

Great Challenges, Greater Solidarity Power of Community and SSE as a Path for Transformation

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Title of the session:	Catalyst 2030, Social Entrepreneurs Collaborating to Accelerate Progress to the SDGs, organized by Catalyst 2030
Type of session	Members and Partners session
Language:	English
Date:	22 nd of October
Time:	90 minutes
Participants	<i>Zoom participation: 24</i>

Name of presenter

Sarah Prince Robin, Catalyst 2030

Speakers

1. Sue Riddlestone, Chief executive and co-founder of Bioregional
2. Valeria Dufлот, Co-founder of Overtourism solution as well as Co-founder of Venezia Autentica S.R.L.S
3. Jacob Mathew, CEO of Industree Foundation and Co-Founder of Tessaract Design, Idiom Design, Dovetail Furniture and Spring Health Water
4. Maryam Uwais, Special Advisor to President Muhammadu Buhari on Social Investments and founding Partner of Primera Africa Legal.
5. Manmeet Mehta, Director, Program Operations & Impact at Ashoka

Screenshot of the zoom session



Summary of presentations:

1. Sarah Prince Robin, Catalyst 2030

SDGs will not be achieved by 2094, not only for the COVID-19 situation but also for the lack of resources, minimal coordination and disconnection between funding models and needs. That's why Catalyst 2030 is an essential network initiated by leading social groups that aim at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 through an unprecedented mobilization of social entrepreneurs, partners and resources. They include different working groups that hold different initiatives such as COVID-19 Response Support, Shifting the Funding Paradigm or Catalyzing Change Campaign. They also have issue-based groups which include education, agriculture, gender, livelihoods and youth and regional or country chapters, that enables the Social Enterprises within defined geographic regions/ or between countries to collaborate and establish best practices. Ms. Prince also talked about the "Catalyzing Change Campaign & Report" launched on July 8th, representing 131 countries and more than 1600 organizations. Its aim was to meet the recommendations and also, hold a series of discussions with key policy makers with the objective of transforming the recommendations into workable actions.

2. Sue Riddlestone, Bioregional

Ms. Riddlestone stated that to make system change we need to look at policy and its impact on people. This is why they created global goals that are shared over the world. She also acknowledged that we need to change policy and practice, to change the systems that have led us to not be sustainable. In this regard, Bioregional gets bio-planning policies change through organizations such as the United Nations committees. Its 2020/21 Goals are to identify and

progress 10 partnerships between social entrepreneurs and social innovators and governments to scale SE solutions; as well as, working with the UN inter-agency task force on social and solidarity economy and others to progress the idea of high-level advisors for social enterprise and social innovation at UN level. Bioregional also worked with the Catalyzing Change Report and they focused on transport and mobility alliances and getting these to the government's influence.

3. Valeria Dufлот, Over Tourism solution and Venezia Autentica

Ms. Dufлот has expressed the importance of tourism when regarding SDG's progress as it causes a massive footprint in every sector and at the same time, it has been a sector growing faster than the GDP in developed and developing countries. However, although it has a huge potential, it causes more harm than good and its extractive power and impact is being overlooked. However, with the right KPIs and mindsets, Ms. Dufлот believes that it can go from an extractive industry to one that leads to benefits to its citizens and contribute to the preservation and the regeneration of the places where we live and travel. Thus, she extracted her idea into her livelihood, Venice, and her initiative has led to an increase in retention of tourism revenue locally, and a change in visitors' experience, mindsets, and behaviors. It helps residents benefit more from tourism and contribute to preserving and regenerating the local cultural and natural heritage. Especially with the COVID-19 crisis, it has been noted that not only we have to focus on transforming tourism but also recover the livelihood that tourism was providing to people around the world. Luckily, this crisis has made governments realize the importance of this economic sector and they are boosting tourism initiatives in order to overcome all the challenges. However, there is still the need for international collaboration and boost collective action to undertake these new tourism models such as the one in Venezia. Catalyst 2030 has indeed, helped to quickly map potential collaborators and access policymakers and leaders, and the creation of reports which has enabled an ecosystem that is more favorable for social innovation.

4. Jacob Matthew, Industree Foundation

Mr. Matthew has elaborated on Industree Foundation which works with rural communities and artisan products, and organizes them into formal industries; moving them from informal sector to formal sector through a combination of good design, efficient manufacturing processes and access to market. These rural groups are connected then with formal brands, and because they work with women, its initiative directly impacts prosperity and up-liftmen. Elements of democratic working principles of social justice are built into the fabric of these new industries, impacting also communities and institutions. These upbringings of people into groups enables them to secure protected networks that in fact, have proved stronger than others when pushed by the COVID-19 crisis. These group-formations have recollected the same status as the organized formal groups in society, this being possible because of the partnerships that Catalyst 2030 offers. Plus, Mr. Matthew has praised the advancements that Catalyst 2030 has made in registering those contributing to capacity-building projects or others, in order to demonstrate the impact and legitimacy of those. They have also worked with a central government initiative to cultivate bamboo and make sure that natural resources are managed, plus engaging

indigenous communities into the task force. This initiative has created a new network which includes India's federal government, central government and local governments, being this a model that can be applied to other value chains as an example of how the public sector, the private sector, the civil sector and communities can come together to create system level change.

5. Maryam Uwais, Nigeria's Government

Ms. Uwais has pointed out the vulnerable situation of Nigeria; the majority of children are out of school and end up being socially excluded with no education. Thus, the system is characterized by chronic poverty and abuse, exploitation and one of the main challenges has been how to address these huge phenomena. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, there has been a huge migration of children and the government has had to send them to its origin region to ensure they are receiving an education. From her office, she aims at establishing the correct environment for these children to engage at school and learn literacy, critical thinking, numeracy, arts, drama, entrepreneurship and so on. To do so, she has pushed an initiative from the central government, that lasts 9 months in which data recollection is done and after this period, the level of engagement at school will be tested.

6. Manmeet Mehta, Ashoka

Ms. Mehta has highlighted how the impact of COVID-19 has underscored the broken health, economic systems around us and the inequities of our societies. Amidst this overlapping crisis, there's also an opportunity for a catalog reform in which social entrepreneurs are critical. In this regard, Ashoka's aim is to support those social entrepreneurs who are the first responders to the solutions of this crisis and are also embedded into communities. However, collaboration is still a key point for these entrepreneurs, who must work across systems and governments to build a better normal. It is thanks to Catalyst 2030 that these partnerships exist and through this initiative, Ashoka has especially focused on city level alliances where there's more space to tackle specific challenges and enable more participation and engagement. Although the pandemic crisis has already pushed governments to look at its city-level problems, Ashoka is trying to bring together the expertise needed in the Catalyst group and succeed at influencing policy and establish solutions that are shaped by everyone in the system.

Relevant Questions and Answers from Audience:

Sonia, Canada: Are there resources for the development of your sustainable tourism model?

Valeria Duflot, Italy: Although it was a model designed for being globally applied, COVID-19 crisis has forced us to create new type of models and solutions to tackle key points for sustainable tourism development. There's no yet formalized document, but will be part of a bigger collective government.

Sarah Prince Robin, UK: What are you demanding people to do: to collaborate, to tell stories...?

Manmeet Mehta, USA: We need social entrepreneurs to explain their activities. Not enough people know about the work of social entrepreneurs, and this might be one of the obstacles for not being at the decision-making table. Because system change is different from project-based work and there's a need for vast resources and founding and people working with a common objective.

Maryam Uwais, Nigeria: Agreeing with Manmeet, resources are indeed essential, but also collaboration has facilitated to achieve the plans that are designed. This is also a goal that they are trying to achieve in Nigeria, where social entrepreneurs are encouraged to work with governments to make a powerful impact.

Add summary or conclusion of the moderator at the end of the session in case there was no closing remarks per presenter/speaker

Jacob Matthew, Industree Foundation

- Although working with governments is difficult, there are a lot of strategies and methodologies that can be employed to influence them. In India, they changed the policy "Skilling and Entrepreneurship" by pushing the government for 5 years into dialogues and conversations.

Sue Riddlestone, Bioregional

- Ms Sue has pointed out the importance of the Forum as an important sphere for connecting different initiatives, learning from them and as social entrepreneurs, motivating each other to fight for a more sustainable future.