

Global Agenda

# Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017 Report

New York, USA 18-19 September



# Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017



“The inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York during General Assembly week seeks to help those who shape the agenda to advance such multistakeholder, systems thinking that can harness the technological opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, within and – if not more importantly – across the Sustainable Development agenda. In this way, our generation can not only meet the global goals but we can invest in global systems strengthening.”

**Klaus Schwab**

Founder and Executive Chairman,  
World Economic Forum

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# Preface



**Richard Samans**  
Head of Global Agenda  
Member of the Managing Board



**W. Lee Howell**  
Head of Global Programming  
Member of the Managing Board



**Cheryl Martin**  
Head of Industries  
Member of the Managing Board

The World Economic Forum's inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit was dedicated to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris climate agreement commitments through deeper public-private cooperation and wider application of the transformative technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Held during the United Nations General Assembly in September, it engaged leaders gathered in New York in a structured process aimed at increasing the impact of existing multistakeholder initiatives, catalysing new partnerships and alliances, and better harnessing advanced technologies to address development, environmental and other social challenges.

The summit's interactive sessions sought to inspire business, government, civil society and academic leaders to think strategically about how public-private cooperation and innovation could have a larger systemic impact in the areas in which they work. In the spirit of the Forum's 14 System Initiatives, it provided a platform for showcasing the practical progress of and driving increased commitment to more than 60 of the best examples of multistakeholder action regarding the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and Paris climate agreement.

Ministers and senior officials of over 27 governments and 26 international organizations, 195 civil society and research organizations, and more than 80 Global Shapers, Social Entrepreneurs and Young Global Leaders joined 176 CEOs and senior businesses executives in more than 30 interactive sessions across the two days.

This report captures many of the most significant outcomes of the summit, which is intended to serve as an ongoing process to strengthen the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris climate agreement through multistakeholder alliances, coalitions and partnerships, as well as a new annual meeting for the Forum alongside its Annual Meeting in Davos, the Annual Meeting of the New Champions in China and the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils in the United Arab Emirates.

We wish to express our appreciation to the six distinguished Co-Chairs for their commitment and leadership. We also thank the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for their generous support as well as the Forum's own Terri Toyota, Dominic Waughray and Emma Benameur for their remarkable dedication and professionalism in bringing the summit to fruition. Finally, we thank the more than 700 participants for their spirit of collaboration and willingness to remain focused on practical action and impact rather than mere aspiration. These qualities made for a productive summit experience for their fellow participants and a worthy collective contribution to the international community's 2030 Agenda.



# Co-Chairs

The inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017 had six Co-Chairs selected from government, business, civil society and the technology community.



— **Marc R. Benioff**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Salesforce, USA

"There is incredible tension between the dramatic innovation that is occurring and the issue of equality. The technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution offer the opportunity to drive progress to the Sustainable Development Goals."



— **Afsaneh Mashayekhi Beschloss**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The Rock Creek Group, USA

"Data is scattered and it's very difficult to find the data. That's why one of the initiatives that we are starting is to create a marketplace for sustainability and impact."



— **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**, President of the Republic of Mauritius

"There's a need to bring together strong institutions and robust scientific research and data, bolster accountability and promote inclusion, particularly through the greater involvement of women, to make better policy decisions."



— **Marianne Eve Jamme**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, SpotOne Global Solutions, United Kingdom; Young Global Leader

"Why should we not use [working to achieve] the Sustainable Development Goals also as a way to break down barriers?"



— **Stefan Löfven**, Prime Minister of Sweden

"There is no time to waste on this journey. Goals matter. If we are to succeed, we also need business, academia, civil society and trade unions. There will be no progress without public-private cooperation."



— **Feike Sybesma**, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Managing Board, Royal DSM

"The world's greatest challenges can only be solved through collaboration, and business engagement is key. For business, it is not just a moral obligation, but also an economic opportunity."

The World Economic Forum would like to express its gratitude and thanks to the Co-Chairs of the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017.



# Summit at a glance

**30+**

Technology  
Pioneers and  
academic  
leaders

**9**

Heads of state/  
government

**700+**

Participants  
from

**70+**  
countries

**60+**

NGO, labour and  
religious leaders

**270**

Women  
leaders

**40%**

business  
participants

**80+**

Young Global  
Leaders, Social  
Entrepreneurs  
and Global  
Shapers

**70+**

senior  
government  
leaders, public  
figures and heads  
of international  
organizations

**400+**

participants from outside  
North America



# Summit outcomes

Some impact highlights emerging from these discussions and related to the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement include:

- A **Global Battery Alliance** was launched to safeguard workers, ban child labour, eradicate pollution, promote re-use and recycling and unlock innovation for green energy storage. It will bring together players along the value chain of batteries that drive the Fourth Industrial Revolution, in a market set to be worth \$100 billion by 2025. Supporters of the alliance are: BASF, Enel, Eurasian Resources Group, Johnson Controls, NEC, Royal DSM, Trafigura Group, Umicore, Veolia, Volkswagen, White & Case, OECD, African Development Bank, UNICEF, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers and Exporters, International Justice Mission, Pact and the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights.
- A 5-6 billion Danish Kroner (\$886 million) **Sustainable Development Goal Investment Fund** was announced by the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU), which is supported by the Danish government. Modelled on successful IFU funds for climate and agribusiness, this fund will invest in equity-like instruments in developing countries to advance infrastructure for the global goals; if this is successful, it may then expand to loans.
- **A national task force to close the skills gap in South Africa**, led by Jeff Radebe, Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of South Africa. The country ranks 87 out of 130 countries for human capital optimization, according to the Global Human Capital Index 2017. By 2020, 39% of core skills required across all jobs will be wholly different, while 41% of jobs in South Africa are susceptible to automation. In addition to country-level task forces, of which South Africa is the first, the World Economic Forum's Closing the Skills Gap project is developing a **Global Alliance to Close the Skills Gap**, a global platform for leaders and experts to build consensus, share ideas and strategically guide programmatic action.
- **A national task force to close the gender gap in Panama**, led by Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado, Vice-President of Panama and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The country ranks 105th out of 144 countries on the labour force participation gender gap, according to the Global Gender Gap Index 2016. This is the third task force in Latin America, resulting from a collaboration between the Inter-American Development Bank. It follows earlier launches by Chile and Argentina that now include over 100 employers and cross-ministerial leaders focused on closing labour force participation gaps, wage gaps, leadership gaps and changing stereotypes.
- The Forum's Closing the Gender Gap project is developing a Global Alliance to **Close the Gender Gap**, a platform for leaders and experts to build consensus, share ideas and strategically guide programmatic action.
- The **Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth partnership** focuses on the potential of social dialogue and sound industrial relations as a means for decent work, quality jobs, increased productivity and greater equality to achieve SDG8. The partnership, initiated by Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and developed with OECD and the ILO, celebrated its first anniversary. Partners, including heads of state, business, trade unions and civil society organizations, shared concrete actions taken in light of the Global Deal. A **study on social dialogue and sound industrial relations from a private-sector perspective** was also launched during the summit. More partners were invited to join this growing partnership to scale up and increase impact.
- Based at the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and with Stanford University Woods Institute and PwC as partners, a new **Fourth Industrial Revolution for the Earth Initiative** will engage leading industry and technology entrepreneurs, environmental experts and policy-makers to co-design and scale new ventures,

partnerships and finance and policy instruments that harness Fourth Industrial Revolution innovations. Initial ideas include “Freshwater Watch” to model data on water and identify water risks; and the development of an “Urban Dashboard” to create an accurate understanding and real-time management of the integrated system of citywide energy use to transform efficiency.

- The **Fourth Sector Development Initiative (FSDI)** is a platform for collective leadership and action to strengthen the supportive ecosystem and generate the growth of “for-benefit” firms globally. The FSDI will, among its other efforts, raise awareness of the fourth sector, develop more-enabling policy and regulatory environments and promote new business and investment models that are aligned with for-benefit enterprises. Organizations that have joined FSDI and launched related initiatives include the Ibero-American General Secretariat, Oxfam and CARE Enterprises.
- The **GSMA Disaster Response Innovation Fund**, supported by the UK Department for International Development, announced that it will test and scale innovations that use mobile technology to help and empower people or communities affected by humanitarian emergencies, or that strengthen prevention, preparedness and response in disaster contexts. The GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, uniting

nearly 800 operators with more than 300 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies, as well as organizations in adjacent industry sectors.

Other initiatives and proposals announced or advanced include:

- The **Government of France** announced a major meeting on finance for climate action in Paris in December 2017
- State **Governor Brown of California** invited CEOs and innovators to join a global summit on climate action he is hosting in San Francisco in September 2018
- A **financial vehicle** proposed by Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education, aims to double the \$12 billion per annum available in aid for education in low-income countries. Additional education proposals for redesigning early and foundational education were put forth such as: models focused on play and a “digital quotient”; rebranding technical and vocational education and training, including through the Global Apprenticeship Network; and hybrid public-private funding models for adult reskilling and upskilling.
- A **commitment by 10 leading companies to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure within three years**, including

Aviva, Royal DSM, Enagas, Ferrovial, Iberdrola, Marks & Spencer, Philips Lighting, Sopra Steria Group, Wipro and WPP, supported by the Climate Disclosure Standards Board and We Mean Business.

- Initiatives discussed and supported in the **Accelerating Progress on Improving Food and Land Use** session include the Food and Land Use Alliance (FOLU), Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, Farm to Market Alliance, FReSH Initiative and New Vision for Agriculture Initiative.
- A proposal for a **public-private action agenda to support the Oceans SDG** by harnessing, organizing and mobilizing the 1,400 commitments of the June 2017 UN Oceans SDG conference, in response to a call for more multistakeholder collaboration on oceans from the Government of Sweden (co-chair of the Oceans global goal) and UN Special Envoy for Oceans Peter Thomson, supported strongly by Aote Tong, President of Kiribati (2003-2016).
- An **Earth Commission** proposed by Johan Rockström of the Stockholm Resilience Centre would create the equivalent of the Paris 2°C target to safeguard other planetary boundaries such as oceans, forests, air, water, land and the ozone layer; it attracted support from business leaders and research and



business associations like the IUCN, World Resources Institute and We Mean Business, which expressed a willingness to co-design “science-based targets for business” in line with meeting the environment-related global goals; the Earth Commission and these targets form part of the action agenda on the Global Environmental Commons, an initiative championed by the Global Environment Facility with the World Resources Institute, IIASA, IUCN and the World Economic Forum.

- Launch of a **cyber-risk reporting system for children** in Australia and Singapore. The national public-private partnerships are spearheaded by the DQ Institute, an international think tank committed to improving digital intelligence in youth. It includes Singtel, Singapore’s National Council of Social Service, TOUCH Cyber Wellness for Singapore, Optus, Feiyue and Australia’s Kids Helpline. The pilot system can detect a child’s exposure to cyber-risks and provide opportunities for proactively intervening to assist at-risk kids.
- **A boost to internet access** in Latin America with the announcement of a partnership between the Inter-American Development Bank and World Economic Forum to bring the Internet for All project to two additional countries in Latin America. The model creates a national platform for developing multistakeholder partnerships that drive digital adoption.
- **A commitment to quantify how financial products and services affect customer well-being.** Building on an already robust set of metrics measuring a population’s access to financial services, participants, including

Women’s World Banking, Mercy Corps and Telenor Group, reaffirmed the need to measure the usage of these same products and services and their corresponding impact on financial well-being.

- In the workshop on accelerating the circular economy, ways to accelerate and scale up the **Electronic Waste Alliance** were discussed; this is a multistakeholder collaboration to create working e-waste systems in Africa, with an initial pilot in Nigeria – partners include Philips, Dell, HP, Microsoft Mobile, the Ministry of Environment of Nigeria, UN Environment, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the GEF reconfirmed the relevance of the project to its mandate and expressed interest in funding the project as part of the current GEF 6 cycle, mobilizing funds before the end of the year; and UN Environment has also joined the e-waste working group and will act as an implementing agency as well as deepening the base of knowledge on global e-waste flows; this project is placed on the global Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, which the World Economic Forum is building in collaboration with UN Environment, GEF and Royal Dutch Phillips and with partners from Accenture, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the International Resource Panel.
- A group of representatives from SDG Compass, Social Progress Index, Rise Labs/The Rise Fund, the Impact Management Project and World Benchmarking Alliance **committed to breaking down barriers to collective action on investing for sustainable development** between

practitioners, ESG investors and other asset owners. The aim is **to bring impact measurement conversations and related work directly to asset-owner gatherings.**

- A community of **technology innovators with interests in water** and supported by the World Economic Forum will be created; this can be drawn upon by countries, international organizations or existing multistakeholder efforts such as the High Level Panel on Water (including as the Australia-led Water Innovation Fund) to spur innovative solutions and accelerate innovation of national water-action plans and water strategies; as a first trial, an “innovation day” has been offered at the 2018 World Bank Water Week.
- A commitment by representatives from the ILO’s Global Commission on the Future of Work, UNI Global Union, and multiple academic, government and private sector leaders to shape the governance of work proactively by **coordinating better across multiple public-private collaboration initiatives.** They were taking part in a workshop on Preparing for the Future of Work.
- The Forum convened a high-level working meeting of the global Network for Digital Development, a group of over 50 organizations committed to working together on internet access and adoption. They developed ideas for collaborative activities focused on digital skills development, privacy protection in emerging markets, and how to help governments drive the adoption of e-services.



- A commitment to shape the governance of work proactively by coordinating better across multiple public-private collaboration initiatives; including representatives from the International Labour Organization's Global Commission on the Future of Work, UNI Global Union, and multiple academic, government and private sector leaders.
- Participants in the workshop on Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation agreed to **work collaboratively on co-designing common policy frameworks to accelerate energy innovation and to scale-up clean technology diffusion**; the workshop included representatives from Sustainable Energy for All, Mission Innovation, The Corporate Colocation, HYBRIT, Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, Hydrogen Council, Clean Battery Alliance and the Terawatt Initiative.
- Multiple synergies and new collaborations were spurred in the workshop on Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and IoT, which included representatives from the Humanitarian Data Exchange, GSMA's Big Data for Social Good, Data Escrow Initiative, Gender 2X and OPAL. For example, NetHope, an alliance of international non-profits and technology partners, will collaborate with the University of Washington and the World Economic Forum to **pilot the concept of a Community-based Distributed Data Escrow**.
- In the workshop on Mitigating Environmental Risk, the various initiatives represented agreed to **explore the role that the Fourth Industrial Revolution can play through a commitment to open up their various data sources and improve common understanding of and access to decision-making tools**, including risk modelling, disclosure and insurance schemes; the workshop included representatives from the Global Alliance for Resilient Investment Working Group, Africa Risk Capacity, Global Resilience Partnership, UNISDR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, One Concern and the Earth Genome project
- In the workshop on Boosting E-Commerce Opportunities for All, ITC previewed the **SME Trade Helpdesk**, a multi-agency effort to be led by ITC/WTO/UNCTAD, due to be launched in December at the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference. The initiative will better enable SMEs to use trade-related information such as market requirements, export/import procedures and policy outlooks to take advantage of global markets. Other ongoing public-private efforts on trade showcased by participants included the multistakeholder Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and the UNCTAD eTrade for All Initiative.
- In complementary workshops on Unlocking the Potential of Digital ID and Unleashing the Power of Blockchain Technology, various new connections were made among potential partners; for example, in the Blockchain session, the World Food Programme (WFP) highlighted its pilot that uses blockchain as a means of making cash-based transfers more efficient, transparent and secure, including through the use of biometric information – such as cash-based transfers, through vouchers or pre-paid debit cards – to allow people to purchase their own food locally. This is an effective way to empower beneficiaries to make their own purchasing decisions to relieve hunger. After an initial pilot in Pakistan in January 2017, WFP launched a more secure and robust version of a blockchain system in the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan; and since May, more than 10,000 people have been redeeming their WFP-provided assistance on the blockchain-based system. Recognizing the potential of digital identification for displaced populations, participants in the Digital ID workshop called for collaborative action in establishing standards and norms for identification data so that an interoperable ecosystem could be developed. Participants in the workshop included representatives from the World Bank, MasterCard, UNHCR and WFP.

For session highlights, videos and meeting-related documents, plus Forum insights, visit **TopLink** <https://toplink.weforum.org/>

# 2030 agenda: The time-to-goal challenge

In September 2015, leaders of 193 countries agreed on an ambitious, universal, long-term agenda for humanity and the planet – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This framework of 17 goals articulates a grand vision for the quality of life and preservation of the planet that the current generation wishes to build to bequeath to the next ones.

Nearly three months before that, leaders meeting in Addis Ababa had agreed to a framework on Financing for Sustainable Development; and nearly three months afterwards, they reached the historic Paris Climate Change Agreement.

This extraordinary three-part global agenda – and the Sustainable Development Goals in particular – were developed through extensive multistakeholder consultations involving all levels of society and all regions. Such broad social engagement was extremely important to the agenda's design and public legitimacy.

It will be even more important to its implementation.

Indeed, given the magnitude of impact required to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement, neither governments, nor civil

society groups nor business can deliver this agenda entirely on their own. It requires those working inside governments and international institutions and those working outside them to greatly expand the ways they can work together on projects and programmes, as well as finding fresh and creative collaborations to jointly deploy and scale up new technologies and innovations.

Leaders understood this and included a 17th goal that calls for a global partnership for sustainable development on such key implementation topics as finance, technology, capacity building and other matters. To this end, and initiated by Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, nine heads of government and state formed an informal High Level Group in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, very much with this mission of mobilizing and sharing experience about multistakeholder partnerships in mind.

Following discussions with Prime Minister Löfven about the importance of advancing this multistakeholder agenda for the global goals, and after consulting with many other influential stakeholders from government, business, civil society and the international community, the World Economic Forum decided to hold an inaugural

Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York at the time of the 2017 United Nations General Assembly week – a Summit explicitly designed as a platform to connect together and advance efforts on the global goals across stakeholders, intellectual disciplines, regions and generations; to add momentum to existing partnerships and coalitions; and to catalyse new ones that can accelerate progress on the global goals and action on climate change.

The inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017 brought together over 60 significant global initiatives, projects and collaborations. Through a series of high-level plenaries and roundtables and across 30 working meetings, common agendas were developed; challenging bottlenecks that hold back impact were discussed; commitments to mobilization were renewed; and new solutions and new impact initiatives were co-created.

It was a unique multistakeholder gathering of more than 700 leaders from government, business, international organizations and research centres, from over 70 countries. Nine heads of state and government contributed to the discussions alongside more than 70 senior government leaders, public figures and heads of international organizations; 40% of



participants were from the global business community and more than 250 women leaders engaged in the discussions. There was strong representation from young people, with over 80 participants from around the world drawn from the Forum's Global Shapers, Social Entrepreneurs and Young Global Leaders communities.

Over the two days of the Summit and across all of the workshops and roundtables, participants were asked to consider and explore the following questions. These questions were designed to help those taking part to contextualize and advance their various projects, collaborations and initiatives, using the platform of the Impact Summit as an enabler to help them do so.

- Which multistakeholder initiatives do you sense are already having significant impact on the different goals and how?
- What additional partners, resources or technological innovations do you think could be added to them to increase their impact?
- What big gaps in cooperation do you sense are hindering progress, and who is best positioned to fill them?
- How can we work together now and in the future to mobilize this next level of impact?

The Sustainable Development Goals have to be put into the wider context that humankind is facing. To this end, the intention of the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017 was to also show that in today's world we have to deal not only with a multitude of different, competing issues which each require solutions (such as the different Sustainable Development Goals) but that humanity also faces a series of fast-moving and interconnected – more systemic – challenges. Arguably, this also includes the deeper, more profound challenge of an overall systems breakdown, as existing structures for international cooperation become ever more fractured while the pressures humanity faces are accelerating and becoming increasingly interlinked, as demonstrated by the systemic challenges the world faces to address inclusion or to preserve our natural resources, for example.

Consequently, the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit also strived to help participants appreciate and explore how solutions to each Sustainable Development Goal must be buttressed and complemented by an integrated “systems-based” leadership approach. This complements the 14 System Initiatives the World Economic Forum supports and which provide ongoing platforms

for multistakeholder cooperation across key thematic areas. Each global goal issue requires a specific, multistakeholder response, but they are all also part of complex ecosystems, which need holistic answers. How do projects and activities within each of these competing challenges fit together to create the overall “systems change” required by 2030 and beyond?

Looked at in this way, the Sustainable Development Impact Summit can advance multistakeholder cooperation not only to meet each of the global goals but also to invest in much-needed global systems strengthening overall, thereby truly helping to improve the state of the world in these fractured times.





**01:** Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh



**02:** Why Waste It? Finding Beauty in Trash

**03:** Jerry Brown Jr, Governor of California, USA



**04:** Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam International, United Kingdom

**05:** Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, Vice-President of Panama and Minister of Foreign Affairs

**06:** will.i.am, Founder, Chief Executive Officer, i.am+, USA



**“The Global Deal, the SDGs and the Paris climate agreement are all one and the same, and people need to be at the centre of the dialogue to actualize justice; and to do it without fear, they need equal access.”**

**Amina J. Mohammed**  
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations





- 01:** Afsaneh Mashayekhi Beschloss, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Rock Creek, USA
- 02:** Angel Gurría, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris
- 03:** Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017
- 04:** Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius
- 05:** Lila Tretikov, Chief Executive Officer, Terrawatt Initiative, France; Young Global Leader



**“The adoption of new technologies is already revolutionizing developing economies. While artificial intelligence may take some time to penetrate India, existing technologies such as mobile applications have rapidly boosted financial inclusion and e-commerce and contributed to the improvement of the health and well-being of Indians. This technology is for now.”**

**Sunil Bharti Mittal**  
Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, India

# Strategic overview and next steps

In addition to the wide range of progress made and actions announced across the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Action Agenda, some important strategic outcomes also emerged from the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017.

First, it underscored the understanding that to deliver the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement, a large-scale mobilization for impact is required – something much more than governments and the international community can deliver on their own.

This means that the Sustainable Development Goals in their entirety can also be viewed as a global multistakeholder “agenda for action” – one designed and supported by all the nations of the world, which seeks to attract multiple public, private and civil society efforts that can create a cumulative sustainable development impact that meets and beats the targets by 2030.

The world has never had an innovative agenda for public-private-civil action on sustainable development and climate like this before. It offers a new deal for people, prosperity and the planet.

Second, and to succeed, this public-private-civil society agenda for action on the Sustainable Development Goals will require a higher scale of impact within and across different sectors than many projects can achieve on their own. These means new “movements” must be catalysed – waves of related projects working together; and that these mobilizations of effort must work in new ways that bring together the most successful or innovative projects and help them identify the common systemic bottlenecks that stop these great projects working together in synergy to become wider, systemic

transformations. In short, the public-private-civil society agenda for action requires a platform.

As a platform for collaboration, the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017 sought to do just that – to offer a clearing house for governments, international organizations, civil society and research groups, businesses, investors and innovators to share, merge and scale their various efforts towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.



**“If we don’t make partnerships part of our work for every global goal, we won’t achieve any of them. The world is more interconnected, and partnerships are growing in response. But we are still far from seeing the partnerships needed to implement the 2030 goals.”**

**Miroslav Lajčák**

Foreign Minister of Slovakia and President of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly





**“There are multiple points where our mission meets the SDGs. When we work on the macroeconomic stability of a country, we can make recommendations such as not to waste finance on subsidies and, instead, target poor people by increasing financing in health and education.”**

**Christine Lagarde**

Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington DC

To this extent, and based on participant feedback, it succeeded. Consequently and when viewed in the broader context of the World Economic Forum calendar, the Sustainable Development Impact Summit will form one of the global events held each year, alongside the Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland; the Annual Meeting of the New Champions in China; the Industry Strategy Meeting at the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution; and the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils in Dubai. The Forum will also continue to feature content and seek progress on key issues through its regional meetings.

As such, the development and advancement of actions on the global goals surfaced by the Impact Summit can be shaped and advanced by forming part of a wider – and more coherent – flow of World Economic Forum event programming. More broadly still, the flow of public-private cooperation on advancing impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, which an annual Impact Summit platform promotes, also has the potential to inform, help shape and be advanced by other important milestones in the international calendar, such as the World Bank Autumn and Spring Meetings and the G7/G20 meetings and related processes.

Finally, the inaugural summit showed that it can be used as a platform not only to bring together, scale and advance public-private action on the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate agenda, but also to help these efforts to harness new science, technologies and digital innovations – what the Forum terms the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



**“These partnerships are the real keys to putting in place the solutions that we need. We have the tools. We have the ability. We are winning this but we have to win it more quickly and we will do so with the private-public cooperation that the World Economic Forum is facilitating.”**

**Al Gore**

Vice-President of the United States (1993-2001); Chairman and Co-Founder, Generation Investment Management, USA

In this way, large-scale public-private-civil society solutions for sustainable development can be enabled to rapidly innovate; their learning can be rapidly shared; and their impact can be rapidly replicated and scaled – and measured – as a result. The ability to harness the Fourth Industrial Revolution is a potentially powerful dimension that the annual working platform of the Sustainable Development Impact Summit could bring to those communities working on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Impact Summit can become an important annual platform where great sustainable development ideas from across the public, private and civil society sectors can be

brought together to become great multistakeholder projects; where great multistakeholder projects can rapidly connect together to become significant systemic collaborations; and where significant collaborations can access the Fourth Industrial Revolution to help them rapidly reach platform-scale and become system game-changers.

But success in this bold agenda is not guaranteed. Discussions at the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017 also highlighted that the benefits to all in society, especially the poorest, from these new technologies must be maximized and the risks, including those of unintended consequences, must be minimized and, where possible, eliminated.



**“To achieve these ambitious goals, a new and more multidimensional phase of international cooperation is needed in which companies, civil society organizations and national and subnational governments form networks of partnerships aimed at accelerating progress where it is most needed and feasible. The summit was an exercise in taking SDG17 on partnership seriously and creating a platform to help facilitate and ultimately scale this kind of collaboration.”**

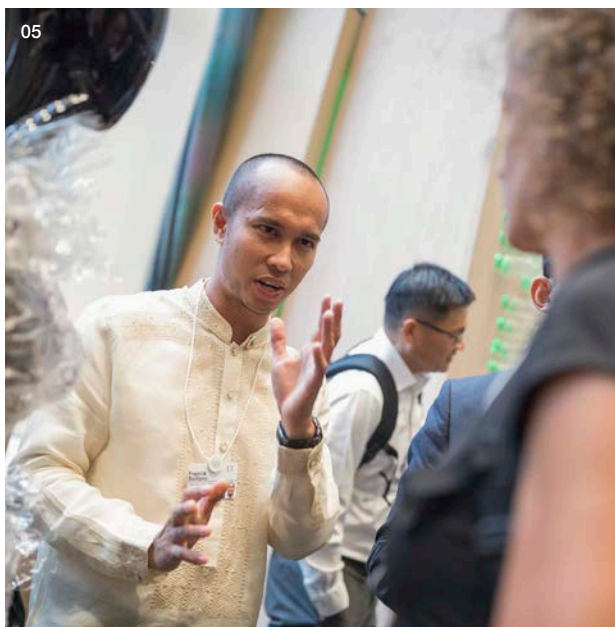
**Rick Samans**

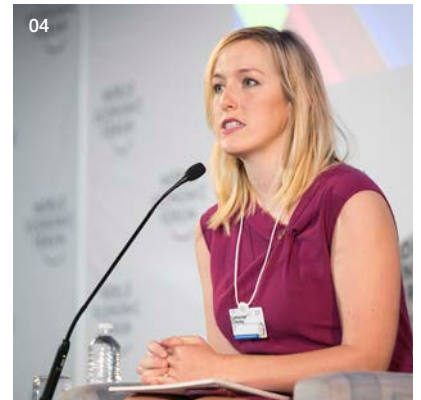
Head of Global Agenda and Member of the Managing Board, World Economic Forum





- 01:** Tabaré Ramon Vázquez Rosas, President of Uruguay
- 02:** Zeinab Badawi, Chair, Royal African Society, United Kingdom
- 03:** Jay R. Inslee, Governor of Washington, USA
- 04:** Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President, Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, European Commission, Brussels
- 05:** Francis Sollano, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Youth For A Livable Cebu (YFLC), Philippines
- 06:** Philip J. Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Switzerland
- 07:** Guy Ryder, Senior Adviser to the Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva





**01:** Sustainable Development Summit 2017

**02:** André S. Hoffmann, Chairman, Masselaz, Switzerland

**03:** Sustainable Development Summit 2017

**04:** Catherine Cheney, West Coast Correspondent, Devex, USA

**05:** Sustainable Development Summit 2017

**06:** Kristalina Georgieva, Chief Executive Officer, The World Bank, Washington DC





**01:** Workshop on Creating New Gender Norms

**02:** Wilfrid Lauriano do Rego, Deal Advisory Partner and Member of Supervisory Board, KPMG

**03:** Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017

**04:** Oliver Reichert, Chief Executive Officer, Birkenstock, Germany (left)

**05-06:** Sustainable Development Summit 2017

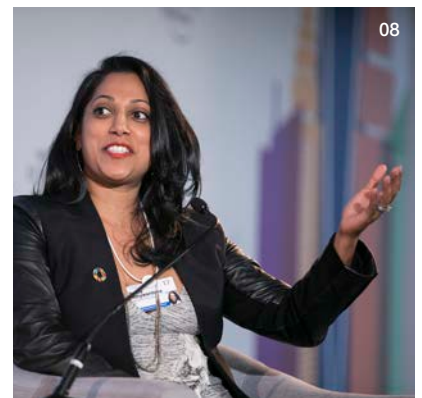
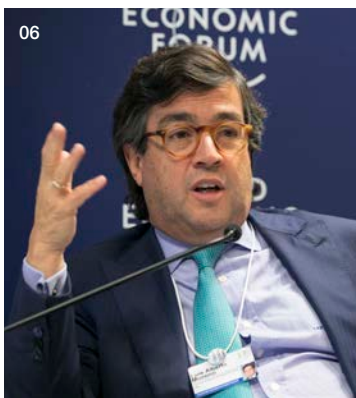
**07:** Heerad Sabeti, Chief Executive Officer, The Fourth Sector Group, USA





- 01:** John McArthur, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, USA  
**02:** Anusha Rahman Khan, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication of Pakistan  
**03:** W. Lee Howell, Head of Global Programming, Member of the Managing Board, World Economic Forum; Christine Lagarde, Managing

- Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington DC; and Feike Sybesma, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Managing Board, Royal DSM, Netherlands  
**04:** Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer, Unilever, United Kingdom  
**05:** Stephane Kasriel, Chief Executive Officer, Upwork, USA  
**06:** Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC  
**07:** Mohammad Agha Nahavandian, Vice-President for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran  
**08:** Penny Abeywardena, Commissioner for International Affairs, City of New York, USA







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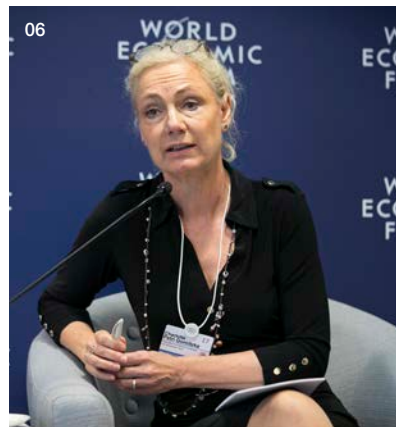
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08

**01:** Benedikt Sobotka, Chief Executive Officer, Eurasian Resources Group, Luxembourg  
**02:** Opening of the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit  
**03:** Luis Fernando Mejía Alzate, Minister of National Planning of Colombia  
**04:** Nicolas Hulot, Minister of Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France  
**05:** Marilia Bezerra, Managing Partner, CARE Enterprises  
**06:** Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris  
**07-08:** Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017

# Agenda in Focus: New York 2017

For more background on the issues discussed at the summit and to find out what the Forum's community of thought leaders has to say, go to Agenda, the Forum's public platform for sharing insights and ideas, with a global audience of over 3 million readers.

## **Systems strengthening: The key global challenge**

*Published by Klaus Schwab on 18 September 2017*

During the UN General Assembly this week there will be many discussions on how best to accelerate delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These seventeen global goals, agreed by 193 nations in 2015, contain more than a hundred targets to be met by 2030. They offer a vision of “the world we want” – the title of the United Nations Report that introduced the Sustainable Development Goals to the world.

In the context of General Assembly week, and alongside many other important meetings which are taking place, the World Economic Forum will host the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit. The Impact Summit provides a platform that brings together political, business and other leaders of society to help propose innovative solutions based on advancing public-private

collaborations and using the technological opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Over 800 participants will be joining more than thirty different working sessions and additional plenary discussions.

Promoting delivery of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals is an important and necessarily ambitious process that the nations of the world have committed to; it is an agenda which the Forum will also contribute substantially toward, through engaging its multistakeholder communities and networks and through a new platform for collaboration on the global goals that the annual Sustainable Development Impact Summit will offer.

As important as the Sustainable Development Goals are, however, they have to be put into a wider context which humankind is facing. We have to deal not only with a multitude of different, competing issues which each require solutions, but also a series of interconnected challenges. While the Global Goals are encouraged to be seen as an overall tapestry of solutions by 2030, arguably the more profound challenge humankind faces is to avoid an overall systems breakdown – the interconnected collapse of the systems that underpin the Global Goals.

In the past, conventional threats to humanity, such as wars, hunger, plagues or natural disasters, were relatively localised. Now our global human existence is put into question by accelerating, interconnected pressures on the environmental, financial and global institutional systems which are the basis for our human survival and societal harmony. Such systems collapse is demonstrated by our incapability to secure inclusion and to preserve our natural resources, for example. Arguably, this is the first systems collapse that humankind as a whole is conducting against itself – a postmodern “war” whereby our global society is in danger of collapsing in on itself, as we erode the very systems we depend upon.

When people feel that the systems they depend on are deeply threatened the reaction is societal disintegration characterized by mounting political polarization. Today we are witnessing the writing on the wall in many places around the world.

We may be the first generation confronted with the threat of a global systems breakdown, but also the first one with the technological and scientific means and capabilities – if not currently the political momentum – to stop this process spiralling downward towards a state that soon could become irreversible, including





the worrisome risks of non-linear change.

It is clear that government, business and civil society cannot fix the threat of this global systems collapse by each working on their own. What is needed is a true agenda for global public-private cooperation, with the objective not to defend individual interests, but to keep the destiny of humankind as a whole in mind. To this end, the Sustainable Development Goals provide an extremely helpful framework, but one which must not be seen only through the lens of seventeen different, unconnected

issues. Natural desires to deliver on different challenges across the global goals, based on the particular interests of different governments and organisations, must be buttressed and complemented by an integrated “systems based” leadership approach. All the issues require individual responses, but they are all also part of an ecosystem which needs holistic answers.

By offering a platform for public-private cooperation, with a systems perspective at its heart, the World Economic Forum seeks to help its partners and

constituents make a substantial contribution to improve the state of the world. The inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit in New York this week is designed with this in mind. It offers a platform to help those who shape the agenda to advance such multi-stakeholder, systems thinking and in ways that can harness the technological opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In this way our generation can be helped to not only meet each of the global goals, but to also invest in much-needed global systems strengthening. [Read more.](#)

# Agenda in Focus: New York 2017

## **Without science, we risk making decisions in the dark**

We live at a time of tremendous opportunity generated by advances in science and technology, yet at the same time we face major societal challenges ranging from food supply to climate change, all of which require the contribution of science if they are to be overcome. Perhaps the greatest challenge of all is making sure that science is on the policy agenda in the first place. [Read more.](#)

## **Furthest first. How healthcare is changing in the digital age**

For patients, technology brings greater opportunities to manage their health on their own terms, from smartphone apps that send medication reminders to wearables that can help monitor and prevent health issues before they become life threatening. [Read more.](#)

## **The money is there to fight climate change**

Current investment levels in development and climate-positive activity remain far below what is required. Find out what's being done about it [here](#).

## **How education can unlock hope for child refugees**

The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be met unless we address the fate of the world's 20 million refugees and 60 million displaced people. [Read more.](#)

## **Sustainability. We know it matters, but how do we measure it?**

Globally, there has been an increase in demand for higher transparency on environmental, social and governance issues. This has generated a worldwide debate about best practice when it comes to the process of measuring and reporting on sustainable development. [Read more.](#)

## **The fourth sector is a chance to build a new economic model for the benefit of all**

The fourth sector of the economy consists of for-benefit organizations, which come in a wide variety of models that all share two common characteristics. Like non-profits, their primary purpose is to advance societal benefit and, like for-profits, they generate a substantial portion of their income from business activities. [Learn more.](#)

## **The African initiative teaching Chinese women to code**

This initiative aims to give women

the skills needed to deal with the digital world. In a world where the centre of gravity is moving from America to China, we must insist that women and girls are included. Learn more [here](#).

## **Why we need collaboration to save the world's forests**

More than 190 governments, businesses and civil society organizations have committed to ending commodity-driven deforestation by 2020, creating unprecedented momentum to transform forest-risk commodity supply chains, including the Deforestation Resolution of the Consumer Goods Forum. [Read more.](#)

## **Achieving our education goals can unlock all the SDGs**

We have witnessed a groundswell in sustainability consciousness that has gradually encompassed economic development, environmental limits and social developmental indicators, including access to education. [Read more.](#)

## **Education is key to our refugee crisis response. Here's why**

Education gives refugee children a place of safety amid the tumult of displacement. It amounts to an investment in the future, creating and nurturing new scientists, philosophers, architects, poets,





**“The world is being reset around us and the clock is ticking. Our customers now expect us to show accountability across the entire value chain. People expect values for money.”**

**Jean-Christophe Flatin**  
President, Mars, USA

teachers and public servants – people who are crucial to the peaceful and sustainable development of the places that have welcomed them, and to the future prosperity of their own countries. [Read more.](#)

### **We can still rescue this planet from climate change. Here's how**

There are strong signals that the global economy is on the cusp of another tipping point. The world, it seems, is moving decisively towards global sustainability. This news comes not a moment too soon. Climate change is no longer some distant risk to future generations. It is here and now. [Learn more.](#)

### **The dark secret powering your smartphone**

Technological innovations that are now commonplace depend on cobalt. The demand for rechargeable batteries alone is expected to more than double by 2024, while the DRC is on

course to providing two-thirds of the world's cobalt within the next two years. While this sounds good for business, often the benefits do not trickle down to the people who labour daily to mine these precious resources. [Learn more.](#)

### **The future is battery-powered. But are we overcharging the planet?**

Questions are now being asked about whether we have enough raw materials to meet the growing demand for energy storage technologies – and how sustainable these materials are. [Read more.](#)

### **This new carbon currency could make us more climate friendly**

Our daily choices leave a carbon footprint. We know this, and we are all aware of the monumental climate risks posed by carbon emissions. Demand for solutions is growing. [Learn more.](#)

### **The UN has a 17-step plan to save the world**

The stated goals are pithy and unequivocal, and contain between them 169 targets to be met by 2030. So what are they? Find out [here.](#)



**“It is very important that we create pressure through peer competition for conditions to improve. We target our investments to address the weaknesses in countries, whether in education or infrastructure.”**

**Kristalina Georgieva**  
Chief Executive Officer, The World Bank, Washington DC



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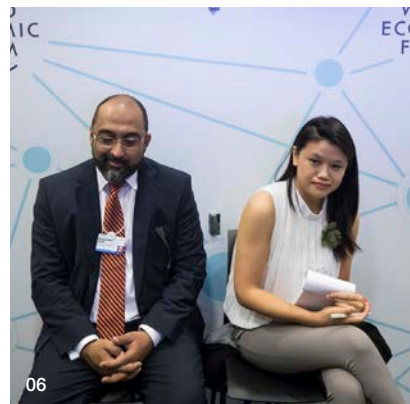
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**01:** Heather Grady, Vice-President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, USA

**02:** Impact Hub: Learning for Life

**03:** Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth and Information Communication Technology of Rwanda

**04:** Achieving Internet for All panel

**05:** Mark Surman, Executive Director, Mozilla Foundation, USA  
**06:** Sustainable Development Impact Summit for All.

**“2G gave us mobility, 3G gave us more speed, and then 4G gave us better speed and one common platform globally. This platform is connecting everyone to a better future.”**

**Mats Granryd**  
Director-General, GSMA, United Kingdom





**01:** Feike Sybesma, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Managing Board, Royal DSM, Netherlands

**02:** Njideka Harry, President and Chief Executive Officer, Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF), Nigeria

**03:** Press conference on Boosting Private Enterprise for Public Good: Launch of the Fourth Sector Development Initiative

**04-05:** Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017



**“There is a ‘trade-on’. You don’t have to compromise on investment returns.” The SDGs, Naqvi noted, “are clear action points – every one of them convertible to investment opportunities – and the financial services industry is waking up to that. Convergence is being forced on us.” Young job applicants want to work for responsible companies and, when being interviewed, “they interview us and ask what our company is doing.”**

**Arif M. Naqvi**

Founder and Group Chief Executive, The Abraaj Group, United Arab Emirates

# Building partnerships on the World Economic Forum platform

The complexity and urgency of many of today's challenges require far more in the way of integrated thinking and combined effort than the particular portfolio of activities of the Forum or any other institution is capable of organizing alone. Yet, scaling public-private dialogue and collaboration across a broad spectrum of issues is only achievable if it is a distributed, rather than mediated, phenomenon.

The Forum's calling is to inspire and facilitate this transformation in international cooperation by serving as its enabling platform. It aims to do so not only by working to increase the impact and resulting demonstration effect of its initiatives, but also by empowering Forum members and constituents to more easily organize

into collaborative processes that they, rather than the Forum, form and lead.

For this reason, the Forum is placing its unique attributes – its diverse communities, trusted convening and facilitation capabilities, interdisciplinary expertise and advanced digital tools – more readily at the service of the international community. The aim is to provide a platform or “operating system” for the scaled multistakeholder cooperation that is needed to accelerate progress on the big challenges of this century.

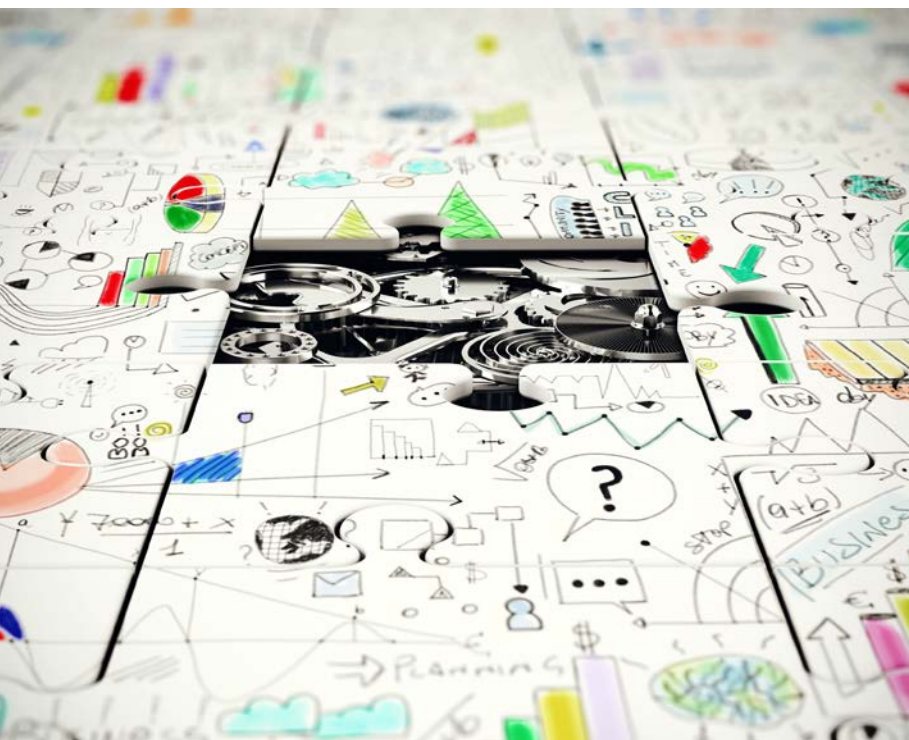
To this end, each of the Forum's 14 System Initiatives is designed to be a platform for improving the effectiveness of the international community's response to a given

global challenge. They aim to strengthen communication and collaboration among leaders and experts who are committed to combining their resources and expertise in projects or task forces on that challenge, some of which are driven by the Forum and others by a group of community member institutions.

Joint venture and consortium-led projects lie at the heart of the Forum's platform strategy. They offer opportunities for institutions active within a System Initiative to access the Forum's platform to advance their own partnership projects more effectively. Examples include the Tropical Forest Alliance, Grow Africa, Grow Asia, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, Sustainable Development Investment Partnership, and others.

Coalitions of partner organizations wishing to build their projects on the Forum's platform as joint venture or consortium-led projects within a Forum System Initiative benefit from:

- Access to the System Initiative's core community and the Forum's Expert Network to build stronger engagement and expertise
- Use of the Forum's advanced digital tools for project and community management and information-sharing among project participants
- Raised visibility of their project among opinion leaders and







**“While good health and well-being should be a priority goal, it should not be addressed in isolation, argued The SDGs are not independent goals. They are actually synergetic. No government, company or NGO can solve any of the challenges on its own.”**

**Frans van Houten**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Philips, Netherlands

- the public through the Forum’s global, regional and industry meetings, its extensive traditional and social media communications, and the stewardship board and core community of the related Forum System Initiative
- Seconding executives or other staff to the Forum to drive forward the project while learning from the experience of working alongside leaders of other projects and from the efficiencies of closer interaction with other activities and participants in the System Initiative
- Placement of their project in the context of a global community of top leaders, with the Forum’s
- access to governments, international organizations, regulators, etc.
- Access to the Forum’s knowledge networks in close cooperation with leading universities, the Network of Global Future Councils and the Forum Expert Network
- Crowdsourced ideas, insight and fresh perspectives from the Forum’s communities of Young Global Leaders, Global Shapers, Social Entrepreneurs and Technology Pioneers
- Advice and cooperation of the Forum’s highly educated and diverse staff of 600, based in Geneva, New York, Beijing and Tokyo
- Integration into leading governance frameworks and processes, characterized by strong engagement and ownership; this is reflected at the institutional level (Forum Board of Trustees), systems level (Board of Stewards for each Initiative) and project level (steering committees)



# Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

How can we speed up the benefits of science and technology for society? That's our mission. To do this we've created a global hub of expertise, knowledge-sharing and collaboration, based in San Francisco.

## **In the home of the world's foremost companies**

A global hub of expertise, knowledge-sharing and collaboration, the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution is located at the Presidio of San Francisco, close to the world's foremost technology companies, start-ups, investors, venture capital firms and academic institutions. Our impartial platform mobilizes global cooperation to develop policy principles and frameworks that speed up the application of science and technology in the global public interest.

## **Working with future technologies**

We discuss ethical issues, values and regulation of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies such as the internet of things and AI/machine learning. The projects of the Center aim to inspire exchange and sharing of big ideas and insight. They include: Artificial intelligence and machine learning; internet of things and connected devices; digital trade and cross-border data flows; autonomous vehicles; civilian use of drones; new vision for the ocean; and distributed ledger technology.

## **Global collaboration for social good**

We convene start-ups, venture capitalists, experts, academics, governments and more to discuss the benefits of science and technology. Our mission is to accelerate global collaboration across industry, government and other key stakeholders on the development of policy principles, decision-making tools and governance frameworks for science and technology so that they best serve citizens, society and the global public interest.

## **Find us**

Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution  
1201 Ralston Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94129

<https://www.weforum.org/center-for-the-fourth-industrial-revolution/home>





# Acknowledgements

The World Economic Forum would like to thank the **Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** for its generous support for the inaugural Sustainable Development Impact Summit.

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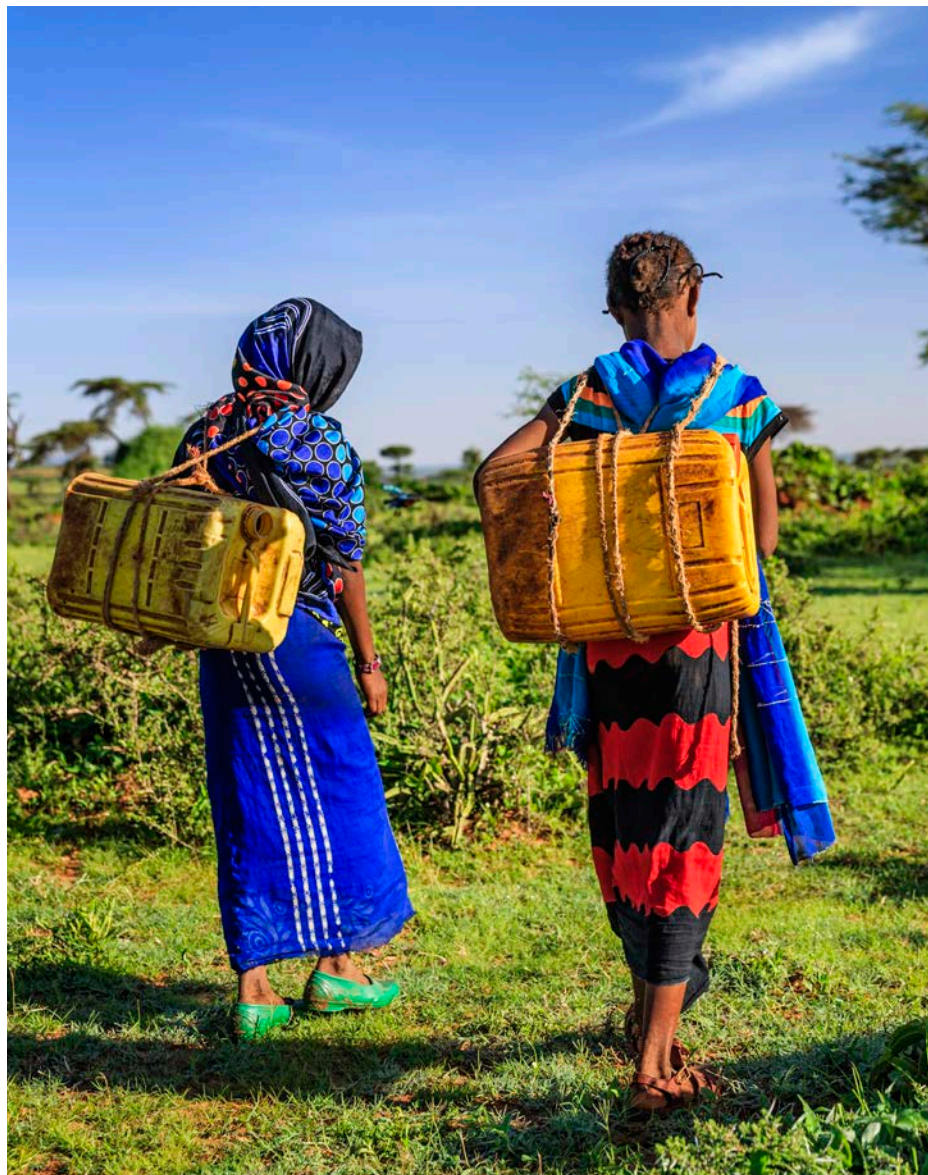
Janet Hill, Editor

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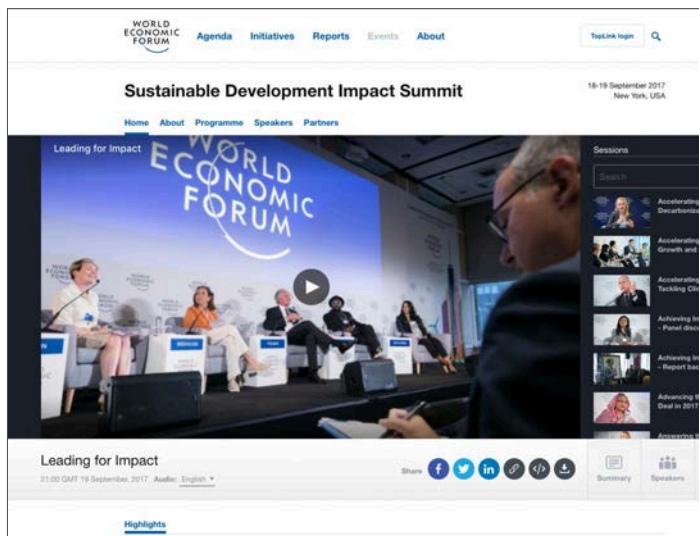
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Casey Wagner



# Digital update



The event page of the Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2017 provides more information from the meeting, including photographs, press releases, social media and webcasts of selected sessions.

<http://wef.ch/sdis17>



[This report is also available to download:](http://wef.ch/sdis17report)

<http://wef.ch/sdis17report>



# Flow of engagement

Making sense of the forces that shape our world requires a continuum of insight and action, combining global and regional meetings with the Forum's suite of digital knowledge and community tools.









An aerial photograph of Central Park in New York City, showing the dense greenery of the park and the surrounding skyscrapers of Manhattan. The Hudson River is visible in the background, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene.

# WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

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COMMITTED TO  
IMPROVING THE STATE  
OF THE WORLD

The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

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