diaspora,' argued Gibril Faal, the Interim Director of the Africa-Europe Development Platform. His suggestion to policymakers: 'It makes sense to subsidise the link between the diaspora and enterprise via transnational loans and grant schemes.'

Coherencies in EU policies can be improved so that migrants' rights are better protected. In this context, Bob van Dillen, the Chair of the CONCORD Migration and Development Task Force & Coordinator of the MADE Global Governance of Migration and Development Working Group, argued that EU immigration policies are based on keeping people out and preventing them from crossing the Mediterranean instead of protecting them. He suggested that the EU increase its efforts in search and rescue operations to save the lives of boat people. 'Safe channels for migration are needed and not just for highly skilled people as is the case mainly now,' he added.

Mohamed Assouali, the Head of Operations of Morocco Red Crescent, explained that the Morocco Red Crescent is involved in a programme in 15 countries that aims to build the capacity of civil society to support the rights and dignity of domestic workers and trafficked persons. Around 300 civil society organisations worldwide are currently in the process of being selected for the programme.

**Insight:** African youth can connect with youth in the diaspora using social media to talk about human rights and development before challenging governments on such issues in their countries.

#### ➤ [Enhancing the African diaspora's role in development post-2015](#)

##### **Key Points:**

- There is a strong case for including migration as part of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Africa is the second fastest-growing region in the world and should be seen as a trade partner, not just a recipient of aid.
- The African diaspora has a role to play in connecting the continent with Europe through business, trade and investment.
- Communications are a vital tool in spreading positive messages about the diaspora.

**Synopsis:** Session moderator Gibril Faal, Interim Director, Africa-Europe Development Platform, said it is 'highly likely' that migration will be included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be agreed upon in September at the high-level UN meeting in New York.

Harnet Bokrezion, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Business Jumpstart, said that a shift has taken place in the development arena in the past 20 to 30 years, with Africa now the second fastest-growing region in the world. 'The continent is today seen as a trade partner; not as an aid recipient,' she said.

The international development world is slowly adapting to this new situation. EU Member States have been slow to react and change their mindset, relying on old policies of aid and assistance. There is a similar trend among the diaspora in Europe, Bokrezion remarked. Despite the obvious advances in Africa, the European diaspora are still only visible in 'newsletters on African food and dancing'. She called on the diaspora to take an active role in connecting both continents through business, trade and investment.

Raghd Hamid, Junior Account Executive, Portland Communications, said she would like to see youth recognised as partners in the development debate, noting that youth see things from an outside perspective and their involvement could lead to fresh and creative policy initiatives.

Hamid also said she has noticed a shift in opinion. Migration has traditionally been seen as a brain drain on Africa, but today it is more of a 'brain circulation'. The experiences and social contacts gained when working in a foreign country are valuable resources for the country of origin. The digital era, in particular social media, has played a significant role in spreading this phenomenon.

Cornelis Heesbeen, AUXFIN, detailed how his organisation's services can help the diaspora. He said that despite offering various low cost or free cash transfer services, migrants have been reluctant to use them, preferring to wire funds, which is very expensive. 'It's hard for them to change. They are stubborn and still keep money under their mattresses,' he explained, adding that the money sitting there could be invested for a better future.

Hamid emphasised the importance of communications, saying it is a crucial tool for development. She called on participants to share positive stories about the diaspora from all continents, inspiring others to take action. Bokrezion urged entrepreneurs not to rely on government funding to start a business, citing various examples of tech businesses and app creators starting successful businesses with little or no start-up capital.

**Insight:** Diaspora thinking about investing in their homeland should be careful, as not all countries are investable. As Harnet Bokrezion, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Business Jumpstart, said: 'Make a business decision, not an emotional one.'

### ➤ [Shifting wealth, shifting migration flows](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- Only around 3 % of the world's population lives in a country other than the one where they were born.
- Most migrants move for economic reasons.
- South-south migration is steadily on the increase.

**Synopsis:** Changing global economic patterns are also steadily changing migration patterns, with public policy implications for both the European Union and the developing world.

Contrary to popular belief, most migrants do not leave their country of origin under adverse circumstances, but make a calculated choice to improve their economic situation.

'Boat people' fleeing a conflict zone and arriving in Europe are 'only a tiny part of the situation,' according to David Khoudour, Head of the Migration and Skills Unit at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Most people simply cross from one neighbouring country to another, while south-south migration between developing countries, is on the increase, he said.

This is part of a current global trend called 'shifting wealth,' where economic growth rates are much higher in non-OECD countries, such as Brazil, China, Ghana, Indonesia, South Africa and Thailand, than in OECD countries. These The improved economic circumstances mean there is less incentive for people to move abroad, and make these countries attractive to high- and low-skilled workers.

A crucial fact is that it takes resources to migrate, Khoudour said. Most people choosing to leave their country of origin have the means to do so. The increasing wealth in non-OECD countries may in turn give people the resources they need to seek a life elsewhere. Again, defying conventional wisdom, it is not usually the poorest people who migrate, but those who can afford to travel. The result is that greater wealth in developing countries will not automatically halt migration, as is sometimes suggested.

These shifts call for a more comprehensive approach to public policy. Countries such as Morocco and Mexico have recently begun to recognise they are attractive to migrants, and have adjusted their policies accordingly, said Anna Knoll, Policy Officer in the Strengthening European External Action Programme. The change has led to improved migrants' rights through better labour and other laws.

Coherent policies across sectors are needed in order to reflect the reality of modern migration patterns, Knoll added. One example is education, which migrants often have difficulty accessing and can drive outward migration. Countries should examine the economic potential of refugees, who increasingly stay longer in a particular country than expected.

**Insight:** 'The reason we have so many irregular migrants is simple – it is because we have strict migration policies. Just open your borders. More flexibility in migration policies wouldn't hurt anybody, if we could just share the burden and redistribute all the people arriving in Europe. Also, we could share the burden with neighbouring countries' – David Khoudour, Head of the Migration and Skills Unit, OECD.

## 10. Growth and poverty eradication

### a. Auditorium Session

- [Growth, jobs and partnership with business: How to make a difference together in contributing to a sustainable and inclusive growth agenda](#)

#### *Key Points :*

- The development world has changed – the private sector now plays a fundamental role in emerging economies.
- The government and donors still have a major role to play in creating the environment and training programmes to enable businesses to succeed.
- The role played by non-governmental organisations is also changing, as in many cases their role is now to help local entrepreneurs find the finance to grow their companies.
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the agents of growth in developing countries.
- Young people can be the drivers of the country's economy, so they need support to give them the skills and business knowhow.
- Big companies should be encouraged to contribute goods & services to help SME start-ups.

**Synopsis:** The world of development has changed. For many years donors found that their aid was not bringing the expected results, and that those countries successfully reducing poverty were those that were more open to private investment and were creating jobs.

As a result, the focus of aid has changed, and is now being directed at helping the private sector in developing countries to leverage bigger resources. Current evidence-based programmes show that this is creating inclusive growth, provided it is supported by strong government institutions.

Axel Addy, the Minister of Commerce and Industry in Liberia, stressed that young people are the future entrepreneurs of Africa – they want to live in a better world. The government must implement the necessary reforms, such as lifting restrictions on doing business to give young people a change.

The audience heard the uplifting story of Muhammed Kisirisa who was brought up in the slums of Kampala, and began work aged 11 to earn money for his school fees. Now a young adult, he has started a youth centre to help young people find employment. The centre offers empowerment programmes and courses teaching financial skills and literacy. In 2014, 530 students graduated, with over 300 finding employment.

The centre's work has shown that although there is very high youth unemployment in most African countries, many businesses are not able to employ young people as they lack the relevant skills. It was suggested that the government's educational department should work with the corporate sector to draw up a curriculum that includes teach young people the skills and business acumen needed to become an entrepreneur.

Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, said that by the end of 2014, 60 % of trade was driven by international value chains, often spread across several countries. Small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries need to link into these, but in to do so, they need to produce goods up to international standards. The audience heard about women coffee growers in Burundi who wanted to work with companies such as Starbucks, but were not able to produce coffee of the required quality.



To solve these problems they needed support on a number of different fronts: international organisations such as the International Trade Centre were able to offer management and financial training and a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) helped the women to form a cooperative.

The role played by NGOs is also developing from their traditional approach of building capacity on the ground, as they now help local businesses to leverage new funding. For example CORDAID, a large NGO, has been working with local microfinance organisations in South Sudan to supply funds to help small agricultural producers.

Many large companies see the opportunities of investing in developing countries, and in the case of Enel, more than 66 % of its growth is in the emerging economies. At times, outside support is needed to kick-start the process. For example Nestlé approached farmers in Pakistan as it needed more milk supplies. The Pakistani cow has a very low milk yield so USAID arranged for semen from Australian bulls, which massively increased the yield. This also benefitted the women who owned the cows, who were able to keep some of the milk for their own use.

**Insight :** Governments need to be flexible, reducing the regulatory blocks on business, and providing the necessary infrastructure to help companies to grow.

## **b. Debate Sessions**

### ➤ [Responsible management of supply chains: The case of the garment sector](#)

#### **Key Points:**

- There is a growing appetite for change in the garment sector.
- To make the most of resources, initiatives must be coordinated and good practices shared.
- The approach should be both top-down and bottom-up.
- Empowerment is a prerequisite for success.

**Synopsis:** Over the past few decades, the garment industry has increasingly been outsourcing its production. Driven by the pressure from brands to cut costs, standards have frequently fallen to well below an acceptable level. The collapse in 2013 of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh, where 1 138 people died and 2 000 were injured, has acted as a catalyst for change.

While a number of socially committed businesses and social entrepreneurs had already been taking steps to improve standards, this human tragedy generated a greater awareness of working conditions for people in the garment industry, and a greater commitment to change.

Representatives from four European organisations described how they were addressing health, environmental, social and gender issues in the garment sector, while seeking to improve working and living conditions for people in the context of sustainable development.

Although the presenters were coming to these issues from slightly different perspectives, the need for both a top-down and a bottom-up approach was a key theme for all. The involvement of both workers and managers was seen as essential to success, whether in the development of building safety in Bangladesh via the Bangladesh Accord, the campaign for better working conditions and victim compensation by the Clean Clothes Campaign, the water conservation work of the Swedish International Water Institute or humanitarian work by Care. If workers are not empowered or managers not engaged, then initiatives will inevitably fail to become embedded, speakers said.

Empowerment, through training or support programmes, is essential in delivering results. For example, the Bangladesh Accord gives workers the right to refuse to work in unsafe conditions. If

this accord had been in place in 2013, then the tragedy of Rana Plaza might not have happened. But if workers do not have confidence that they will not be victimised if they refuse to work, then this 'right' is of no value.

The role of both local and national government officials was widely debated. In some countries, involving officials at an early stage was seen as a hindrance. In the case of Bangladesh, for example, while action plans have been drawn up with government officials to improve building regulations and health and safety, there seems to be little impetus to get these plans off the drawing board.

However, the publishing of data was a good example of how to bring pressure to bear. The creation of contractual agreements with garment brands was a method of cutting through high-level bureaucracy while working within a legal framework.

Businesses, non-governmental organisations and the public sector are taking steps that are beginning to bring results. Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation-EuropeAid, announced a new initiative to begin at the end of June.

The Commission will bring together stakeholders from across all sectors to consult on the best way forward for the garment industry. The intention is to build a multi-stakeholder platform that will bring about the additional leverage needed across Europe. This, he said, needs to be 'transparent, knowledge based, and coordinated'. The intention is not to create new laws, but to implement existing ones to accelerate progress.

**Insight:** Despite some of the terrible conditions that prevail in the garment industry, there is a strong sense of the positive, with a growing willingness in Europe to address issues of injustice, dignity and poverty in this sector.

➤ [Satellite connectivity and public-private partnerships to boost delivery of public goods in Africa](#)

**Key Points:**

- Internet connectivity in Africa will more than treble over the next 10 years, giving great economic potential. Satellite technology will help to ensure that the internet is generally available even for those living in remote regions.
- The EU wants to build strategic alliances with Africa built on mutual interest, as connectivity is considered a key driver for economic growth.
- We must ensure that connectivity is accepted as a global public good, that it is used to encourage sustainable development and is accessible for all.
- African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states would like information and communications technology (ICT) to be included as one of the Sustainable Development Goals, as it is vital for their development.
- Public bodies, private entrepreneurs and public-private partnerships are very innovative in the ways they are using ICT to improve the delivery of services.

**Synopsis:** Connectivity in Africa, which now stands at 16 %, is likely to increase to 50 % by 2025, with Africans leapfrogging over the old technology, going straight from lacking even basic electronic communication to using mobile phones and tablets. But the level of accessibility is very uneven, with good coverage provided by fibre optics along coastal areas and limited coverage in the centre of the continent.

Current research shows that satellite connectivity will be part of the ICT mix in Africa and help promote universal access in remote areas. At the moment, satellite capacity is relatively expensive; we need business models that ensure that all providers will offer affordable access for those on low incomes. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to take advantage of this – for example, that all internet users have access to electricity.

The European Union is building a new strategic relationship with Africa, based on mutual interest, which means 'broadening the range of the EU offer for the continent', said Françoise Moreau of Directorate General International Cooperation and Development. Given the way that ICT spurs a country's development by giving access to more opportunities and services, it will feature prominently in EU-Africa policy dialogues and operational programmes in the future.

Mirjam Van Reisen of the Philips Foundation stressed that connectivity must be seen as a global public good, and should be offered at a price that is affordable for all. This means that the international community has a responsibility to help development partners to create good governance policies and suitable policy structures.

All the speakers agreed that satellite technology could be a boon to delivering health, education and other policies in the form of e-health, e-education and even e-agriculture, particularly to very isolated regions. This could either be through public provision, private provision or public-private partnerships.

Both Plan International, a children's development organisation, and Teachers Media International (TMI), a private provider of sustainable learning, described successful projects that used ICT. Plan International worked with Nokia in Uganda to make public education more accountable to parents and students through the use of mobile phones. This improved parents' participation in the schools, improved the governance structure and prompted an increase in school enrolments.

TMI used ICT to train more than 300,000 teachers in Africa. In Kenya, for example, it is working in a public-private partnership with the government. This has helped to improve the quality of teachers and to build up a community of trained educators, using a blended solution of face-to-face and internet teaching.

African countries are very eager to seize the opportunities offered by satellite technology. At their meeting in Addis Ababa in 2010, leaders agreed that ICT was an essential part of development and that 'Africa must be part of the information age', said Ibrahim Sorie, Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Belgium. He described measures taken by his government to bring connectivity to all parts of the country. Sierra Leone and other ACP countries want ICT to be one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Insight:** Satellite technology is likely to be one of the most important drivers of economic growth in Africa. Governments must ensure that the regulatory framework is in place to enable it to flourish.

## 11. Global citizenship

### a. Auditorium Sessions

- ['Millennium youth': Young people engaging in the universal sustainable development agenda 2015-2030](#)

#### *Key Points:*

- Young people are disproportionately affected by global problems such as hunger, armed conflict, unemployment and poverty, yet they have little voice in how these issues are tackled.
- Gender equality is fundamentally important to sustainable development and would help improve the lives of both men and women.
- The best way to fight poverty in Africa and elsewhere is by improving health and education.
- Young people can and should play an important role in raising awareness about climate change and demanding action.

**Synopsis:** Young people are disproportionately affected by problems such as unemployment, hunger, poverty and armed conflict, yet they are heavily underrepresented when it comes to taking decisions on tackling these issues. Half of the world's population is under 25, but less than 6 % of parliamentarians are under 30. Not only is it morally right that young people participate more, but it will help ensure that responses to the problems are more effective.

The session examined three specific themes – social inclusion and gender equality, quality of education and personal well-being. These topics were set within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – due to be agreed upon at a high-level UN meeting in New York in September – and how young people can be involved in monitoring implementation of the agreed goals.

In discussing the first theme, one speaker raised the issue of gender inequality in Arab regions, where women can be pressured into early marriage and suffer domestic violence, but be rejected by society if they divorce. In Lebanon, only four of the country's 128 parliamentarians are women and there are no female ministers in the government. Many agreed that gender equality worldwide is of fundamental importance for sustainable development and would provide better lives not just for women, but also for men. The world has made progress over the past 20 years or so, however, no country can claim to have achieved total gender equality.

Today, 63 million children of secondary school age do not go to school, and half of them live in conflict zones. Many agreed that the best way to fight poverty in Africa and elsewhere is by improving health and education; education is the 'backbone' of development.

A spot poll of the audience showed that over 65 % felt that access to education is more important than the quality of education. For one young panellist, however, education needs to be tailored to the economic needs of society so that young people leaving school can find work more easily. Another drew attention to a lack of funding for the non-formal education sector, such as youth groups and organisations, which encourage participation and help create awareness of issues.

Young people can and should play an important role in raising awareness about climate change. As voters, they can influence politicians, as consumers they can influence companies, and as innovators they can come up with aids to sustainable development.

**Insight:** Young people are demanding a greater say in how the world is run, but there is a need to find new ways of participating because the young are also bored with the traditional forms of political involvement.

➤ [How can development cooperation effectively fight corruption and promote good governance?](#)

**Key Points:**

- Corruption is a major obstacle to economic development and impacts poor people most severely.
- Tax evasion impedes economic development.
- In the Cotonou Agreement, the EU seeks to promote good governance and the involvement of civil society through its development assistance.
- There are connections among corruption, governance and environmental harm.
- Development support for building strong democratic institutions can help in the fight against corruption.

**Synopsis:** It is estimated that corruption costs the world economy US\$ 1 trillion a year. Corruption and development are linked. Corruption, which adversely impacts poor people the most, can be seen as a regressive tax. Good governance, transparency, accountability and the rule of law are vital to economic development and poverty reduction. Proposed Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 calls for access to justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

One major area of corruption is tax evasion, which impedes economic development by depriving developing countries of the resources needed to compensate public servants adequately and construct necessary infrastructure. Tax systems should be transparent and fair.

Corruption can create a vicious circle, particularly in developing countries. It deprives governments of revenues needed to pay public officials sufficiently, leading the officials to demand bribes. Official corruption deters investment, further depressing needed tax revenues. Better compensation for public officials can help reduce requests for bribes.

In the Cotonou Agreement between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific nations, there is a requirement for good governance and the involvement of civil society and the private sector as well as governments. It is important to involve civil society in development assistance, particularly where the recipient states are weak. The EU wants reliable and accountable development partners; its aid should be controlled by parliaments and civil society.

There are links among governance, corruption and environmental harm. Land, water, minerals, wildlife and forests are assets. These assets can be redistributed properly or illicitly. When redistributed illicitly, it is a form of theft. In a recent report, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimated that illegal trade in natural resources amounted to about US\$ 200 billion annually. These crimes impact national economies and help to finance conflicts and terrorism. One way in which development assistance can help is by supporting environmental enforcement in developing countries.

Corruption undermines the efficacy of development assistance. The UN estimates that 20 % and 30 % of aid is lost to corruption. Some see corruption as the biggest obstacle to development. Education is a key to breaking the vicious circle of corruption. Children from an early age should be taught that corruption is not acceptable. Elites should be trained to fight corruption. Young people need to be involved.

Development support for building strong democratic institutions can help fight corruption. All countries have corruption problems. However, societies adhering to the rule of law, with free speech and media, active civil societies, access to government information and protection for whistleblowers, are much better able to detect and deter corruption.

**Insight:** There need to be meaningful indicators to measure the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. However, determining what these indicators should be is difficult. Donors need to realise that eliminating corruption will take much time.

➤ [Global citizens can change the world!](#)

**Key Points:**

- Members of the global citizenship movement generally share a vision of a more democratic, inclusive, peaceful and just world; they also agree on the importance of global issues such as climate change and migration.
- The need for such a movement is driven by growing interconnectivity, notably related to technology and the environment.
- Global education plays an important role global citizenship.

**Synopsis:** The concept of global citizenship dates back to the time of Socrates and the ancient Greeks, but much of the session was devoted to brainstorming about what the idea means in the 21st century. The more conceptual debate was grounded in concrete examples of initiatives in global education.

People who identify themselves as part of the global citizenship movement generally agree that it should contain a vision of a more democratic, inclusive, peaceful and just world. And that it should focus on global issues such as climate change and migration. An audience poll defining global citizenship turned up a series of descriptive terms. The most common were: engagement, solidarity, democracy, change and identity.

Speakers called attention to increasing global interconnectivity. The term 'glocal' (global+local) came up, as did a reference to the 'butterfly effect', whereby a small change in one part of a system can have an unexpectedly huge impact on the whole.

Global citizenship is part of human nature, said one speaker, except that many people haven't woken up to the fact yet. Another suggested that people should be good local citizens first, and that global citizenship would flow naturally from that.

Another believed that global citizenship entails both actions to promote social welfare and what was termed as 'positive inaction' – a reflection on one's place in the world and the role one plays in a system that is marked by historical and contemporary inequalities.

Global education plays an important role global citizenship. For the last decade, the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) has run a peer review process to analyse the state of global education in certain countries. The first was completed in Cyprus in 2004 and the last in Portugal last year. Ireland is a work-in-progress this year. In the role of 'critical friends', experts from other countries try to help locals develop a positive agenda improve the quality of their global education programmes.

A city in eastern France lent its name to the Strasbourg Club, a network of European cities that was founded in 2003 as part of the EU enlargement into Central and Eastern Europe. The club promotes citizenship and core European values – including through international exchanges, notably one that brings together young people from a diverse backgrounds.



Asked for their ideas about how to further develop the global citizenship movement, speakers stressed the importance of educational reform to make the system more humanistic as well as understanding the roots of intolerance and personal interaction.

**Insight:** Harvard economist Dani Rodrick came up with a concept called the globalisation paradox. As outlined during the session, if you take three important factors – globalism, democracy and sovereignty – you can only have two of them at any one time.

## b. Debate Session

- [Culture: The forgotten lifeblood of development - a roundtable with Louis Michel, MEP, Co-Chair of ACP-EU JPA & Founder of European Development Days](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Often underestimated, culture needs instead to be at the centre of development.
- The source of a people's dignity, culture underpins democracy.
- The African diaspora must be ambassadors of their culture.
- 40 % of tourism in the world is cultural, but needs to be sustainable.

### **Synopsis:**

The father of European Development Days, Louis Michel insisted that culture was not a toy for pretentious elites but deserved a place in development equal to its significance to people, nations and civilisations. Recalling an artist's statement that 'art is an act of liberty,' he strenuously rejected the idea that an emphasis on culture led to inward-looking nationalism.

The rich countries of Europe should hold up their end of the moral contract to support their natural allies in Africa by supporting management of globalisation in the cultural as well as the economic field, Michel said. 'Economic growth needs to serve humanity as a whole,' he continued. Preserving singular cultures is an imperative, and Africa, the birthplace of humanity, deserves greater recognition and ownership of its future as a continent.

Instead of the concept of aid, which reinforces the archaic donor/beneficiary relationship, more attention should be paid to cooperation and partnership, opening the way to bigger budgets for cultural support and resisting the sad trend of pillaging Africa's cultural as well as natural resources.

Michèle Dominique Raymond, Assistant Secretary-General for Political and Humanitarian Affairs, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and Richard Miller, Member of the Belgian Federal Parliament, echoed the former European Commissioner, while emphasising the importance of culture for democracy and economic growth.

Raymond pointed out that promises for in this field tend not to be kept and that culture's significance should not be overlooked in debates about governance to ensure that political and economic actors offer professionals the respect they deserve. Miller also underlined how the specific nature of populations can be understood only through the expression of their artists and thinkers.

Speaking for the diaspora, Marie Chantal Uwitonze, Parliamentary Advisor to Member of European Parliament (MEP) Louis Michel, also insisted that it was time for Africans to become the main actors in their own development. Culture is a part of the natural phenomenon of migration as knowledge and customs make their way across continents. Just as African designers need to

counter the perception of their fashion as old and traditional, promoting Africa music, art, and cooking will help the continent take its proper place in the global village.

Peter Debrine, Programme Specialist at UNESCO, focused on the significance of culture in tourism as a leading source of revenue for many developing countries. However he warned that heritage tourism is often mismanaged, harming fragile environments and leading to degradation of assets, which are both an irredeemable cultural loss to humanity and an economic loss to the countries concerned. Preservation needs to be as much a part of who we are as our culture, he insisted.

Silvia Barbone, Founder and Director of the Foundation for European Sustainable Tourism (FEST), pursued the theme, stressing that only a clear vision for sustainable tourism can bring about actions that deliver long-term benefits. New talents and new leaders were needed on the ground so that tourism could help alleviate poverty.

**Insight:** What is Ouagadougou's equivalent of the Eiffel Tower? Pointing out that the 53 countries on the African continent lacked recognition despite their size, Ola-Dele Kuku, architect and artist, gave an impassioned plea to halt generalisations: 'Stop saying I'm African, say I'm Nigerian!'

## 12. Decent jobs

### a. Auditorium Sessions

➤ [Growing agriculture, growing jobs: The private sector on the spot](#)

**Key Points:**

- Numerous challenges standing in the way of creating decent jobs in agriculture.
- Triangular cooperation gives developing countries the chance to access another country's expertise.
- Through 'conscious capitalism', businesses can be vehicles for societal improvement.
- Job prospects for the young generation should include processing of agricultural goods, thereby adding value.

**Synopsis:** Numerous challenges stand in the way of the creating decent jobs in agriculture. Food prices are increasingly volatile. There will be decreasing yields because of climate change. The amount of arable land per person is falling. Water scarcity is a growing issue.

Old solutions are una to address these new challenges. In addition, young people often do not want to live in rural areas, and urbanisation is growing in every country. Creating a living income for small producers is a difficult challenge. Progress has been very slow. This is why new solutions are needed.

Germany uses a triangular cooperation model. This provides an opportunity to strengthen capacities in two developing countries, with expertise and methodology from Germany. One example, involving Chile and the Dominican Republic, is improving youth employment by promoting training measures. In another example, Germany is supporting a fisheries cooperative in Timor Leste, which is cooperating with Malaysia.

Entrepreneurs often see employees as a resource to exploit rather than as partners. A different approach is to cooperate with people and treat all stakeholders on an equal footing. This fits in with the 'conscious capitalism' movement in the United States that sees business in essence as a good thing based on voluntary transactions.

The idea is to revive businesses so that they are not just about maximising profits, but are also able to be vehicles for societal improvement. Businesses should make their societal purpose explicit and involve stakeholders, and there should be a company culture where workers feel committed to that societal purpose.

Small farmers need to empowered or there is a risk that they will be imprisoned in subsistence farming. It is important to find ways to step up from subsistence farming by taking into account not just primary production, but also processing.

In Ethiopia, for example, there are huge numbers of smallholder farmers who have little prospect of improving their situation if they are restricted to primary production. Job prospects for the young generation must include the processing of agricultural goods. Farming needs to be given a good name so that young people are encouraged to take it up as a profession.

**Insight:** The private sector can play a role in improving jobs in agriculture by being involved in obtaining reasonable loans with realistic tenures, supporting education in agriculture and making local markets profitable.

## b. Debate Sessions

### ➤ [Transformed economies, better jobs, shared wealth. Can we do it ?](#)

#### Key Points:

- How people work and what they do is an important part of development, regarding both the process and its quality.
- There is no worldwide standard of decent work. The poor should be consulted about their jobs.
- African countries are not transforming fast enough to provide enough jobs. Productivity increases in agriculture could achieve this.
- We need to get back to more value added within the developing economies.
- China has possibly reached a social turning point rather than an economic turning point.

**Synopsis:** Can the economies of the developing world be transformed to deliver decent jobs with a better distribution of wealth? The signs are that it will be a long struggle.

A recent report from the International Labour Organization (ILO) shows that, although the gap has been narrowed between developing and developed countries, it is still huge in terms of per capita income. It will take 100 years to catch up.

The report, 'World Employment and Social Outlook', looked at 145 developing countries and found little transition. Only three Less Developed Countries (LDCs) moved into a new category. LDCs have been stuck at the same share of manufacturing, under 10 %, for the last century. Labour productivity has not changed in 30 years.

The financial crisis has not helped matters, as sovereign debt has increased to bail out the financial sector. The ILO found that the imbalances were being worked out through the labour market via reduced contracts and wages and lower social protection. This has not helped employment.

Development is not so much about rates of growth, but about the composition of growth. This relates to changes in gross domestic product, the nature and quality of jobs, and the composition of economic drivers – such as, for example, investment-led growth, whether in physical or human capital. The nature of growth is critical. We cannot assume it will translate into quality employment.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 80 % of jobs are in the informal economy. With the population growing to 4 billion, there will be many young people seeking work.

African countries are not transforming fast enough to provide jobs. The bottom 50 % are in a family business or farm, or in casual wage work. Most are in rural areas and working in agriculture.

In many developing countries people are locked into poverty and extreme poverty. The majority cannot afford not to work. They also lack social protection. They need higher earnings. Policy needs to support practical approaches that increase earnings – developing cooperatives, for example. Increases in productivity in the agriculture sector could make a contribution. Investing in education could also be important.

Is there one model for successful transformation? It might be more effective for each developing country to present its own plan for diversification.

Regarding China, there is good evidence that the country has reached an economic turning point. Fast wage rises have persisted for 10 years, and this has undermined the competitiveness of Chinese industry.

Nonetheless, the movement of workers from rural to city areas has led to productivity growth of 40 %, underpinned by investment growth. Since early 2000s, labour rights and unionisation have been promoted, along with minimum-wage legislation. With this success, is decent work emerging?

Decent work is still a target and not a reality, said Dick Lo, a Chinese economist. There are poor working conditions in different parts of China, with minimal labour protection and many accidents. A stark example is the Foxconn factory, which makes Apple products. It has been in the headlines for poor working practices, cramped dormitories for workers, and factories operating 24 hours a day. Lo said that China had possibly reached a social turning point rather than an economic turning point.

**Insight:** Better quality leads to better productivity. When it comes to employment, a country's development has to be seen in terms of its job quality and not just quantity.

➤ [Developing with decent work](#)

**Key Points:**

- Achieving the international goal of 'decent work for all' requires dialogue among all social and political actors.
- In many developing countries, most workers are employed in the informal sector, with almost no rights and no social protection; up to 80 % of the workforce in sub-Saharan Africa is employed in the informal sector.
- Any effective development measure must take account of how ordinary people live; there must be investment in human capital, not just in physical capital.

**Synopsis:** Achieving the international goal of decent work for all requires dialogue between all social and political actors. This dialogue must include not just labour movements, politicians and business leaders, but it must also embrace civil society.

The concept of decent work has a number of components. It must generate sufficient income for a worker and his or her family to live a decent life; it must be carried out in safe conditions; workers must have the freedom to express their views and organize; and there must be equality of opportunity, as well as gender, with equal pay for equal work.

But in many developing countries, working conditions are far from decent. Most workers are employed in the so-called informal work sector, where there are few rights. In sub-Saharan Africa, up to 80 % of the workforce is employed in the informal sector. In India, it is 90 %.

Moazam Mahmood, Director, Economic and Labour Market Analysis Department, International Labour Organization (ILO), said that in poor countries, employment levels are a function of demographics not gross domestic product. This is because the poorest must work to survive. Investment drives economic growth, but there must be investment in human capital and not just in physical capital.

For Wellington Chibembe, Deputy General-Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation, development and job creation are rooted in human rights. 'Labour is not a commodity,' he said. Developmental success cannot be measured in terms of new buildings or banks accounts; it must take account of how people live.

Meeting the decent work agenda is difficult and cannot be achieved by any one actor alone, said Veronica Rubio, Senior Strategic Issues Manager, Business Social Compliance Initiative. The initiative brings together 1 600 companies that have endorsed a code of conduct on working conditions and human rights throughout their supply chains. Achieving decent work will involve cooperation in the workplace between managers and workers, improving health and safety practices and regular assessments of performance throughout the supply chain through social audits.

Francoise Millecam, Deputy Head of Unit, Human Development and Migration, Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation, European Commission, said that the European Union is working to promote decent work through its development cooperation and to promote democracy to fight against corruption.

'Social dialogue should aim first at addressing the deficiencies of the informal sector,' she said, adding that this an area in which the trade unions movement could take a lead.

Irene G. Mbugua, Second Counsellor, Embassy of Kenya, Brussels, said education is a key driver of development and the Kenyan government is investing strongly in it. But its policies will take time to work, she said, after Chibebe suggested Kenya is an example of a country in which economic development is very unequal. Kenya is experiencing 'enclave' development rather than inclusive development, he said.

**Insight:** Better quality leads to better productivity. When it comes to employment, a country's development has to be seen in terms of its job quality and not just quantity.