

## Horasis Extraordinary Meeting

Virtual Event, 1 October 2020

a Horasis leadership event

*Unite. Inspire. Create.*

## Report



## *Inspiring our future*

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### Upcoming Horasis events:

Horasis Asia Meeting	Virtual Event, 30 November 2020
Horasis Extraordinary Meeting on the United States	Virtual Event, 18 March 2021
Horasis Global Meeting	Cascais, Portugal, 5-8 June 2021
Horasis India Meeting	Binh Duong, Vietnam, 20-21 June 2021
Horasis China Meeting	Yerevan, Armenia, 24-25 October 2021

Horasis is a global visions community dedicated to inspiring our future. ([www.horasis.org](http://www.horasis.org))

# Horasis Extraordinary Meeting

Virtual Event, 1 October 2020

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*Unite. Inspire. Create.*

## ■ Co-chairs:

Ibukun Awosika	Chairman, First Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria
Richard Branson	Founder, Virgin Group, United Kingdom
Andrew Forrest	Co-Founder and Chairman, Minderoo Foundation, Australia
Roshni Nadar Malhotra	Chairperson, HCL Corporation Ltd., India
Hank McKinnell	Chairman, Moody's, USA
Michelle Nunn	President and Chief Executive Officer, CARE, USA
Sally Ann Ranney	President and Co-Founder, Global Choices, USA
Martin Richenhagen	Chairman, President and CEO, AGCO, USA
Hans Vestberg	Chief Executive Officer, Verizon Communications, USA

## ■ Partner Organizations:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Allianz  
All India Management Association (AIMA)  
Altru Institute  
Caspian Week  
CEO Clubs Network Worldwide  
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)  
Entrepreneurs' Organization  
Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG)  
IE University  
Oxford Analytica  
Philip Morris International  
Publicize  
QI Group  
Reuters Breakingviews  
Run The World  
The Digital Economist  
Thunderbird School of Global Management  
Wingsure

# Schedule

## Unite.

### Uniting in the morning (06.30-07.15)

- Horasis Community Building

### Digital Breakfast Sessions (07.15-08.00)

- Are we at an evolutionary moment?
- Revitalizing economic growth
- COVID vaccination availability
- Technology for social impact
- Future-proof business
- Changing world of e-commerce
- Mental health crisis
- Celebrating diversity
- Power of media
- Regeneration of world trade
- Sustainable brands
- Pivoting your businesses
- China

### Parallel Sessions (08.00-08.45)

- Competing in leaderless world
- Corporate strategy through pandemic
- Balancing long & short term
- Progress on global UN commitments
- Water: The Innovation Imperative
- Owning your own data
- Fair Taxation for All
- Developing entrepreneurial spirit
- Developing NewTech despite COVID
- New Cold War
- Developing Digital Prowess
- Family Business
- Future Role of the Digital Leader
- Everywhere entrepreneurship
- South East Asia

### Plenary (08.45-08.50)

- Welcome Address by Antonio Guterres

### Plenary (08.50-09.30)

- Unite. Inspire. Create.

### Plenary (09.30-10.15)

- Nurturing inclusive leadership

### Parallel Sessions (10.15-11.00)

- Where are we at? Where are we Going?
- Impact investing
- Stronger together
- Millennials & Gen-Z
- Competition for economic leadership
- AI as force for good
- Art supporting leadership transformations
- Reconstructing supply chains
- New Unicorn ventures
- Managed philanthropy
- Business Toughness
- Austerity or Plenty
- Global Solidarity
- Family Offices
- Greater Caspian Region

## Inspire.

### Plenary (11.00-11.45)

- Developing leadership and inspiration
- South Asia

### Plenary (11.45-12.30)

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Thinking as citizens
- Impact Created by Companies

### Parallel Sessions (12.30-13.15)

- The elephants in the room
- Inspirational leadership
- Economic recovery by digitization
- Unlikely collaborators
- Rekindling education post-COVID
- Regeneration or evolution of cities
- Building peace
- We are living longer
- Deriving ideas for start-ups
- Global Coordination
- Competitive Green Economies
- African Peace Engineering Corps
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Armenia
- United Kingdom

### Virtual Lunch Plenary (13.15-14.00)

- Climate change commitments
- Horasis Community Building

### Special Addresses (13.15-14.00)

- Ulisses Correia e Silva (14.00-14.15)
- Juan Guaidó (14.15-14.30)
- Iliana Iotova (14.30-14.45)

### Plenary (13.15-14.00)

- Celebrating UN 75 in times of COVID
- Abraham Accords

### Parallel Sessions (15.30-16.15)

- United Nations: The Next 75 years
- Public-private partnerships
- Redefining HRM as human relations
- Strategic infrastructure investment
- Developing emotional intelligence
- Entrepreneurial gale
- Developing deep learning
- Changing future of work
- Overcoming gender inequality
- South-South cooperation
- Future of finance
- Profit and Purpose in a Pandemic
- Transforming Business For Social Change
- Middle East

### Parallel Sessions (16.15-17.00)

- SDG goal #3 – its deeper meaning
- Technology harnessing
- Partnering for food security
- Harnessing migration
- Inspiring social innovation
- Our need of fulfilment
- Ethics in a troubled world
- Managing funds post-COVID
- Blended finance for future benefits
- Start-up Nations
- Bridging the Digital Divide
- Fostering Purpose through Movies
- Triple bottom line investments
- Closing the Gap on Gender Equality
- Africa

## Create.

### Plenary (17.00-17.45)

- USA
- Renewable Energy and Oceans

### Plenary (17.45-18.30)

- UN Global Compact post-COVID
- Business-Led Solutions

### Parallel Sessions (18.30-19.15)

- Stock market volatility
- FinTech Post-COVID
- Responsibility for blockchain usage
- Black lives matter
- New Deal for Globalization
- Innovation in a pandemic world
- Making more from less
- Digital utopia
- Implanting Industry 4.0
- Fighting Poverty
- Solutions for an impact-led recovery
- Governance after COVID-19
- Fixing Broken Government
- Latin America

### Plenary (19.15-20.00)

- Governing a world out of balance
- Africa

### Closing Plenary (20.00-20.45)

- Unity, inspiration and creativity
- New Global Awareness

### Closing Remarks (20.45-20.50)

- Unpalatables in times of COVID-19

### Virtual Closing Dinners (20.50-21.30)

- Our world in 2030
- Equitable growth post-COVID
- Leading change
- The CEO in age of disruption
- Ensuring inclusive prosperity
- Navigating business on the edge
- Building trust
- Technology is running amok
- Political revolutions
- The Conservation Continent
- The emerging future is bright
- Global Climate Transformation
- Refugees and humanitarian crises
- Pathways for the disenfranchised
- Redefining Philanthropy
- Civil Society

### Closing Parallel Sessions (21.30-22.15)

- Corporate leadership
- Behavioral changes
- Populism vs multilateralism
- Venture capital
- Awakening to a digital world
- Clusters
- Advancing the 5th industrial revolution
- The zing of cryptocurrency
- Coaching through COVID
- Mutuality amid COVID-19
- Globally Green Policies
- Reaching for the Future with Technology
- Un-led global crisis
- Greatest Transfer of Private Wealth
- The current state of the world

### Virtual Receptions (22.15-23.00)

- Horasis community building
- Horasis Young Visionaries
- The 2021 Horasis Global Meeting



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*The Horasis Extraordinary Meeting was held on Run The World, the Silicon Valley-based online meeting platform.*

# Foreword

By Frank-Jürgen Richter,  
Chairman, Horasis, Switzerland

Horasis held its first digital Extraordinary Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 with the theme of *Unite. Inspire. Create*. The meeting brought together heads of state, prime ministers and other government representatives as well as CEOs and entrepreneurs from around the world. 900 speakers contributed to the discussion of themes spanning politics, business and civil society across 150 sessions – the largest online meeting held by any organisation so far.

The discussions through the meeting covered a wide range of issues and delegates endeavoured to generate novel solutions pertaining to the difficulties facing us all at the present time, especially with respect to the effects of the COVID pandemic. There is a clear and present need to ensure we aid all the disenfranchised, to meet our Sustainable Development Goals and attempt to meet our climate change targets, making the planet greener. Businesses need to pivot to new modes and to change their targets to be sustainable.

Horasis decided to address these issues under the themes of ***Unite, Inspire, Create*** so delegates could discuss and derive novel ways to support our unique new-normal future – to strengthen global coordination, cooperation and multilateralism via its international institutions. This has been recognised by the UN who have created a new policy review of ‘Democracy without Borders’ within a UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) – it will be an addition to the UN General Assembly under the title of UN75 thus celebrating its 75th year of incorporation.



Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations

In January 2020 there were few instances of COVID in China in the probable epicentre town of Wuhan. The Chinese authorities reacted quickly, as did their scientists and epidemiologists who quickly analysed and openly published its DNA. National Health Coordination centres have stated that the time to make a novel vaccine is long – because of all the testing phases, analyses and so on. Of concern is the heavy political pressure on vaccine manufacturers to rapidly present solutions. Nine leading biopharmaceutical firms pledged in early September 2020 to ‘always make the safety and well-being of vaccinated individuals our top priority’ – saying they believed their action would ‘ensure public confidence’ in the development of inoculation.

The WTO (World Trade Organisation) reckoned the global trade conflicts would lead to a sizeable reduction in direct trade between nations, and to a reorganisation of supply chains in East Asia. Yet, in late Summer 2020 after the initial ravages of COVID, the OECD raised its global economy outlook to a 4.5 percent fall. Certainly, the abrupt cessation of some commercial sectors caused havoc: mass transport systems lost passengers and closed down as people

attempted to work from home; labour-intensive hospitality operations simply halted; manufacturing firms furloughed their staff. **Sir Richard Branson**, CEO, Virgin Group discussed the turmoil in the tourism sector.

Formally opening the meeting, **António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations opened his address by stating that the COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest global test since the founding of the United Nations. It has devastated lives, economies and communities everywhere and undermined the UN efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This pandemic has to be resolved for us all to concentrate on globally important issues like the SDGs, climate change; and as nations rebuild their economies devastated by COVID they must address gender equality and diversity in all its forms.

**Fabrizio Hochschild**, Under-Secretary General, Special Adviser on Preparations for 75<sup>th</sup> United Nations Anniversary, United Nations, USA opened a Horasis panel ‘Celebrating UN 75 – Multilateralism in Times of COVID’ noting that COVID-19, climate change, social inequalities and geopolitical tensions and digital technologies are pressing upon all nations. In this panel, **Armen Sarkissian**, President of Armenia, Armenia, as a former scientist, suggesting



*Richard Branson, Founder, Virgin Group, United Kingdom*



*Armen Sarkissian, President of Armenia, speaking about UN 75*

the UN ought to have been recognised already by several Nobel prizes, but dialogues are of vital importance especially recognising global dynamics and cyber-threats are much more important than formerly. He posed the useful potential for a ‘Club of Small Nations’ to act as a fulcrum in many global discussions. Supporting these ideas, **Mukhtar Tileuberdi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan outlined how Kazakhstan has hosted several peace initiatives across Central Asia, and globally.

Continuing with this theme, **Sanda Ojiambo**, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact, USA called for full disclosure of sustainability policies and practices thus committing businesses to sustainability and a shared responsibility for achieving a better world. She was supported by **Munir Akram**, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council, USA who noted ‘urgent debt relief and adequate finance is essential to enable developing countries to respond to the COVID crisis.’

**Michelle Bachelet**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland further emphasised the need to overcome COVID and to regenerate support



*Hage G. Geingob, President of Namibia, Namibia*



*Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*



*Diego Mesa, Minister of Mines and Energy, Colombia*

for inequality across the globe. In vulnerable societies this must arise from strong social protection of all individuals, especially women and children who are often the most deprived. This urgency was noted by **Hage G. Geingob**, President of Namibia, Namibia as his nation is struggling to reverse the strong legacy of apartheid that formally ended in neighbouring South Africa in 1994.

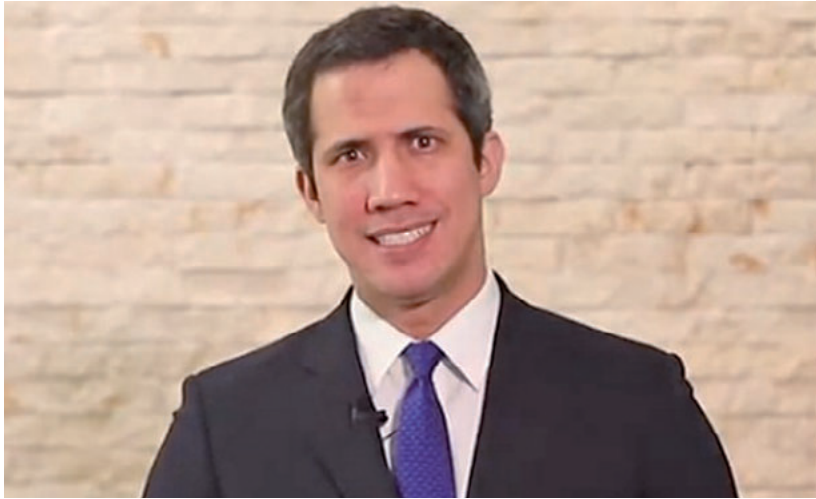
**Petteri Taalas**, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland is clear: the COVID pandemic and lock downs have made cities appear clean: but what will occur on the resumption of commerce? ‘We must not be driven to despair, given that reasonable, consensus-based solutions are available to the international community, governments and civil society. We need a “Do” movement, not a “Talk” movement. This is our common goal.’

In panels debating South America, **Juan Guaidó**, Interim President of Venezuela, President of the National Assembly of Venezuela, Venezuela emphasised that throughout the world corruption and fraud has led to the underinvestment in health services so now they can’t cooperate fully and internationally to overcome COVID. Today in Venezuela there is an emergent

electoral legitimacy looking to regenerate the nation. **Diego Mesa**, Minister of Mines and Energy, Colombia states he will continue the ‘green thrust’ of the government by increasing clean sources and creating new electricity distribution to the more remote parts of the nation. And **Gabriel Quijandria**, Vice Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources, Peru noted in shifting to sustainable energy, to electric vehicles and in removing deforestation from supply chains ‘we need to incorporate conservation as part of the toolkit for solving development problems.’ And Paul **Oquist Kelley**, Minister of Presidency and National Policies, Nicaragua urged that ‘the way in which we work together needs to change to overcome the profound economic, political and social disruptions caused by COVID-19, in Latin America and elsewhere.’

While business on many fronts in Africa is booming – its pan-Africa Passport can aid business interactions once the COVID-19 pandemic eases; banks are helping ride COVID issues and manage debt relief, as well as strengthen regional integration; and it is boosting renewables power delivering energy for growth across the continent. **Wamkele Mene**, Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),





*Special Address by Juan Guaidó, Interim President of Venezuela*



*Soraya M. Hakuziyaremye, Minister for Trade and Industry, Rwanda*

Ghana celebrates the birth of the African Continental Free Trade Area which signals reductions in all restrictions to inter-African trade, aiming by 2035, to double its internal trade by enhancing its intellectual property rights, industrial development and supply chains. COVID-19 crisis has slowed us down. He ensures its youth must be part of the solution. **Aurélien Agbénonci**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Benin stated Benin and other nations must change the ways in which Africa does business: to develop objectives for each nation and then between nations to define the strengths and objectives to reach global markets. It has defined how to fight corruption and to limit minister's terms in office to uphold democracy. He applauds that they have had the audacity to move forward quickly. **Soraya M. Hakuziyaremye**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Rwanda informed how Rwanda has introduced reforms to make it easier for incoming businesses. Administrative reform was first; then regulatory reform; and then digital reforms: it has risen into the top 40 nations globally in the ease of doing business. To combat COVID, Rwanda quickly adopted mass testing and tracing as well as containment measures.

In other panels, **Ibrahima Guimba-Saidou**, Minister and Special Advisor to the President of Niger, Niger explained how they were looking to a citizen-centric approach around service delivery informed by technology: this will strongly aid Niger's goal of meeting the UN/SDGs. And **Rania A. Al-Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt affirmed that the effects of the COVID pandemic would have been more difficult for Egypt if not for the comprehensive reforms on taxes, budgets and foreign exchange that the country undertook.

South Asia has also been battered by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as occasionally by geo-political tension: but they offer hope for the world if they succeed in mutually beneficial growth. The SAARC's (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) has a strong role to boosting regional integration. **Shariar Alam**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh noted every 4th global person is a South-Asian but in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARCs) its 8 nations represent only 2% global GDP but 40% of world's poorest. Lasting peace in the region has been illusive even though SAARCs members wish to openly counteract terrorism. Supporting



*Horasis Chairman Frank-Jürgen Richter introducing UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres*



*Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt*



*Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal*

these data, **Pradeep Kumar Gyawali**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal stated the region has high potentials for the future, though presently depressed by the on-set of COVID. And **Abdullah Sahid**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maldives noted the struggles of the Maldives tourist industry that is a big contributor to its GDP, as are reduced remittances (cut by the global COVID lockdowns). To overcome some of the unrest he noted communications with citizens is very important to get the peoples to realize the enormity of COVID's reach.

The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic will take years to clear – partly as trust between citizens and their governments has faltered, as has the trust between former partners along supply chains. Delegates discussed potential solutions for disruption and proposed new 'new-normal' routes to sustainable actions on global and local levels. Above all, suggested **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson, HCL Corporation Ltd., India global businesses are ready to cooperate with the public sector and international organizations to confront and solve the COVID-19 pandemic and to rebuild our economies.

On behalf of Horasis, I would like to thank all delegates for their efforts in contributing to the constructive dialogue as a cornerstone to unite, inspire be creative for our future well-being.

The First Horasis Extraordinary Meeting was a unique experience which would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our partners across the world. Please find detailed coverage of all the panels and plenaries in the Summary of the Meeting which was compiled by IE University – it holds many clues to changing the world for the better, and I hope it inspires you.

The Second Horasis Extraordinary Meeting on 18 March 2021 will focus on the United States. 500 members of the Horasis Visions Community (including several senior U.S. public figures) will gather virtually to discuss and shape the vision of the new U.S. administration.

Hopefully we all can influence decision makers to take personal responsibility to drive the future to be more sustainable, better governed, and less divisive.

# Summary

By IE University

## Welcome Address by Antonio Guterres

**Frank-Jürgen Richter**, Chairman at Horasis welcomed **Antonio Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General. Mr. Guterres highlighted how the COVID-19 virus has been the greatest global test since the foundation of the United Nations. He stressed on the initiatives undertaken by the United Nations to fight the virus; push for rescue packages for the most vulnerable countries and development of an affordable “people’s” vaccine. Mr. Guterres also shared how COVID-19 has been a wake-up call for bigger challenges facing us, like climate change, and the need for us to embrace renewable energy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. He concluded with his invitation to all partners to work together to build a world of peace, dignity and sustainable development.

## Opening Plenary: Unite. Inspire. Create.

Global accords have been broken by edict at a time when nations need to unite and fight common battles – and to ultimately combat COVID-19 for equitable growth and security. **Axel Threlfall**, Editor-at-Large, Reuters, UK, opened the conversation on Unite Inspire. **Hage G. Geingob**, President of Namibia, mentioned that we need to be creative in the way we manage our systems, governance and nation-building by collaborating and acting as one community. He mentioned that by declaring a state of emergency they were able to manage the systems since the transportation was closed down. He quoted, ‘Vaccines in the making should not be business as usual for the



*Bernardo Correa de Barros, President, Visit Cascais, Portugal, announcing the Horasis Global Meeting*

purpose of making profits but should be everyone’s property.’ **Michelle Bachelet**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland further emphasised the need to overcome COVID and to regenerate support for inequality across the globe. In vulnerable societies this must arise from strong social protection of all individuals, especially women and children who are often the most deprived.

## Futurist Panel: Are we at an Evolutionary Moment?

Since 2020 has been a catalyst of sorts, the panel discussed what the future holds for us. **Kishore Mahbubani**, Distinguished Fellow, Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, felt three tectonic shifts should be dealt with for the 21<sup>st</sup> century – power transition from the West to the East; strengthening of global governance, institutions, and global problems. **Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, former President of the Republic of Latvia, and **Nina Angelovska**, Former Finance Minister, Macedonia, felt that the speed of evolution has increased due to COVID 19. **Francisco J. Sanchez**, Founder Chairman, CNS Global Consulting, added that technology will generate positive outcomes, in terms of nutrition and sustainability.





Panel

## Futurist Panel: Are we at an Evolutionary Moment?

October 01, 2020, 07:15 AM - 08:00 AM CEST(+02:00)

Benjamin J. Butler, Kishore Mahbubani, Nina Angelovska, Francisco J. Sanchez, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, N.K. Singh

Intuitively we all know that the future is accelerating at us, and we live in the midst of historical times. Our imaginative panel will tackle the big questions. How will revolutionary technology - from AI to Web 3.0 - impact our world? How will our economies, geopolitics and organizations change? Will we shift to a Post Industrial Civilization? Will we witness the evolution of the human species?



*Futurist Panel – Are we at an Evolutionary Moment?*

All panelists also agreed that technology will alleviate the digital and economic divide present between social classes.

### Revitalizing Economic Growth

**Martina Fuchs**, Anchor, China Global Television Network (CGTN), UK opened the conversation on Revitalising Economic Growth by introducing herself and panelist. **Sujata Koirala**, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Nepal, mentioned that there is a forecast that the year 2021 would see partial economic recovery and that the recovery period would depend upon the resumption of healthcare facilities backed by adequate

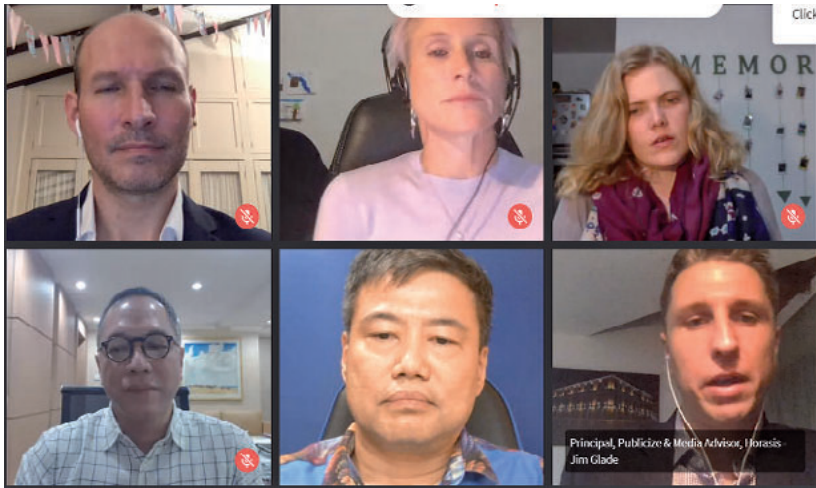
resources. **Oki Matsumoto**, Chairman, Monex Group, Japan, mentioned that for economic recovery, it is important to collectively change the regulations to fit the post z environment. **Francisco G. Dakila**, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of the Philippines, mentioned that the Philippines is working to accelerate the digital use for payments and boost the domestic economy.

### The Changing World of E-commerce

**Tina Mani**, CEO, Yfret, USA, started the discussion by mentioning 2 major scenarios: 1. Businesses going digital 2. The availability of products has been hampered. Thus, the local stores in the areas were able to serve customers better more than an online delivery business. **Brendon Dennewill**, CEO, Denamico Inc, USA added that B2B relations have shifted to the digital mode thus becoming disruptive. **Sherry Roberts**, Founder, and CEO, The Longest Stay, UK shared her experience of interior consulting and creating shoppable hotels. **Sandi Češko**, Co-founder, Studio Moderna, Slovenia mentioned that 30 % of total retail is done via e-commerce. **Fahim Naim**, Founder, eShopportunity, USA, concluded by talking about how brands need to be aware of ad mechanisms on various digital platforms.



*Sidharth Nath Singh, Minister for Export and Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh*



Panel 'The Power of the Media and Influencers'



Axel Threlfall, Editor-at-Large, Reuters, chairing the opening plenary

## The Power of the Media and Influencers

Media is the most powerful sector of the economy but the majority of the media is highly influenced and biased. The main question which arises is how do we teach media literacy and who is responsible for the circulation of false information. There is no standard of ethics for reporting. As media has a global impact, we need to create an internationally accepted benchmark for ethics that can get monitored and support this flow of information. Media also diminishes our capacity for reasoning and analyzing. 'People are learning how to interpret the brief but not necessarily have opinions about the brief,' said **Maxim Jago**, Independent Filmmaker, UK. So, it comes down to educating our community so that they can learn to dissect the information.

## Pivoting your Businesses

The main focus of this discussion was pointing out the importance of how pivoting businesses should be on the digital infrastructure. All the speakers agreed to give that the highest priority going forward. The world is becoming more mobile. Considering this, with the data-driven approach, the businesses should customize their customer

experience accordingly which would help them retain and gain new customers. On the flip side of digitizing, the empathy factor is reducing due to lack of human touch which happens to be the core of customer experience. The companies which can remodel their customer experience around empathy would win in this digitizing world.

## Future-proofing the Business

This discussion was on how to deal with the new environment and new way of doing business in every practical field. The panel was moderated by **Henry Shterenberg**, CEO, Global Transformation Platform, Ukraine. The main discussion was on how people will change the way they do things and how one must execute human resources, given the current pandemic. Responding to this, **Meriem Kebiri**, Founder, Mkonsult – Turnaround and Restructuring, Tunisia, spoke of 2 major criteria; One being cash, i.e. how much cash one has and which industry they are in. On the other hand, what matters is the financial situation of that person. She concluded by saying that everyone will have to be agile now.



*Martina Fuchs, Anchor, China Global Television Network (CGTN)*



*Shariar Alam, Minister of State  
for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh*



*Uwe Michel, Executive Vice President,  
Allianz, Germany*

## Sustainable Brands in the Wake of COVID-19

The session, chaired by **Thomas Eymond-Laritz**, CEO, Highgate, UK, mainly debated on the survival of the sustainable brands in the COVID and post-COVID era and the impact of the crisis on them. COVID has majorly impacted the travel industry, but **Sonu Shivdasani**, CEO, Soneva, Thailand, sees this as an opportunity for change. He said that although people have found ways to compensate for the corporate trips by conducting virtual meetings, leisure travel is still something that won't fade away in the future, especially for the travelers from the urban environment.

## Vaccination Availability post-COVID

The panel started the discussion by referring to trials that are coming out really fast. Phase 1 and 2 data results looked optimistic. The entire panel was cautiously optimistic about the treatment in general. From an investment perspective, opportunities have dried up due to COVID, but a vaccine would bring things back to normal swiftly. The healthcare ecosystem will have matured when the COVID vaccine comes out. It will also once again open doors for globalization. The CDC advisory committee has been

holding open house sessions to discuss the developments in this space and has been discussing the benefits of vaccination, also incorporating the principles of equity, justice, and fairness into the vaccine distribution process.

## Celebrating Diversity, Spurring Innovation

The panelists all agreed that the world post-COVID should think about inclusions rather than exclusions, potential rather than limitations, and appreciation rather than tolerance. Diversity was defined as a collective mixture of differences and similarities and Inclusion was defined as the achievement of an environment in which all individuals are treated fairly and respectfully.

Numerous studies have also shown that the Return on Investment of diversity and inclusion has been really high, but the real question is to not only look at figures but also look at the productivity of employees when an employer is open and willing to have these principles imbibed in their values. The increase in productivity will directly lead to an increase in innovation.



*William Haseltine,  
Founder and Chairman,  
ACCESS Health International*





Panel 'Leveraging Technology for Social Impact'

## A Deepening of the Mental Health Crisis

The COVID lockdown has increased personal and professional stress. The topic of mental health as agreed by all the panelists is very important to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Lene Søvold**, Clinical Psychologist, Norway, started off by giving interesting statistics on the effect of the current pandemic on the mental health of people. **Anton Grech**, Chairman, Mental Health Services, Malta, followed up by explaining why it has become an even bigger crisis in the current pandemic. He mentioned factors like increased isolation, limiting the social network, etc. **Anil Thapliyal**, CEO HealthTRx, New Zealand, is the most comprehensive, and gave a 5 point action plan to ensure better mental health.

## Leveraging Technology for Social Impact

Technology is a driver of change but it needs to serve the greater public good. Everyone lives in a hyper-connected and digitized world. However, there are many underdeveloped places which can be brought at par with the rest of the world using technology. Communication and technology are key for that to happen. Robotic and advanced

technology is creating unemployment and closing economies. COVID 19 ensured smooth communication to keep the world going. Panelist **Mustafa Ergen**, Founder, Ambeent, Turkey, said that the Internet and communication platforms will play a big role in keeping the world connected and creating social impact. Easy access to simple technology (laptops, internet, smartphones, etc.) is a key for rapid development.

## China and its New Economy

**Uwe Michel**, Executive VP, Allianz, Germany, opened the discussion talking about the current challenges faced by the world due to the pandemic. He mentioned that China has a V shaped recovery, especially in the manufacturing sector. **Anthony Chan**, Chairman, Gretchen, Hong Kong, said, 'China is moving towards advanced education and is providing a world-class education to its students.' **Chen Tianmei**, Founder, Cosmic Citizens, China, mentioned that China used the pandemic to pivot its business model and adapt to the new normal. **Ikram Sehgal**, Chairman, Pathfinder Group, Pakistan, said 'the corridor that China has built via Pakistan into UAE and Europe is going to help China become a supreme power soon.' **Li Xu**, Founder, Li Xu International, USA, said, 'China will be a market leader in the same space.'

## Collapse or Regeneration of World Trade

The panel discussed the status of world trade during the pandemic and how countries could prosper beyond pre-pandemic levels. **Sidharth Nath Singh**, Trade and Export Minister, UP, India, felt that economic and trade balances must be restored and weaker economies are allowed to grow without just a few countries dominating the world. **Lisa McAuley**, CEO, Global Trade Professional Alliance, Australia, said, 'World trade recovery post-COVID will require

innovative ways of thinking but so will restoring and transforming it fundamentally, and that's where WTO's role will be vital.'

**Yonov Fred Agah**, Deputy Director-General WTO, Switzerland, said that countries must first handle the health effects of COVID-19. Later, international cooperation and multilateral approaches can be used to find solutions for economic recovery.

## Fair Taxation for All

**Francis Wong**, MD, Encounter Australia, commenced the discussion by introducing the concepts of taxation. He also spoke about the government stimulus provided globally. Panelist **Paul Tang**, Member, European Parliament, EU, said that the focus in the future is going to be on the people who pay and don't pay the taxes. **Gustavo L Ghory**, Chairman, Smarter - chains, Switzerland, said that taxation plays an interesting role in establishing supply chains. **Toshihiro Toyoshima**, CEO, Mercuria Investment Co, Japan, spoke about tax issues from the world bank. From the corporate tax viewpoint, he spoke about having a multi-jurisdiction.

## Balancing Long- and Short-termism

Moderator **Angela Beardsley**, Founder, Resonate Together, UK opened the conversation on balancing long- and short-termism. **Pamela Mar**, Executive VP, Fung Academy, Hong Kong, highlighted a need to offer incentives to the powerful who can take decisions related to carbon pricing, value-chain up-gradation and make industries digital-ready. **Peter Armand**, Founder and Chief Financial Officer, RuGeeks, Russia, agreed that technology can minimize the long- and short-term gap and promote sustainability. **Felix Schubert**, Executive Chairman, Infrontier, UK, highlighted the importance of short term reporting since growing companies need both close supervision and support. **John Cook**, Chairman,



*Yonov Fred Agah, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)*



*Kishore Mahbubani, Distinguished Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore*

Rock Lake Partners, Switzerland mentioned that, whether a goal, short or long term, depends upon perspectives. **Sudhir Sharma**, Chairman, Mitkat Advisory Services, India, mentioned that there is no dichotomy between Long- and Short-termism.

## Corporate Strategies in the Digital Pandemized Age

Goods are created and delivered via a digital mesh of lean, fast associations of producers, logistics, and FinTech firms across the globe connected in real-time each gaining value added income. All the speakers agreed that the pandemic is changing the outlook of people and businesses. This situation is affecting different industries differently. There is also a belief that the problems arising from this situation will be solved in a phased manner. This will require businesses to change the way they manage risks. Businesses can use the pandemic as an opportunity and move towards digitizing by using the latest technology like Virtual Reality to move towards a borderless world.

## Future Role of the Digital Leader

Business leaders need to think about digital in the age of COVID-19. They must build organizations that embrace change and mana-



*Family Business – How to Shape the next Chapter post-COVID*



*Helen Clark, Former UNDP Administrator,  
Former Prime Minister, New Zealand*

ge them effectively. The world is becoming a digital economy. Though digitization is leaving many jobless, it is creating new kinds of jobs. Hence, it is necessary for modern leaders to have new qualities for becoming a digital leader. The panelist emphasized on a few key traits important: 1) Digital literacy, 2) Communication, 3) Cultural awareness, 4) Adaptability and Agility, and 5) Decisiveness. The Speakers also mentioned that the world will start investing heavily on Robotics and AI integration henceforth that might weaken the social side of people. Thus, an emphasis on empathy becomes imperative.

### **Owning Your Data Is Owning Your Future**

In this discussion, the speakers talked about the relationship between people and data, and data management. **Patrick Lynch**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Analytics and Leadership, Thunderbird School of Global Management, USA, said that one must look at all data as personal data and only provide data to companies that they truly trust. USA, Europe and China are considered the three big data universals. Interesting points were made on how trust is a perception and people want to protect data in different ways. The moderator, **Stan Stalnaker**,



*Jane Wurwand, Founder,  
Dermalogica, USA*

Founding Director, Hub Culture, UK ended the discussion by talking about the transparency of data ownership and privacy.

### **Family Business: How to Shape the next Chapter post-COVID?**

In this discussion, the panelist spoke about how, by the 3rd generation, the majority of a family's wealth gets lost, as younger generations' values disintegrate, lack the all-important work ethic or seek to implement new non-traditional investment strategies; strategies that are more aligned with millennials mindsets. As a result of the crisis, the users have become more sensitive towards sustainable brands and practices and are inclined towards ensuring that their actions have lesser negative impacts on the environment.

### **Equitable Development of South-East Asia**

The discussion highlighted the fact that, in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, brands need to be even more prepared with their crisis management strategies to survive and secure themselves. This, however, not just applies to the COVID situation, but also to the ever-changing world. The most important thing that'll help brands sustain in the future and keep themselves rooted to





*The Development of New Tech in a COVID World*



*Abdullah Sahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maldives*



*Esko Aho, Former Prime Minister of Finland*

sustainable practice would be to understand their purpose of existence and make it more meaningful.

### Progress on global UN commitments

During the discussion on 'Progress on global UN commitments', the panel opined that this COVID pandemic should be utilized by countries to work on sustainable development goals. The private sectors should be ready to collaborate with governments in these times. There are some great leaders in the world that care about humanity and UN commitments but the changes need to come at scale. The Paris Agreement needs to be aligned with the world's carbon neutrality goal by 2050. COVID-19 had temporarily reduced the number of emissions in the world, but various reports suggest that these numbers have started rebounding. Countries have to find synergies and start acting as one world, post COVID, to sustainably achieve goals at the global level.

### The Development of New Tech in a COVID world

Technology has always been developed by firms geographically dispersed. The impact on business during COVID times can be

bucketed into 4 main groups – the first group really accelerated, the second group boomed but stabilized to continue the stagnant phase, the third group is undergoing a 'V' shape rebound, and the last group is undergoing a 'U' shape rebound. Overall, the online habit, across all industries, has accelerated by 1-2 years. Traditional companies had to become more nimble during the pandemic times, to foster new tech and innovation. Some limitations of developing new technology in these times include well-designed schemes for individual contributors to showcase their skills. Open innovation is a situation since collaboration is a challenge, even though the engagement levels could be kept high.

### Developing an entrepreneurial spirit

This discussion began with all the panelists and the moderator mentioning the role they are playing in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and how they are connected to it. They then further went on to discuss how in developing countries there is a need for greater access to capital and change in culture. The session ended with everyone giving their closing remarks. The panelists unanimously agreed that there is a need to build higher entrepreneurial capabilities.



*Eva-Lotta Sjöstedt, Member of the Supervisory Board, Metro, Germany*





*Mohamed Amersi, Founder, Amersi Foundation, UK, chairing a panel*



*Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Former President of Somalia*



*Nik Gowing, Founder and Director, Thinking the Unthinkable*

## Water: The Innovation Imperative

**Sundeep Waslekar**, President, Strategic Foresight Group, India, started the discussion by speaking about the growing concern of water scarcity in the world. **Vedika Bhandarkar**, Chief Global Impact Officer, water.org, USA, explained how her organization provides financial solutions to households to build their water facility. **Nicholas Parker**, Chairman, Parker Management Venture Inc, Canada said that water has underperformed in getting investment unlike other clean energy sources and that one must focus on embedded water and monitor their consumption. **Ravi Sewak**, Director, Safe Water Network, India, added that after the water facility is built, it must be maintained by locals to avoid disruption in supply. He adds that technology like AI must be deployed to understand trends and for preventive maintenance.

## Everywhere entrepreneurship

In this discussion, the panelists opined that the world needs more resilient entrepreneurs for sustainable development, especially in developing countries. There is a gender gap globally in the leadership structure for the many organizations which need to be bridged. Talking about gender parity,

**Laura Walker Lee**, Founder, Madre Ventures, USA, emphasized on the need for more CSR to increase awareness and have more women in the pool to have more women-focused solutions. **Madan Padaki**, Co-founder, GAME, India, said his mission is to create a mass entrepreneurs' movement in India and globally. He believes that this can happen only with a collaborative approach. Mass entrepreneurship, mentoring, peer to peer learning, and bridging the gender gap were the essence of the discussion.

## Competing in leaderless world

The panel discussed leadership, its challenges and how to combat them. **Mariana Todorova**, Founder CEO, DG-Agora 2.0, Bulgaria, felt that there is a need for a paradigm shift in terms of leadership and governance, including decentralization, democratization and digitalization. **Mu Qiao**, Founder, WANMU Education, China, was of the opinion that technology helped the businesses stay competitive with employees being autonomous during these challenging times. It was inferred that there is a need for visionary leaders who can stand up during times of crisis. **Bo Inge Anderson**, President, Yazaki Europe and Africa, North and Central America, said that close coordination and cooperation with employees,



*Antonio Vitorino, Director General,  
International Organization for Migration (IOM)*



*Ernest Bai Koroma, Former President of Sierra Leone*

customers, governments could set apart successful leaders.

## Developing Digital Prowess

The panel discussion focused on the importance of digital transformation in today's world and how despite COVID, businesses could be inter-connected and how strategic partnerships can be built. The panelists covered important points like the significance of technology in keeping businesses going and the strong role it's playing in making key advancements. As **Silvano Coletti**, CEO, Chelonia Applied Science, Switzerland, mentioned, 'Today, we are able to screen 500 bln molecules in a few hours because of AI and supercomputers. This would have otherwise taken months, if not years. Thus, digital revolution will

be at the core of the next business wave.' The panel concluded with acknowledging that cybersecurity and availability of human resources were the key risks in pursuing a digital strategy.

## Nurturing inclusive leadership

The discussion was opened by **Nik Gowing**, Founder, Thinking the Unthinkable, UK, asking, 'What is inclusive leadership?' The panelists had varied views with **Rania Al Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt, emphasizing that inclusive leadership is about being aware and taking care of all stakeholders who, today, want to be part of the narrative. Interestingly, an inclusive leader works on the principles of the 4Cs- Competence, Connections, Confidence, and Charm. **António Vitorino**, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Switzerland concluded that there is a need for leadership that fosters cooperation and to not be complacent.



*Michelle Nunn, President and Chief Executive Officer, CARE, USA*

## The Arts Supporting Leadership Transformations

**Alistair Hicks**, Writer and Art Curator, UK opened the discussion speaking about how COVID-19 has instilled fear in all and



Antonio Vitorino, Director General, IOM; Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt with session chair Nik Gowing

has been feeding the content for the media. **Carla Riggi**, Founder, BandDjinni, USA, spoke about how their plan of promoting local music through small concerts and business events was hampered due to the pandemic and how musicians ran out of business. This led to the creation of a web community similar for local music. **Neil Lawson-May**, Joint Chief Executive, Palatium Investment Management, UK, speaking about his experience of building a sculpture park in Birmingham said that the public arts there is traditional. **Zhuolin Huang**, Founder, Pusihui – Female Entrepreneur Organization, China, spoke about the challenges women entrepreneurs in China faced during the pandemic.

### Family Offices: Investing in Face of Pandemic Risk

**Ian Morgan**, Head of Transactions, iWestcore Europe, UK, began by speaking about his background in private equity and real estate. **Asher Noor**, CIO, Al Touq Group, Saudi Arabia, spoke about his experiences in handling private equity of a second-generation family business. **Peter Aylwin**, Director, Aetos Limited, UK, spoke about his tenure at CITI bank. **Aitua O Ekhaese**, Managing Partner, North Hill Advisory Partners, UK, spoke

about how family businesses are being opportunistic and aware of uncertainties. Asher Noor said that investments have always been uncertain irrespective of the pandemic. **George Kanaan**, CEO, Arab Bankers Association, UK said that the issue of uncertainty is far deeper because of Brexit and the political breakdown in the USA.

### The Benefits of Managed Philanthropy

Philanthropy is like any other business, its application and results must be measured and judged. This need is greater than ever post-COVID. The purpose of philanthropy has always been to improve the wellbeing of humankind. COVID-19 has driven this sector to rise to community based rapid response funds and development of diagnostics and vaccines. Philanthropy has been showing up to flatten the curve for short term and address the equities over the long term. 'We can involve embassies not for their money but for their influence to encourage the private sectors to be involved in this charity programs' said **Grace Sabandar**, CEO, Global Business Services, Indonesia. Managed philanthropy has the ability to drive innovation and longevity of the organization.

### Where are we at? Where are we going?

**Richard Lister**, Writer and Broadcaster, UK, opened the conversation by introducing himself and the panelist. **Jacob Sotiriadis**, Chief Futurist, United States Air Force, USA mentioned that there is need to evaluate how different future scenarios will play out in case of pandemic disruption and how thinking and analysis would impact national security strategies. **Nikhil Seth**, Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Switzerland mentioned that we are responding and anticipating things in relation to the pandemic crisis and we should be prepared for





*Ranil Wickremesinghe, Former Prime Minister, Sri Lanka*

uncertainty. **Ranil Wickremesinghe**, Former Prime Minister, Sri Lanka commented that the disconnect between economic globalization and global political order which has been fast-tracked by COVID-19 needs to be tackled first since every person in the globe is being impacted.

### **Millennials and Generation-Z: Shaping the Far Future**

The Millennials and Gen-Z will soon comprise two-thirds of the global workforce, but their COVID-caused loss of education and employment will reduce their potential. To support and inspire the Millennials and the Gen Z(MGZ), the current leaders must understand the minds of MGZ. The speakers mentioned that the MGZ have grown up with choice, adapt quickly, love to learn new things; which means they constantly look for challenges and give a lot of importance to sustainability. However, not many like to lead. To tackle this, the modern leaders must change their leadership style according to the MGZs. Finally, the speakers mentioned the main traits of Compassion, Unity, Collaboration and Empathy, for a leader to inspire the MGZs.



*Nikhil Seth, Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Switzerland*

### **Austerity or Plenty – Weathering the Economic Crisis**

Across the globe, central banks are pressing cash into their economies to support the economic downturn caused by COVID. The speakers said that the GDP of many countries has been set back by 10-20 years. The banks and financial institutions have also lost their market value by almost half during this pandemic. Thus it is important for the governments to intervene. It is not just about injecting money into the economy but governments must provide the money to the people actually in need and ensure that the banks fund the sectors like tourism, that need money to get back on its feet. Furthermore, the governments should also adjust the tax regime so as to ensure equal impact sector-wise.



*Annette Nijs, Former Cabinet Minister for Education, Science and Culture, The Netherlands*

### **Global Solidarity: Impact of Sports**

While individuals steer uprisings, it is sports that emphasize it by its immediacy world-wide. This discussion on the 'Impact of Sports' was moderated by **Niraj Sharan**, CEO, Aura, India. Niraj asked **Abhinav Bindra**, Olympic Gold Medalist, India, how sports helped to shape his character over time. He replied saying that sports



*Hans-Peter Friedrich, Vice-President,  
German Bundestag, Germany*



*Sanjay Poonen, Chief Operating Officer,  
VMware, USA*



*Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, HCL Corporation Ltd., India*

taught him how to win and how to lose. It taught him how to play by the rules, to work hard with integrity and honesty, and to chase a goal. Niraj said that in today's time everybody is stressed and went on to discuss the pains athletes experience during this pandemic. The speakers then spoke about the Olympic games that have been postponed to 2021.

### Artificial Intelligence as a Force for Good

Artificial Intelligence alone cannot complete diverse tasks. It has to be trained in a specific action domain and its training is subject to human bias. **Gurvinder Ahluwalia**, CEO, Digital Twin Labs, USA began by discussing some positive and negative provocations, like the impact on jobs due to automation, the impact of taxes on different job sectors, and also the criminal injustice, that are a result of AI. The speakers highlighted how voice recognition, health care reports, cybersecurity, and facial expressions recognition are used to make automated decisions in different industries. They opined that AI is improving and becoming more human-like but is still in the developing phase and needs to improve further to make it unbiased for making ethically fair decisions.



*Harry Hui, Founder and Managing  
Partner, ClearVue Partners, China*

### The New Unicorn Ventures

The 'Unicorn' concept is still young, even in a post-COVID world. The panel discussed how we are living in an era of innovation that requires businesses to rethink their business models which in turn creates lots of new opportunities for the general public. We need to look at such companies that achieve the 'unicorn' status because of the inherent nature of business. COVID has had mixed results on new age unicorn ventures. It has helped drive digital megatrends and on the other hand also taken down a lot of companies which faced consumption level challenges. The goal for any venture should be to keep improving the core product offering to really address a core problem and improve the lives of others.

### Stronger Together as Us not Them

Too often we have a divisive us/them pitted against each other, but we are stronger when we unite and work together. The unfortunate trend in the last few years has been to look inward rather than outward for all problem-solving. This trend seems to continue post-COVID. The speakers of the panel agreed to the fact that a pandemic of such sorts should be tackled with help from all the countries together. We are living in



*Murat Seitnepesov, Chairman, Caspian Week, making a point*



*Panel 'Covid Pandemic and the Force of Impact Investing'*

a time where people have to focus both on individual and group reflections. Today, all issues have become political in nature, which has superseded the root cause of the problems. Leaders must realize that now is the time to support each other.

### **The Greater Caspian Region: Spearheading Shared Leadership**

The Greater Caspian Region has always been at the crossroads of geopolitical and economic interests of a number of major powers. **Murat Seitnepesov**, Chairman, Caspian Week, Switzerland, started the session by explaining what the Greater Caspian Region refers to. **Vladimir Kotenev**, Managing Director, EurAsian Strategic Consulting, Germany, started talking about the relationship between Uzbekistan and the Caspian region. He also mentioned the liberalization and market economic principles that his country has been adopting. **Matthew Bryza**, Senior Fellow, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Atlantic Council, USA, talked about the geopolitical activities in the region. He holds a positive outlook towards the region. The discussion ended with a panelist mentioning that the relationship with the South Asian region is increasing and the need for the same.

### **Reconstructing our Supply Chains**

Our supply chains have been broken by the COVID pandemic, by the de-globalization efforts of populist actions, and by conflicted global leadership – we must again rebuild. The session started with all of the panelists briefly mentioning about their backgrounds and how they are related to the Supply Chain world. Then the discussion started with focusing on what if Supply chains are broken in the context of the current normal. The broad consensus was that supply chains are constantly evolving and are bending rather than being broken. The discussion ended with panelists discussing issues for the SMEs in the constantly evolving world.

### **Being Competitive breeds Economic Leadership**

Being a leader comes from a sense of competitiveness and following through new ideas offering better economic values. All the panelists were of the belief that in times of crisis, leaders must show empathy and every person must be heard. During the pandemic female leaders have done a great job. They all believed that to overcome the challenges of the pandemic, public and private partnerships must be strengthened. Politicians have also shown great leadership during COVID-19. All speakers opined that



developed nations and developing nations must work together to overcome the virus which has brought the entire world to their knees. Technology will play a key role to re-vamp all the economic and business models.

## COVID Pandemic and the Force of Impact Investing

The lockdown chaos has altered the investment landscape but impact investment continues. Opening the discussion, **Leon Toh**, Executive Director, Damsen Capital, Singapore said, 'Impact investing, today, is about standing up for something instead of against, to enable change and empowerment.' 'There is a need for an overhaul of economic and investment models to survive pandemics such as COVID 19, with a global ESG standards benchmark for impact investing. Also, aside from the regular impact investors, religious entities are becoming a key investor segment', said **Ben Banerjee**, President and Co-Founder, SIIA, Switzerland. Finally, all panelists agreed that there is enough supply of funds to meet the demand for impact investments and to create a level playing field and encourage impact investments.



Navroop Sahdev, Founder  
and Chief Executive Officer,  
The Digital Economist



J. D. Gordon, Former Pentagon  
Spokesperson, USA



Amos Sawyer, Former President  
of Liberia

## Business Toughness During COVID-19

Strategic management is being tested during the unique COVID pandemic, and many firms demand more cash to be available to make their regular activities more resilient. The panel focused on how businesses have coped with disruption brought about by COVID 19. The panelists agreed that it was important for companies to instill a sense of safety and security amongst employees whilst working closely with their customers. The discussion on the role of governments in supporting businesses revealed that governments have tried to respond actively to the situation with policies and reforms. However, there is a need to do more.

**Tariq Ahmed Nizami**, Founder & CEO, CEO Clubs Network Worldwide, UAE, rightfully concluded, 'COVID 19 has been a wakeup call which required us to go back to the drawing board and rethink our strategies.'

## The Potentials for South Asia

All nations across South Asia have been battered by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as by geopolitical tension. Nevertheless, they offer hope for the world if they succeed in mutually beneficial growth. COVID-19 has spared no one, not even nations' organisations such as SAARC, affecting people's life and government policies both. With over 3 decades after formation of SAARC, the growth has been abysmal considering the population this region amasses. Collectively cooperation from friends, and belief in our own people is required to look for collective good. With channels like communication and transportations that need to be built faster, many unrealised potentials will bring prosperity by boosting many sectors such as energy, agriculture, and people's happiness.

## Developing leadership and inspiration

Global leaders are reluctant to inspire others to join in mutually beneficial ventures: nationalism and protectionism. The panelists started by pointing out that the bigger discussions should happen around a country's



Tariq Ahmed Nizami, Founder & CEO,  
CEO Clubs Network Worldwide, UAE





Keynote by *Martin Wolf*, Chief Economics Commentator, *Financial Times*



*Binod K. Chaudhary*, Chairman, Chaudhary Group, Nepal, chairing the plenary on South Asia



*Tatiana Valovaya*, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva

economy and not politics. Politics should enable people to make the right decisions for any country's economy. The development would happen through economics, bringing people together, and making life easier. Politicians generally put nationalism in front of other issues to cover up poor economic facts and development. However, people should understand these cues and work upon it. Global leaders should focus on priorities for the economy and leave out politics from the play to reap the best possible fruits for the citizens of the world.

### Plenary: The Global Imperative – How to Achieve the SDGs?

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted to protect the planet and mankind. **Rosalind Mathieson**, Executive Editor, International Government, Bloomberg News, UK opened the conversation by mentioning how countries globally are tackling SDG(s) during the pandemic. **Carmelo Abela**, Minister Within the Office of the Prime Minister, Malta mentioned that solutions for issues like job creation, socio-economic growth, and implementation of SDG should go hand in hand. **Ibrahima Guimba-Saidou**, Special Advisor to the President of Niger, Niger mentioned that they are focussed on leveraging technology to optimise resources

and create synergies in addressing SDG(s).

**Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland mentioned that pandemic was a wake up call and that we need SDG(s) more than ever.

### Plenary: Why we Must Think as Citizens

**Martin Wolf**, Chief Economics Commentator, UK, began by saying, 'I believe in the power of markets in economic globalization and in the western legacy of democracy. There has been a rise in populism and terrorism even in the core western countries and this is in no way independent of the effect on our economies.' He further added that the response to any economic crisis, will always unjustly bail out the financially strong and leave behind the rest to suffer. 'In thinking of ourselves or companies solely from a profits' point of view, the underlying values of a shared civic life will collapse. Thus we must think of ourselves as citizens and make wiser decisions for the welfare of our society.'

### Global Coordination to Conquer the Effects of COVID

This discussion was held to understand how the globe is coordinating during the pandemic and what needs to improve.



Rosalind Mathieson, Executive Editor,  
International Government, Bloomberg News,  
chairing a plenary panel



Carmelo Abela, Minister Within the Office  
of the Prime Minister, Malta



Senida Mesi, Deputy Chair European Integration Committee  
of Parliament, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Albania

**Vicente Abad**, CEO, Romantic Capital, Spain, informed that there is a lack of global coordination. Leaders must effectively handle the healthcare and the economic crisis, and come up with sustainable solutions that benefit the entire world. **Jayesh Ranjan**, Principal Secretary, Government of Telangana, India spoke about the immunisation and distribution strategy of the vaccine. **Hedwige Nuyens**, MD of the International Banking Federation UK, spoke about how the banking industry is playing a positive role, especially after shifting to digital platforms. **Christoph Stueckelberger**, Founder, Globethics.net Foundation, Switzerland, highlighted how the UN and other global institutions failed to protect economies during the pandemic.

### Social Investment for Competitive Green Economies

**Senida Mesi**, Member of Parliament, Albania began talking about how we as a society must contribute to the recovery of the world. Governments too invest in people skills and improve communities intellectually. Green economies are a huge opportunity and governments should invest more in such projects. **Ingrid Rodriguez**, Founder, Eikonic, Australia, said that the world should get back to an economy which is greener



Manish Kothari, President,  
SRI International

and socially inclusive and build an ecosystem where health is kept paramount. **Mridula Ramesh**, Founder, Sundaram Climate Institute, India, said we need to act locally to change globally. **Sein-Way Tan**, Chairman, Green World City, Australia spoke about how he advises governments around the world to conduct green initiatives like preserving biodiversity or sustainably using the land.

### Building Peace

**Ahmad Wali Masoud**, Chairman, Massoud Foundation, Afghanistan, opened the discussion highlighting the importance of peace. He said that, due to political rivalry, Afghanistan hasn't had peace since years. However with the help of the world community, he believes peace will settle. **Canon Sarah Snyder**, Archbishop of Canterbury's Adviser for Reconciliation, UK, suggested we must accept people undergoing disruptive times, understand their differences and devise collaborative strategies to attain sustainable peace. **Sekai Holland**, Chairperson of Board of Trustees, Zimbabwe Peacebuilding Initiative, Zimbabwe, stated that in Zimbabwe, the impact of COVID-19 has resulted in conducting peace-builder programs. **Faisal Bin Muaammar**, Secretary General,



*Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Former President of Iceland, chairing the plenary Transforming a New Global Awareness*



*Faisal Bin Muaammar, Secretary General, KAICIID Dialogue Centre, Austria*



*Rt Hon The Lord Barker of Battle, Executive Chairman, En+ Group*

KAICIID Dialogue Centre, Austria, expressed that peace should be a lifestyle which can be established by believing that peace is good for humanity.

## COVID-19: The Elephants in the Room

New strategic analyses are needed to cope with unknowns, or events with ‘Elephants in the Room’ having consequences that are imagined but suppressed. The COVID pandemic had demonstrated the interconnected nature of our world. This situation showed us how the leaders across the world have failed us in the time of pandemic and highlighted the flaws of our system. Due to lockdown small businesses and the economy have been affected. ‘This pandemic has turned out to be the biggest unknown,’ said **Shailendra Goswami**, Chairman, Pushkaraj Group, India. These times have also shown us how the existing capital system does not work. People need to take this opportunity to reconstruct our society so that we don’t make the same mistakes.

## Deriving Ideas for Start-ups

Pre-pandemic, startups were really a face to face activity. **Ben Costantini**, CEO, Startup Sesame, France, opined that startups

can really pivot quickly. He said that start-ups are really like any other business but with newer business models and technologies.

**Liesbet Peeters**, Managing Partner, Volta Capital, UK, mentioned that in addition to virtual happy hours and team moments, being able to build in deliberate moments throughout the workday is important.

**Ivy Ruth Inogada**, Founder, Synergistic Technologies, The Philippines, spoke about how businesses and startups in the Philippines are trying to move online.

**Yoshiki Sasaki**, CEO, Japan Strategic Capital, Japan, said that the business environment in Japan has been traditional. Nevertheless he believes that it will push Japanese people to turn to digital modes of working.

## Digitalization for the Economic Recovery

**Ganesh Natarajan**, Chairman, 5F World, India, opened the discussion speaking about digital transformation. **Lorenz Granrath**, Coordinator, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan, mentioned that digitalisation will change the whole process of conducting activities. He also mentioned that digitalisation will help tackle global warming and fluctuations in renewable energy. **Usama**



*Courtney Fingar, Editor-in-chief FDI, NS Media Group, United Kingdom*





*Adi Ignatius, Editor-in-Chief, Harvard Business Review, chairing the panel in Armenia*



*Lord Karan Bilimoria, President, Confederation of British Industry*

**Fayyad**, CEO, Open Insights, USA, mentioned that the pandemic has shown companies how digitalisation can aid them. Challenges related to internal interaction too are being solved digitally. **Rob Leslie**, Founder, Sedicii, Ireland, mentioned that COVID-19 has compelled organizations to think about what they need to do together as customers and citizens to move into fully digital capabilities. **Mohit Joshi**, President, Infosys, UK mentioned that investment in technology and digitalisation has risen.

### Regeneration or Evolution of Cities

**Catherine Carlton**, Council Member, Menlo Park, USA, began the session by expressing her thoughts on the importance of thinking about the positive impacts of COVID in cities around the world. The moderator, **Sergio A. Fernández**, Chairman, P3SmartCity & PVBLIC Foundation, USA, asked the panelists how they feel COVID has affected different cities. Interesting responses were received, from comments about climate change, digitalization and education. Digitalization has helped companies make major progress. 'Smart living' is perhaps the new future and individuals have to be self aware. The most severe situations have been in the bigger cities.

### UK: Brainstorming on the Future, post-Brexit

The Brexit process, which began in 2016 will end by December 2020. In this discussion, **David Lidington**, Former Minister for the Cabinet Office, UK, asked the speakers where they think the UK currently stands. **Baroness Susan Kramer**, Member of the House of Lords, UK, said it can be possible to invest in jobs. Globally customers want the quality of European countries, in the context of trade industry. **Lord Karan Bilimoria**, President, Confederation of British Industry, UK, said security benefits are good and the UK is a global power. 'Change in Britain is a challenge which we always had', said **Jeffries Briginshaw**, CEO, Transatlantic Business Britain, UK. **Mike Butcher**, Editor-at-large, TechCrunch, UK, added that investments in the UK must be exponential.

### Advancing Armenia's Knowledge-based Economy

The discussion was moderated by Mr. **Adi Ignatius**, Editor-in-Chief, Harvard Business Review, USA, who briefed the panel about Armenia's GDP growth in 2019 which was at 8 % and had it not been for the pandemic, Armenia's GDP would have



*Franya E. Cabral-Ruiz, President, Solid Investments Group, Portugal, chairing the panel on the African Peace Engineering Corps*



*Pedro Siza Vieira, Minister of Economy, Portugal*



*Cliff Prior, Chief Executive Officer, Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG)*

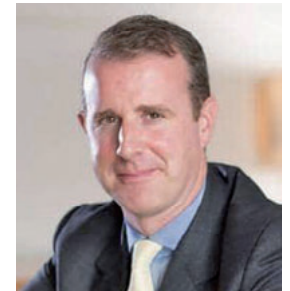
grown again. The focus in Armenia is to help teenagers be on top of learning and technology. Currently, over 40,000 students are being trained to use high technology to achieve sustainability, help the economy grow and invent for the future. **Armen Sarkissian**, President of Armenia, said that Armenia's future will lie in the hands of the young generation.

### **Sustainable Development: Unlikely Collaborators and Innovators**

**Lou Marinoff**, Professor of Philosophy, City College of New York, USA, commenced the discussion by asking the speakers how their organisations have been forging unlikely collaborations in the light of the pandemic or how they have explored new dimensions of the existing collaborations for a much needed sustainable development of the society. Various speakers pondered upon the importance of collaborations with small business, investments in individual entrepreneurs to ensure their survival. The rapid digitisation due to the pandemic has also been helping in providing access and affordability of good products to the rural areas. Participation of this sector in the development of the economy is key and these cannot be left behind for a holistic growth.

### **Inspirational Leadership through and beyond COVID-19**

An inspirational leader serves the needs of his / her employees, listens, and develops trust. People want world leaders to be authentic. Panellist **Emma Arakelyan**, Co-founder, Orion Worldwide Innovations, USA, mentioned that learnings create good leadership potential. Inspirational leaders have to make decisions responsibly and leadership is a lifestyle, more than a position of responsibility. In COVID times, inspirational leaders are the ones that are responsible, change agents, and positive thought leaders. They should inspire by driving the change. During the pandemic times, leaders have understood core strengths and weaknesses of their team and have supported them through the times. Inspirational leadership doesn't necessarily mean driving big changes but means more of driving small changes with consistency, integrity and grit.



*William Hobbs, Chief Investment Officer, Barclays Investment Solutions*

### **An Avenue for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development: The African Peace Engineering Corps**

Over the past decade, Africa has seen an encouraging shift in global narrative. However, and in spite of the overall progress, there are still significant challenges related to peace



Barbara Ann Bernard, Chief Executive Officer,  
Wincrest Capital, Bahamas



Chris Morris, Senior, Correspondent, BBC News



HH Princess Martha Louise of Norway

and security. The panel talks about the broad topic of Collective African Development and the role of African Peace Engineering Corps in the same. Some interesting thoughts were mentioned in the discussion that, African countries are more and more invested in peacekeeping than they had been some years before. The panellists discussed the collective way forward and how a joint effort could bring prosperity to Africa as a whole.

### Strengthening Foreign Direct Investment

Even before the COVID pandemic, global GDP was falling and thus the appetite for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The discussion on 'Strengthening FDI' started with **Bindu Dalmia**, National Chairperson, Committee for Financial Inclusion, Niti Aayog, India, giving a glaring forecast that 40 % of future FDI in the medium term is expected to be lost which was supposed to come to the developing countries otherwise. Then the panel continued to discuss the challenges faced by / expected by the developed and developing countries. The panel also discussed how the countries could overcome the challenges and manage an effective re-calibration of the society and its value chains.

### We are Living Longer

In the 1900s global life-expectancy was only 31 years, now it exceeds 72 years. The discussion on 'We are Living Longer' started with **Kenji Yokoyama**, President, Association of Asia Pacific Business Schools, Japan, giving a brief about the topics in discussion. He elaborated on basic facts such as the highest life expectancy of people in any country across the world. The discussion was carried on by **Gary M. Phillips**, CEO, OrphoMed Inc, USA, talking about risks of longevity. **Tina Woods**, Director General, All Party Parliamentary Group for Longevity, UK, talked about non communicable chronic diseases and to be able to be shielded from that. The discussion concluded with **Tanya König**, Journalist, Switzerland, reiterating the need for a better social security system across the world.

### Rekindling Education Post-COVID

Education has seen unprecedented change during the COVID 19 pandemic. Institutions have tried to digitise their curriculum. Mediums such as zoom, google classrooms have become mediums of delivery. Digital transformation strategy is a must to enable a smooth transition into this new normal. **Marklen Konurbaev**, Professor, Moscow State University, Russia, suggested





*Spriha Srivastava, Executive Editor for Europe, Business Insider, sharing the plenary on Climate Change Commitments*



*Special Address by Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister of Cape Verde*

that traditional institutions must focus on a niche group of students and colleges, and vocational institutes on others. This will help build better quality candidates. India has framed a new education policy and it is revolutionary. A lot of emphasis is put on project based learning. However, in a country like India it poses several challenges. But the intent of the policy is excellent.

### **Lunch Plenary: Climate Change Commitments have not Receded**

**Spriha Srivastava**, Executive Editor for Europe, Business Insider, UK commenced the discussion by playing a video message from **Petteri Taalas**, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland. **Kirila Echegaray**, Minister of Environment, Peru mentioned that Peru has been taking firm steps to tackle climate change and has executed 154 implementation and adaptation measures identified by NDC. A higher level commission for climate change too, has been put in place he said. **Diego Mesa**, Minister of Mines and Energy, Colombia mentioned that Columbia has framed a policy matrix to include unconventional sources of renewable energy. He also mentioned that they are promotional sustainable mobility. He stated that

COVID-19 has helped in climate change initiatives since people are more conscious about impact of their activities on climate

### **Plenary: Special Address by Ulisses Correia e Silva**

**Ulisses Correia e Silva**, Prime Minister, Cape Verde, spoke about Cape Verde which is a small developing state that has a vast diaspora in the USA, Europe and Africa. He mentioned that it is an attractive state for tourists and investors. Investors have a huge confidence in the foreign policy of the state due to its location it benefits from the neighbouring countries. Its currency is pegged to the euro. They have a strong strategic partnership with Europe and are working on building the relationship further. Prior to COVID-19 their economy grew at 5 % majority due to private investment. Also the state spent huge amount of time and money to build human capital. This has led to the constant grow in the economy

### **Plenary: Special Address by Juan Guaidó**

Speaker **Juan Guaido**, Interim President of Venezuela; President of the National Assembly of Venezuela, said COVID-19 brought with it a new normal and exacer-





*Special Address by Iliana Iotova, Vice President of Bulgaria*

bated the friction existing between the developed and developing nations of the world. He said the pandemic has revealed the weaknesses prevalent in the world. He believes one can overcome many challenges only by understanding what lies in front. He continued to say that lack of basic amenities has made it very difficult for the workers to perform their job correctly. Hence the government is trying to handle this crisis so the work can be carried out properly and save Venezuela. More than one million citizens have left the country due to the crimes against humanity.

### **Plenary: Special Address by Iliana Iotova**

During this session, **Iliana Iotova**, VP of Bulgaria, Bulgaria, said that, 'Unite' 'Inspire' and 'Create' are the three main things we as a community must do to overcome the pandemic crisis. The reason for the protest for COVID is the lack of trust and we do not have much information. The crisis provided an X Ray view on the fragility of the international organisation. A clear lack of leadership was demonstrated among the global elite. Inequalities and gaps grew due to the virus. However, at present, stability of the state, guarantor of human rights, security and defending the public interest is of most importance.



*Ibrahim AlHusseini, Founder, FullCylce, USA*

### **Plenary: Celebrating UN 75 – Multilateralism in Times of COVID**

To mark its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary the United Nation is conducting a global conversation across borders. The onset of COVID has brought a new urgency to this conversation, highlighting even more benefits of multi-lateralism. The world stands at pivot point as COVID 19 continues to challenge us on our health system, society and economy. Meanwhile the impact of climate change is causing slower but greater damage to our world. Social inequalities and impact of digital technology are disrupting and testing the capacity of our institution. These global challenges require global solutions. International cooperation is vital for this global challenge. Tackling immediate health challenges and long-term new challenges of climate environment, cyber, nuclear and international terrorism is a key role for better future.

### **Plenary Keynote: The Significance of the Abraham Accords**

This session recognized the importance of maintaining and strengthening peace in the Middle-East. **Brian Hook**, Senior Advisor to the US Secretary of State, USA, spoke about the region's developments and its relevance. The US President's visit to Riyadh



Brian Hook, Senior Advisor to the US Secretary of State, speaking about the Abraham Accords

in 2019 was focused on countering extreme Islamism, countering Iran, and defeating ISIS; a terrorist army placed in the heart of the Middle East. In addition to these threats, the Middle East was looking to invest in their people. He concluded the session by stating that focusing on shared interests and standing up to the threats and working towards harmony is the way forward to ensure people in the middle east reap the benefits of peace like the rest of the world.

### Catalyzing Capitalism through Public-Private Partnerships

Highlighting the reasons behind the global infrastructure deficit, **Teresa Ribeiro**, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal, started the discussion by stating the importance of public and private investments to create a robust recovery fund. **Alan Lau**, President, Anglo Euro Energi Indonesia, Indonesia, said that the present practice of PPP for infrastructure practices mainly stresses on the value for money factor. **Nico Anten**, Executive Chairman, Connekt, Netherlands, said that post-lockdown, even after 95 % of infrastructure usage was resumed, there was no traffic. This indicated behavioural change in people. **Peter McGill**, Contributing Editor, The Banker, UK, suggested that ideas by start-ups must be used to create sustainable projects.



Session 'Catalyzing Capitalism through Public-Private Partnerships'

### Developing Emotional and Cultural Intelligence during the Pandemic

**Maxim Kiselev**, Professor, Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, Russia, started the discussion by highlighting the significance of emotional and cultural intelligence and its correlation with one's success and ability to cope with the struggles one faces, especially during the challenging times of pandemic. **Carolyn Buck**, Co-founder of Imaginal Labs, USA, added courage is the critical link between emotional and cultural intelligence that enables us to progress in fearful times. **Elizabeth Markle**, Executive Director, Open Source Wellness, USA, emphasized the interpersonal and intra-personal components in emotional and cultural intelligence and how it transpires in our workplaces. **Long Viet Nguyen**, Deputy CEO, Becamex IDC, Vietnam, said that the pandemic gave people the opportunity to reflect on their personal relationships and rekindle them.



Ziad Alexandre Hayek, Vice Chairman, United Nations Working Party on Private Public Partnerships

### Strategic Infrastructure Investment

The coronavirus pandemic is triggering a reshuffling of investment priorities for governments around the globe, forcing leaders to make critical decisions about whether to divert funds from long standing infrastructure projects. As budgets are



*Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General,  
World Meteorological Organization*



*Teresa Ribeiro, Secretary of State  
of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal*



*Gabriel Quijandria, Vice Minister of Strategic Development  
of Natural Resources, Peru*

stretched to serve emergency medical needs, governments are having to find new ways to make sure essential infrastructure projects can keep going, from the restoration of crumbling bridges to the renovation of run-down public schools. 'In terms of leadership, we should encourage public private discussion, public people and private people discussion' said **Michael Wilson**, Managing Partner, The Migson Group, Ghana. Private-public partnerships and targeted federal funding will play a key role in development of infrastructure.

### **Inflection Points: Profit and Purpose in a Pandemic**

**Ryan Villanueva**, Co-Founder, Best Delegate, USA opened the conversation. **Nikhil Hirdaramani**, Director, Hirdaramani Group, Sri Lanka said that COVID-19 has made sustainability paramount for businesses. **Marsha Ralls**, Founder, The Phoenix Wellness Retreat, USA, mentioned that COVID-19 has created opportunities for businesses. **Cristina Calvo**, Founding Partner, ASUAire.com, Costa Rica, stated that though the pandemic affected the travel industry the most, it helped them pivot their conversations from an earning perspective. **Ai Ling Wong**, Founder, The



*Susan Rockefeller, Founder,  
Musings, USA*

Decorateur, Malaysia, said that given the change in political landscape in the country, they were well prepared with precautionary measures beforehand. **Alan Young**, CEO, Armor Concepts, USA, mentioned that COVID-19 helped his business exploit opportunities. **Amer Nasereddin**, Co-founder, Primus, Jordan mentioned that COVID-19 is the new normal now.

### **United Nations: The Next 75 years... for our Children and Grandchildren**

The topic of discussion revolved around migration, job creations, minority and women. In the next 75 years, children and grandchildren of today's generation will struggle for jobs. **Peter Samuels**, CEO, FilmCo Media LLC, USA asked **Simon Levy**, Chairman, The Ideasia Fund, Mexico, on how humans will create value, new sources of labour, and understand the logic of investments widened over the world. **Fabrizio Hochschild**, Under-Secretary General, United Nations, US, said we need to regain trust and ask how children are going to innovate in future. Peter Samuels spoke positively of sustainable living and mindful expenditure to make sure the upcoming generations are paid back what we spend now.



## Business Transformation to Champion Social Change

This panel consisted of members who have dedicated their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and control the drastic climate change. The discussion revolved around the paper written by **Karan Girotra**, Professor of Management, Cornell Johnson College of Business, USA, 'Business Transformation to Champion Social Change', which defines methods on how businesses can transform to reduce their negative impacts on society. Some of the methods include taking a step as early as possible, acknowledging the environmental impacts of their actions, doing an externalities audit to understand the impacts and to experiment and explore with new models within the house. This way leaders will be able to better understand their responsibilities, and enable their organizations to respond to them authentically through holistic transformation.

## Preparing for an Entrepreneurial Gale Post-COVID

Innovation is necessary for competitive survival using new ideas, models or services, however, many companies have failed because of external dependencies. **David Dorr**, Co-Founder, Coro Global Inc, USA, stated that COVID has removed the stigma of WFH and distributed teams, and the individual productivity has boosted because of better work-life balance. **Tris Dyson**, Founder and Managing Director, Nesta Challenges, UK, mentioned how the entrepreneurial community has come together to support each other and innovators are pivoting to newer opportunities. **Adriaan Ligtenberg**, Founder and Chairman, SparkHealth, Netherlands, said that a flexible workforce is core to a successful organization, and since COVID is here to stay, the workforce should understand the scenario and abide by it for a conducive environment.



United Nations – The Next 75 years...for our Children and Grandchildren

## Spearheading South-South Cooperation to overcome the COVID Crisis

**Borzou Dargahi**, Correspondent, The Independent, UK, commenced the session highlighting the mishandling of pandemic by the developed countries. He questioned the panelists, 'What can developing countries learn from this failure of the developed nations?' **José da Silva Goncalves**, Former Minister of Economy and Employment, Cape Verde, mentioned that rather than viewing neighbours as competitors, countries must support them. **Ajmal Shams**, President, Afghan Social Democratic Party, Afghanistan, spoke about efforts the US and the Afghanistan government are taking to reach a political settlement to bring peace in Afghanistan. **Sérgio Sá Leitão**, State Secretary of Culture, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, spoke of Brazil's role in improving the South-South situation. He laid importance on cultural, diplomatic and economic relations between under-developed countries in the South.



Ann Winblad, Managing Partner, Hummer Winblad Venture Partners, USA

## Redefining Human Resources Management as Human Relations

**Timothy J. Nichol**, Dean, Liverpool Business School, UK, began by speaking about the emerging challenges in Human



*Ryan Villanueva, Co-Founder, Best Delegate, USA*



*Robert Scharfe, Chief Executive Officer,  
Luxembourg Stock Exchange, Luxembourg*



*Fabrizio Hochschild, Under-Secretary General,  
Special Adviser on Preparations for 75th*

Resource Management (HRM) and how it has to change with the changing role of an organisation. **Shoummo K Acharya**, CEO, eTrans Solutions, India, mentioned the need to cooperate with the employees and build compassion so as to build a dynamic work - space. A new aspect that has come forward in HRM is more involvement in the internal family affairs as the workplace is blending with home. That is the note on which the discussion ended.

### **Leading the Future of Finance Post-COVID**

The purpose of this session was to discuss COVID, the economy and how to collaborate. **James McCaughan**, Asset Management Executive, USA, highlighted that the role of markets during a financial crisis is that of a shock-absorber. He hoped that the financial sector sees this crisis as an opportunity to address the larger problems of financial inequality and financial inclusion. **Robert Scharfe**, CEO, Luxembourg Stock Exchange, Luxembourg, agreed to the opinion that financial markets held the fort strong. COVID-19 has accelerated the change in behaviour of manufacturers, consumers and governments alike. However, there is a disconnect between private public Partnership which is key. **Alejandro Valenzuela**,

CEO, Banco Azteca, Mexico, highlighted the need for regulation in digital markets.

### **The Middle East – a Quest for Redevelopment**

The panel discussed what the future holds for the Middle East, whether it would achieve financial equilibrium and how it could unite and inspire creativity. The panelists agreed that it is a diverse region with some commonalities. **Ahmed Emara**, Founder, Group CEO & MD, ReAya Holding, Saudi Arabia, said that the Middle East is well set for success. However, the pace of achievement of success and financial equilibrium would vary across the region because of its diversity. Innovation could be fostered through education of the young



*Alejandro Valenzuela, Chief Executive Officer,  
Banco Azteca, Mexico*



*Deborah Wince-Smith, President, United States Council on Competitiveness*



*Viljar Lubi, Vice Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia*



*Hafsat Abiola Costello, President, Women in Africa, Nigeria*

population. Finally, energy collaboration and entrepreneurship could help the region forge ahead.

## Overcoming Gender Inequality

**Meryem Illayda Atlas**, Editorial Coordinator, Daily Sabah, Turkey, stated that the pandemic affected women more than men and the disproportionate economic and psychological burden on women must be resolved. **Cindy Gallop**, Co-Founder of IfWeRanTheWorld, USA, highlighted that in spite of sexual harassment being a grave concern is hardly dealt with. **Janine de Nysschen**, GM of Sweden Ghana Medical Centre, Ghana encouraged all to change the narrative of ‘empowering disempowered women’ to ‘empowering the already capable women’. **Bukky Shonibare**, Executive Director, Invictus Africa, Nigeria, said that the 3 ps – poverty patriarchy and power, are the factors that affect women everywhere. **Ray Walshe**, Chair of Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, UNECE, Ireland, concluded stating the need to break down the society-constructed barriers for young girls.

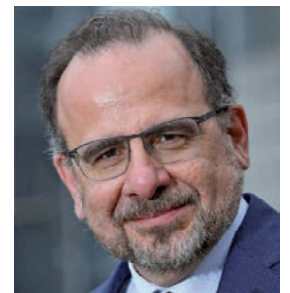
## The Changing Future of Work

The session discussed the various challenges to the future work in an ever-changing job

market. The panel opined that there are multiple challenges for the future of work particularly from newer technologies such as AI and Robotics. Thus, many jobs will become obsolete whilst jobs that require human intervention and management will survive. Technology is the engine of future work but it has its own limitations in the sense that many jobs cannot be done digitally sitting at home. Those who adapt to changes will survive and prosper whilst the underprivileged and recalcitrant to newer technologies will fall wayside. The message was, ‘the big changes together in a spirit of solidarity and human welfare shall be the main focus.’

## Developing Deep Learning while in Isolation

**Mark Mueller-Eberstein**, Founder, Adgetec Corporation, USA, opened the discussion about occurrence of challenges in AI due to COVID-19. **Michelle N. Moore**, Founder, MindeEquity, Canada stated the importance of human interaction over asynchronous communication. **Lila Tretikov**, Corporate VP, Microsoft, USA, spoke about the importance of bringing everyone together to level up the playing field. **Toufi Saliba**, CEO, Toda.Network, USA, quoted, ‘Ask any AI or ML developer in the



*Luca Jahier, President, European Economic and Social Committee*





Baroness Susan Kramer,  
Member of the House of Lords, UK



Nina Angelovska, Former Minister of Finance,  
Co-founder, Grouper.mk, North Macedonia



Guy Hands, Founder and Chairman, Terra Firma Capital Partners

world and they will say that every AI built can repurpose itself to improve which is a big fear and every developer must understand their responsibility to make their product more secure'. Further, Michelle concluded expressing the fear of humans losing wisdom sensing and perception of the human body which makes AI real.

### Sustainable Development Goal Number Three

**Scott Rosenstein**, Professor, Bard College, USA, spoke of UN's 3rd SDG that focuses on healthcare and whose success depended on access to innovative treatments and ability to deal with chronic and infectious disease outbreaks like COVID-19. **Pam Randhawa**, Founder, Empiriko Corporation, USA, suggested developing a comprehensive reform to build global public healthcare infrastructure to prevent or handle such pandemics well in the future. **Jussi Määttä**, Founder, Buddy Healthcare, Finland, added that digital health and telemedicine solutions have proven effective during pandemic and have also reduced the treatment cost. **Anh Hoang**, Co-Founder, Sofregen Medical, USA, stated that the urgency of vaccine development for COVID-19 has challenged the world and stated the need to deploy capital to develop these facilities.

### Managing Funds in the Post-COVID Era

Talking about 'Managing Funds in the Post-COVID Era', **Guy Hands**, Founder, Terra Firma Capital Partners, UK, said that the world is entering a significantly darker period over the next few decades in comparison to the last 100 years. He said that this would be the new normal and highlighted how the upcoming troubling times will make people exhibit unique investment behaviors. **Barbara Ann Bernard**, CEO, Wincrest Capital, Bahamas, took a contrasting perspective, by saying she was more optimistic on how the future would play out and its effect on investments. **Marie Dzanis**, CEO, Northern Trust Global Investments, UK, highlighted how the outcomes of the US elections will play a key role in the investment climate.



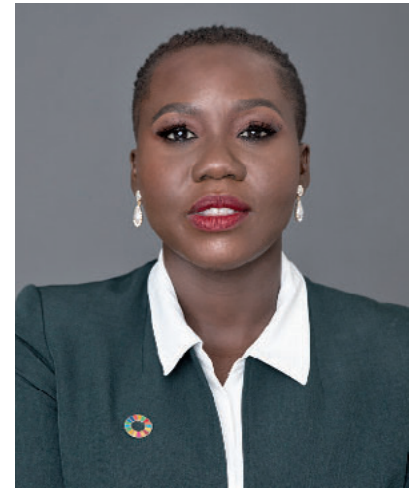
Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Former President of Latvia



*Ibukun Awosika, Chairman, First Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria*



*Peter J R Aylwin, Director, Aetos Limited*



*Blessing Omakwu, Deputy Director, Goalkeepers, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA*

## The Revitalization of Africa

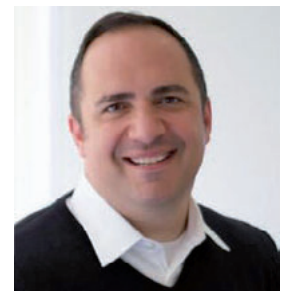
COVID-19 has identified some key elements in African continent which need immense attention from everyone. The biggest challenge for them is improving their educational system. When their youngest force will get access to quality education, it will provide the world with huge potential. This can be achieved through technology. E-commerce is another challenge, further, people don't have proper infrastructure.

## Blended Financing for our Future Benefit

There is \$ 9 trillion of unused capital due to the COVID-19 which has hampered fund deployment. At the same time, central banks have deployed trillions to support COVID-related causes, vastly increasing national debts. Panelists started by discussing the role of blended finance, i.e. creating a bridge between the private sector and the public sector and synergizing the overall effect of monetary profits as well as long-term social goals. Blended finance will help in the overall sustainable growth and the private sector because higher funds need to be involved to fill the funding gaps. Companies are also adopting systematic approaches and mechanisms to achieve social development goals.

## Triple Bottom Line Investments for Family Offices

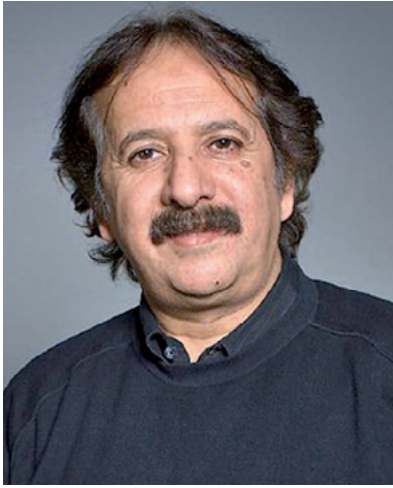
**Peter J R Aylwin**, Director, Aetos Limited, UK, started with talking about the substantial growth of family businesses since 10-15 years. Speaking about Triple Bottom Line Investments, **David de Rothschild**, Founder, Voice for Nature, UK, said the market is a hot space with key movements. **Richard Sobel**, Managing Partner, Altai Capital, Russia, stated that he is optimistic about ESG, and triple bottom line. **Kevin McGovern**, Founder, McGovern Capital, USA, mentioned that he likes people who work together. It's all about the team and the values he added. **Joseph Hernandez**, Impact Investor and Entrepreneur, USA, said that the field of medicines is an important investment in the years to come. **Helena Montgomery**, Principal, Montgomery Investments, USA, highlighted the importance of using technologies across sectors.



*Aaron Sherinian, Vice President  
Global Communications Transformation,  
Philip Morris International*

## Our Changing Needs for Fulfilment

**Alexandra Fattal**, Innovation Consultant, Italy, commenced the discussion by talking about individuals having different abilities and needs and how they are under-fulfilled. **Simone Cipriani**, Founder, ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative, Switzerland, stated that now is the right time to invest in the supply



*Majid Majidi, Film Director, Producer and Screenwriter, Iran*



*Ashutosh Gowariker, Film Director, Actor, Screenwriter and Producer, India*



*Pat Mitchell, Founder and Partner, Connected Women Leaders, chairing a panel on Closing the Gap on Gender Equality*

chain. **Vandana Harris**, Lawyer and Investment & Inclusion Executive, USA, said that 2020 taught her the importance of self-care and self-growth. **Patricia Bonaert**, Enlightener, MixR.net, Italy, said that the world has become contactless and now the technology is connecting people, which isn't a real connection. Talking about measuring fulfilment, **Neelima Parasker**, President and CEO, SnapIT Solutions, USA, concluded that it's almost like measuring success or happiness, it's completely inward. Now, the only fulfilling thing for all is spending time with family.

### **Ethics in a Troubled Depersonalized World**

In a world where relationships between people and machines have become so foggy, the realm of ethical challenge in different aspects from military to religion is very important. We face two difficult questions of scope and depth. There is increasing research on the subject of how to include the dimension of ethics in technological advancements, which is a good sign. From a spiritual perspective, faith is central to religion. It does not matter where philosophy comes from, it might be a book, religion, or organization. Ethics is more in line to the quality of humanity and nature,

rather than religion and region or any other human aspect.

### **Closing the Gap on Gender Equality and Women's Leadership**

Addressing gender inequality cannot be a part of the agenda, but the agenda. We need to act at every level, government, local or individual, to address this issue. One organization working towards achieving this is CARE. It is working towards raising women's voices, by helping local organizations and conducting press conferences. It also means ensuring women are always at the table and working with the private sector. Inequality exists in every form, like access to capital and markets for women. Gender based violence is increasing. Healthcare is overburdened. If we have to go far, partnership and coordination is essential. One good thing is there are more pathways for the private sector to work towards and achieve gender equality.

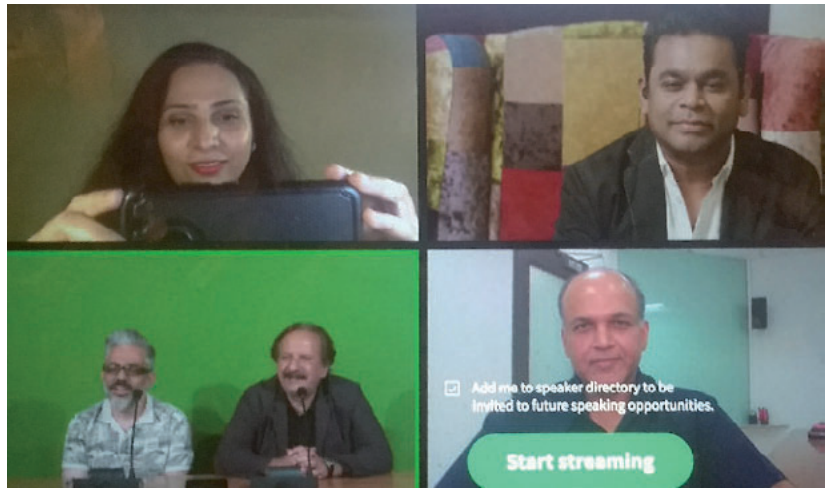
### **Fostering Purpose through Movies**

**Majid Majidi**, Film Director, Producer, and Screenwriter, Iran opened the discussion by saying that art's philosophical appeal lies in the fact that it's spiritual side can touch audiences across the world, irrespective of





*A R Rahman, Composer, Singer and Music Producer, India*



*Panel 'Fostering Purpose through Movies'*

politics. He expressed worry about prejudice affecting art and encouraged open-minded dialogue. **Priya Samant**, Impact Advisor and Director, Sequoia Applied Technologies, USA, said that cinema is a powerful tool for cultural awareness and advocacy.

**Ashutosh Gowariker**, Film Director, Screenwriter and Producer, India, expressed that Indian cinema is in the phase of reviving cultural issues and good propaganda while entertaining. **A R Rahman**, Composer, Singer and Music Producer, India, said that there are still a lot of life-changing stories to be explored through movies.

### Driving Social Innovation through Inspiration

**Yves Decadt**, CEO of BioLingus, Switzerland, opened the discussion talking about bringing innovative technologies to socially challenging markets. **Abdulaziz Albakr**, Chairman, BMT, Saudi Arabia, expressed the need for sustainable entrepreneurship. **Nathalie Goethals**, Founder of iDROPS, Belgium, said, every person has exceptional potential and that social innovators must help people achieve it. She spoke about the importance of framing flexible business and financial models. **Jeanette Fangel Løgstrup**, Non-executive Director, JP Politikens Hus, Denmark, believes that

social entrepreneurs are the ones who will drive the world. **Jordi Ràfols**, CEO, Innoget.com, Spain, added that social innovations must be the driving force and must have a solid agenda. **Riccarda Zezza**, CEO, Lifeed, Italy, said that entrepreneurs flourish when they find meaning in their work.

### Harnessing Migration for Business and Employment

**Mohana Prabhakar**, Founder, Meissa Creative Services, Oman opened the conversation stating that today approximately 3.5 % of the world's population are migrants, and although recently non-economic factors have been the reason behind migration, economic migration still accounts for the majority of that 3.5 %. **Royston Flude**, President, CSPOC, Switzerland, suggested that helping people discover their potential, and viewing the situation with love and kindness is important. **Egemen Bagis**, Member of the High Level Advisory Council, UN Alliance of Civilizations, Turkey, said that migration is advantageous because immigrants bring in new trades, investments, arts and crafts, which contributes to the social fabric of countries. The panel also spoke about how women migrants are very important as they bring an empathetic aspect to decisions.



Avi Basu, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Wingsure



Gaia Melikian



Panel 'Driving Social Innovation through Inspiration'

## Bridging the Digital Divide

**Avi Basu**, Founder, Wingsure, USA, opened the discussion revealing that half the world's population lacks access to the internet. This digital divide is an extension of racial, gender, social, and economic divide, opined **Nnenna Nwakanman**, Chief Web Advocate, World Wide Web Foundation, USA. The reasons for the digital divide are multifarious. **Jovan Kurbalija**, Executive Director, Secretariat of the UN's Panel on Digital Cooperation, Switzerland, emphasised that governments should provide digital access to people. **Armen Orujyan**, CEO, Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology, Armenia, pointed out digital vulnerability where governments control the internet to form public opinion for their political gain. The internet is a very powerful tool which requires international cooperation to ensure digital access without any biases.



Brett Johnson, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Altru Institute, USA

## Building Partnerships for Food Security

The discussion began with the causes of world hunger and **Steven Melnik**, Founder, PoliticalAndBusinessDiplomacy.org, USA, highlighted that lack of food is not really the reason. **Adhrita Nowrin**, Founder, Innsaei Capital, UK, said, 'the issue is: No

free trade, lack of proper supply chain and distribution channel for food among many countries.' Technology can partly solve this issue. Further, **Stiphan Beher**, Former Adviser of President of Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyzstan, said, 'The problem is with the system and design. Earlier we did not have sound infrastructure and information, but now we need more people who are interested in improving the systems of agriculture.' The discussion concluded with panelists agreeing that the society needs to change, reduce usage, and find sustainable alternatives.

## Maintaining a Start-up Nation's Impetus Post-COVID

**Martin Giles**, Senior Editor CIO Network, Forbes, USA, started the session with **Luba Greenwood**, Lecturer, Harvard University, USA, who quoted 'Collaboration is key.' All governments need to come together to sustain and keep performing. **Pernille Hippe Brun**, Founder, Momentu, Denmark and **Svana Gunnarsdóttir**, Founding Partner, Frumtak Ventures, Iceland, emphasised on the unique ideas and innovations that collaboration brings to the forefront. **Yuan Mingli**, Co-Founder, ColorfulClouds Tech Co., China, spoke about the current opportunities that the



*Martin Giles, Senior Editor CIO Network, Forbes, USA*



*Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, USA*



*John Harris, Co-founder, Politico, chairing the plenary 'The US – On the Brink of Change'*

pandemic has birthed for delivery services. **Suman Bose**, Co-founder, GoFar Advisory and Investments, Singapore, quoted, 'today we have an opportunity to press the reset button' and include collaborations, improve performance, eliminate the pressure and competition and change things for the better.

### Plenary: The US – On the Brink of Change

**John Harris**, Editor, Politico, USA began the discussion on the USA being on the brink of change by introducing **Kate Brown**, Governor of Oregon, USA who majorly discussed the disparities and protests, the entire country was affected by, due to racism which compelled the system to address the issue at its crux. Commenting on the US's

failure to deal with COVID-19, she said that a lack of a holistic approach was the primary reason behind the failure. Results of the upcoming Presidential election campaign, she said too, will alter the social fabric of the USA and its democratic foundations. Finally, she addressed the significance of small business and highlighted the benefits of discovering a COVID-19 vaccine on the US economy.

### Renewable Energy and Oceans: Transforming a New Global Awareness

The session was centered around ocean conservation and the meagre attention that is paid towards it – aquatic life is moving towards extinction and no sooner than later the water bodies would run dry as well. One of the panelists who stayed by the red sea all his life and did scuba diving every year, expressed his concern over the scuba diving spot turning into a desert with more plastic than fishes. 'End of the line' movie director added that, more people have the philanthropic vision of saving dogs, disease, old people, but not the ocean which is responsible for providing 60-70 % oxygen to the world and that climate change is the ultimate result of these resources getting depleted.



*Suzanne Clark, President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, chairing a plenary on business-led solutions for a changing world*



*Sylvia Earle, Founder, Mission Blue, National Geographic, USA*





Plenary 'Renewable Energy and Oceans – Transforming a New Global Awareness'



Hank McKinnell, Chairman, Moody's, USA

## Business-Led Solutions for a Changing World

The moderator **Suzanne Clark**, President, US Chamber of Commerce, USA opened the discussion on 'Business-Led Solutions for a Changing World' by talking about how pandemic effects that all businesses are undergoing is a stark reminder of how interconnected this world has become.

**Roshni Malhotra**, Chairperson, HCL Technologies, India, spoke extensively about how her company HCL, despite being a tech company was able to be on the forefront of the health support for employees.

**Hans Vestberg**, CEO, Verizon Communications, USA, announced his decision to donate 10 Million to various organizations that are working against racism, and said that the most important thing for us to do is to listen and truly understand what the underlying problems are.



Clifton Leaf, Editor in Chief, Fortune Magazine

## Plenary: UN Global Compact for the Post-COVID Decade

**Clifton Leaf**, Editor in Chief, Fortune Magazine, USA, started the discussion by talking about the UN Global Compacts which was created with a goal to maximise focus on global growth. **Munir Akram**, President, UNESC, USA, said that the pandemic has highlighted faults in the structure

of governments. The need of the hour is liquidity. **Sanda Ojiambo**, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact, USA, added that we must find ways to do more inclusive business and keep human society working. **Hank McKinnell**, Chairman, Moody's, USA, said if the FDA is allowed to regulate, the vaccine can take up to 40 years to be ready but within 6 months of COVID we had over 100 vaccines in progress.

## Digital Utopia

**Constanze Buchiem**, Managing Director, i-potentials, Germany, said that digital utopia must be where we put aside our ego and learn to be authentic. **Edwin Chan**, Founder, EC3, USA, said that from an



Hans Vestberg, Chief Executive Officer, Verizon Communications, USA



*Munir Akram, President, United Nations  
Economic and Social Council*



*Plenary 'UN Global Compact for the Post-Covid Decade'*

architectural perspective, digital utopia is a means to speculate on spatial futures.

**Kirk Bresniker**, Chief Architect, Hewlett Packard Labs, USA, highlighted that digital utopian realities must be engineered and ways to harness this opportunity to rework education, healthcare, etc. to perform sustainably, must be found. **Andrew Nachison**, CMO, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, USA, said that digital utopia has to be an equalizer that breaks certain social constructs. **Astrid Haug**, Digital Advisor, Astrid Haug Bureau, Denmark, spoke of tasks that were complicated previously and have become effortless due to the digitization.

### Stock market volatility during and post-COVID

During the discussion on stock market volatility during and post COVID-19, **Colin Hunt**, CEO, Allied Irish Banks, Ireland, said that the pandemic is a truly unprecedented crisis with its effect on health, global nature, society and economies that has provoked an unparalleled response from policy makers at rapid pace to keep the system intact. **David Drake**, Founder of LDJ Capital, USA, described how the approach followed by Sweden in combating

COVID-19 impacted the market's response to the virus. **Daniel Kern**, CIO, TFC Financial Management, USA, said that the markets reacted rationally to COVID especially with the fiscal stimulus being at record highs. He also talked about how the pandemic has worsened inequality levels and the impact of inflation over the next few years.

### Latin America: Promoting Inter-nation Cooperation

During the discussion on Promoting Inter-nation Cooperation with Latin America, it was highlighted that 5 out of 10 of the countries affected in the world are in Latin America. **Mariana Vasconcellos**, CEO, Agrosmart, Brazil said that, 'it is important for the countries to learn from each other and bridge the gaps through technology and innovation.' **Daniel Melhem**, Managing Partner, Knightsbridge Partners, Argentina mentioned the importance of Latin Americans investing in their own countries as currently there is a lot of outflow of funds and their business leaders aren't investing in their own countries. **Maria Jabbaz**, CEO, Maqueveq & Co, Chile, Chile, further stated that Block-chain technology could help Latin American countries prosper.



*Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director,  
United Nations Global Compact*



*Martin Reeves, Managing Director,  
BCG Henderson Institute*



*Colin Hunt, Chief Executive Officer, Allied Irish Banks, Ireland*

## FinTech post-COVID

The panel started off by discussing FinTech's role pre-COVID and how FinTech has accelerated the internet banking industry. During the pandemic many countries and individuals faced economic crises and that the digital nature of FinTech helped them. The discussions also involved the possibilities of more projects and opportunities in FinTech like different types of crowdfunding apps, personal investment solutions, InsureTech apps and trading.

## Implanting Industry 4.0 into The Future

The host started with taking a poll of whether COVID-19 will change the industry 4.0 forever or not? Everyone answered 'YES'. This shows that COVID-19 has a permanent effect on the industry. One of the panelists **Kira Radinsky**, Founder, Diagnostic Robotics, Israel mentioned that this pandemic will give a boost to the robotics industry as it will lead to minimal human interaction and any physical involvement. There will be conflicts between government and private firms. 'Work From Home' has changed overnight, the manufacturing industry has also seen a big impact, all customer-facing roles which involved

maximum human interaction have taken a hit but tech-related jobs were born during this pandemic because of technological advancements.

## The Future of Innovation in a Pandemized World

**Martin Reeves**, MD, BCG Henderson Institute, USA, started the discussion stating that a financial crisis is different from this particular crisis. **Nicole Jiayang Li**, Executive Partner, Plus One Capital, China, mentioned that investors must adapt and look for new trends. **Jakob Edler**, Executive Director, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, Germany, stated that once people understand the urgency, they can orchestrate benefitting innovation. **Nguyen Anh Tuan**, CEO, Boston Global Forum, USA, felt that going online now is a big opportunity for innovation. **Soulaymane Kachani**, Vice Provost, Columbia University, USA, mentioned that preparing for disruption has been the main reason behind innovation and higher education. **John Stevenson**, Executive Chef, KKR, USA, highlighted that the future of food is driven by technology science and behavioural changes.

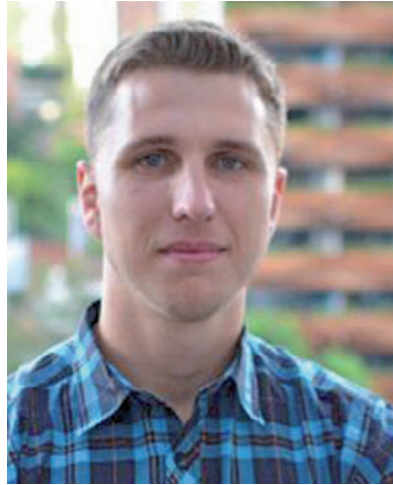


*Akiko Fujita, Anchor and  
Reporter, Yahoo Finance, USA*





*Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan*



*Jim Glade, Director, Publicize, Colombia*



*Sally Bundock, News Presenter, BBC, chairing the plenary 'Developing New Leadership and Inspiration'*

### **Making More from Less**

‘Making more from less is what we need, as our current economies keep growing but the environmental constraints remain as we have only one planet for now’ stated **Gary V. Litman**, VP, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, USA. With regards to the climate crisis, the private sector, the governments and all stakeholders know what to do and what not to do but there’s still reluctance to act. We need to take stock of how the world is preparing to tackle the risks, financial, planetary etc. Specific programs and specific systems are important to leave fundamental footprints on how to reduce this risk. It is a good sign that we are awakening to this reality. Industries too must think about sustainability.



*Andrew Forrest, Co-Founder and Chairman, Munderoo Foundation, Australia*

### **The Wake-Up Call: Lessons from COVID on Fixing Broken Government**

The pandemic has exposed many loopholes in the current structure of governments. It is high time for us to start the debate on modern government. Policy decisions must be implemented on how to focus on the ‘operation’ of government. The new strategy should consist of an increased focus on results as well as the process. We often think a centralized authoritarian system would be easy to manage during calamities, but some countries like Germany and New Zealand have proven, during the COVID crisis, that it is not true. We must understand that the more complex the situation is, the simpler the framework should be for flexibility. We need to transform from a rule-bound system to a responsibility-bound system.

### **The New Reality: Governance after COVID-19**

There has been a mingling of politics in corporate governance, says **Alissa Kole Amico**, Managing Director, GOVERN, France. **Qatari Abdulaziz Al-Sulaiti**, Co-Chairman, Al-Sulaiti, Tin & Co, Qatar, spoke about how the country’s authorities began streamlining financial and economical regulatory frameworks. He stressed the



*Vijay Eswaran, Executive Chairman, QI Group, Hong Kong*



*Marguerite Soeteman-Reijnen, Chairman Executive Board, Aon Holding, The Netherlands*



*Jonathan T. M. Reckford, Chief Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity International*

importance of including the private sector's inputs in governance overhauls. **Marcia Dyson**, CEO and Founder, Women's Global Initiative, USA, highlighted how the protests in the USA have shaped a new wave of corporate governance rules across the industrial sector, spurring conversations and led to policy changes. **Steven Klemencic**, Managing Director, Ankura, USA, shared that there is a significant change in the way money is governed, where companies are now looking inward as opposed to outward.

### **Inspiring a New Deal on Globalization**

**Beth Mendelson**, Senior Executive Producer, Voice of America, USA started the discussion highlighting how authorities like the WHO play key roles during global crises. **Michael Hacking**, CEO and Founder, Mocoh SA, Switzerland, said that nationalism plays a huge role in finding solutions for the crises. **Mats Hellström**, Former Minister for Foreign Trade, Sweden, believes that international cooperation is required to defeat global crises like COVID-19. **Alexander Kulitz**, Member of German Parliament, Germany, said the main challenge is the numerous issues the virus is catalysing. **Jonathan T. M. Reckford**, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International,

USA, highlighted the power of the digitally hyperconnected world to counter future crises. 'We need to understand the equity in it for everyone' said **Steve Waugh**, Chief Scientist, Johns Hopkins University, USA.

### **Black Lives Matter**

Talking on the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, **Steven Greer**, Professor of Human Rights, University of Bristol, UK, opened the session by saying that there are various multi-dimensional injustices in the world today that require strong anti-discriminatory machinery as solutions. **James Kong**, Secretary General, The World Federation of Confucius Descendants, Hong Kong, added that people, despite their race, deserve to be put on a level playing field as everyone else. **Alfa Demmellash**, CEO, Rising Tide Capital, USA concluded saying, 'there is an unanswered ambition as well as mandate among many minorities, to self-determine what their economic path for themselves could be. Making this possible would do justice to the people of colour and allow them to use their talents to help nations solve much bigger problems.'





*Kim Samuel, Founder, Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness, Canada*



*Lord John Bird, Member of the House of Lords; Founder, The Big Issue, United Kingdom*



*Aurélien Agbénonci, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Benin*

## Solutions for an Impact-led Recovery

Impact investing is a rapidly growing industry powered by investors. The pandemic has had an asteroid hit unleashing unprecedented bidirectional change, but the significant positive is it brought to the fore huge pre-COVID inequalities, mis-governance and structural challenges that existed in our societies specifically in emerging market economy. The spin-off has been that there is renewed trust and emphasis on science for credible and sustainable solutions. Financial institutions with development as their mandate and mission, should think beyond achieving financial returns and invest in more

sustainable solutions. Governments must mobilise more capital through development financial institutions to boost confidence of the private investors, by broadening their mandate and minimising the risk factors.

## Fighting Poverty Through and Beyond COVID

**Brian A. Gallagher**, CEO, United Way, USA, started the discussion by quoting, 'All are in the same storm but different boats' and spoke about inequality. **Kim Samuel**, Founder, SCSC, Canada, informed that child malnutrition has risen and deaths due to dementia have increased. **Shweta Shalini**, Executive Director, VSTF, India, emphasized on the importance of data collection and analysis. **Danny Sriskandarajah**, Chief Executive, Oxfam, UK, stated economic destruction as a major cause of death during the pandemic and offering economic and social protection as the solution.

**Linda Villarreal-Paierl**, CEO, Paierl Consulting, Austria, quoted, 'People should learn to start bottom up and need to take baby steps.' **Lord John Bird**, Founder, The Big Issue, UK, suggested the governments must frame long-term programs to fight poverty.



*Brian A. Gallagher, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way Worldwide*





*Africa is Opening for Business*

## Being Responsible for Blockchain Events

**Nikhil Vadgama**, Deputy Executive Director, UCL Centre for Blockchain Technologies, UK, started the session speaking about how blockchain is relatively new since it was created 10-12 years ago and is a part of thousands of projects and sectors. Block chain exists in the agriculture industry. **Agnes Budzyn**, Co-founder, Strategic Focus Investments, USA, explained the popularity behind blockchain. She said, 'Blockchain adds transparency in the supply chain system and one can easily track which domino is most likely to break down and makes it easy to tweak your process and mitigate potential problems'. The discussion then moved to why blockchain is not as widespread as it could be in spite of having numerous advantages.



*Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Ghana*

## Plenary: Africa is Opening for Business

2019 was a historic year for Africa because of the African free trade agreement.

**Wamkele Mene**, Secretary General, AfCFTA, Ghana, talked about the increase in protectionism, reduced barriers to trade and investment, which led to the African Free-trade agreement. **Aurélien Agbénonci**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Benin, said that they have totally changed the way they do

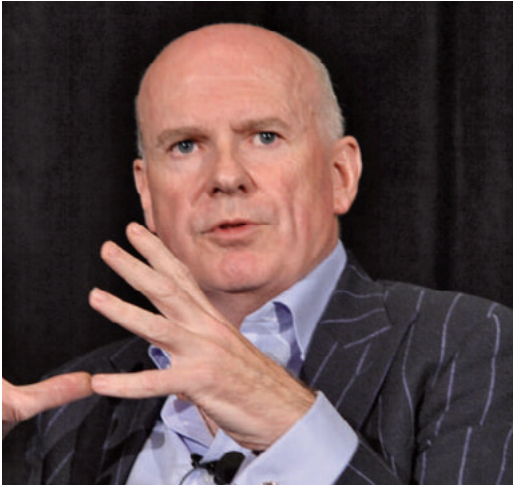


*Matthew Boyse, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, USA, speaking about Governing a World Out of Balance*

business. **Soraya M. Hakuziyaremye**, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda, talked about Rwanda trying to achieve a conducive business environment through reforms and automation. During the pandemic, they ensured their SMEs were well supported. Aurélien ended the session saying, 'The youth of Africa need to be demanding because they are not the future, they're already here and they need to be a part of the agenda we're conducting now.'

## Plenary: Governing a World Out of Balance

**Mathew Boyse**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, USA, said, 'We have seen this pandemic uproot the world as we know and have painfully forced us to think in ways we haven't'. From the local government to the multilateral world, we are seeing a new horizon. At this point, we need friends and partners to discuss the effects and how the post-COVID world is going to look like. Diplomacy, protecting global safety and integrity is important. A lot of international organizations which are supposed to lead the multilateral world need reform in different fields like health, arms control. Societies are grappling from challenges like unemployment to isolation and the world needs to transform at every fundamental level.



*Gerard Baker, Editor at Large, Wall Street Journal, USA*



*Paul Oquist Kelley, Minister of Presidency and National Policies, Nicaragua*



*Sadiq Hirsi Warfa, Minister for Labor and Social Affairs, Somalia*

## Closing Plenary: Developing Unity, Inspiration and Creativity

**Paul Oquist Kelley**, Minister of Presidency and National Policies, Nicaragua, started by expressing his thoughts about the need to prioritize a unified international policy for zero emission in the post COVID-19 world. **Maher Nasser**, Director, Outreach Division, UN Department of Global Communications USA, spoke on the urgency of a united front to deal with the major threats facing humanity currently – geopolitical tension, climate change, global mistrust and dark innovation. **Norman Pearlstine**, Executive Editor, Los Angeles Times, USA, spoke about the bilateral and multilateral discussions around these existential issues. **Sadiq Hirsi Warfa**, Minister for Labor and Social Affairs of Somalia concluded the panel

by sharing the progress of his country in the face of the pandemic and expressed his hope for the future.

## Closing Plenary: Transforming a New Global Awareness

This pandemic has challenged our dictions and exposed human vulnerability forcing us to think, experience and act as one humanity. **Richard Branson**, Founder, Virgin Group, UK, strongly advocated that the present pandemic has provided a lot of positives and also an opportunity to influence governments to stop subsidizing activities and items which have a negative impact on our environment and re-purpose that money to protect nature. The panel focused on using COVID-19 experience to bring a radical shift to the way we treat our planet. **Sally Ann Ranney**, President and Co-Founder, Global Choices, USA, stated, ‘the greatest existential threat is the illusion of separation, separate from each other and separation from nature’, a description that is apt for the present crisis we are in.



*Sally Ann Ranney, President and Co-Founder, Global Choices, USA*



*Norman Pearlstine, Executive Editor, Los Angeles Times, USA, chairing the closing plenary*

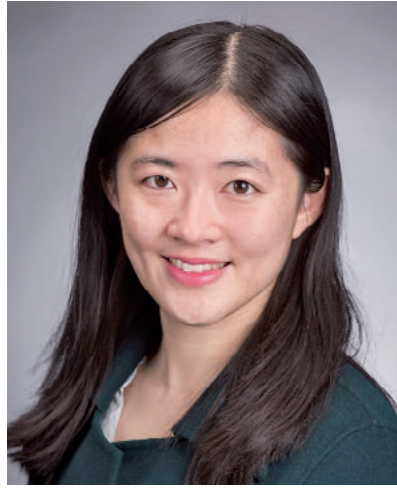
## Closing Remarks: Unpalatables in Times of COVID-19

**Gerard Baker**, Editor at Large, Wall Street Journal, USA, started the session by stating





*Mohamed ElBaradei Former Vice-President of Egypt Nobel Peace Prize 2005 Egypt*



*Xiaoyin Qu, Founder, Run The World, USA*



*Danilo Türk, Former President of Slovenia*

that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world will definitely see the and will have more prominence of nationalism and populism since the bigger are getting more bigger and powerful. Even though that was the trend before, the gap is getting larger. People will feel less and less empowered and result in more importance of the role of tech companies. We now have a chance to take a step back and accelerate the trends in favour of humanity. **Xiaoyin Qu**, Founder, Run The World, USA stated that many are now investing heavily in the online world which is a big shift toward technology.

### Our world in 2030

**Simmone Filippini**, President of Leadership4SDGs, Netherlands, opened the discussion by stating that the world's situation in 2030 depends on how we deal with it's disarrays today. **Danilo Türk**, Former President of Slovenia, Slovenia, highlighted how the international communities failed to abide by the international sustainability policies. **Arthur Mutambara**, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Zimbabwe, explained how countries pursuing their own national interests damage the social fabric of the global communities. **Mohamed ElBaradei**, Former Vice President, Egypt, said, 'the present global trajectory is a train

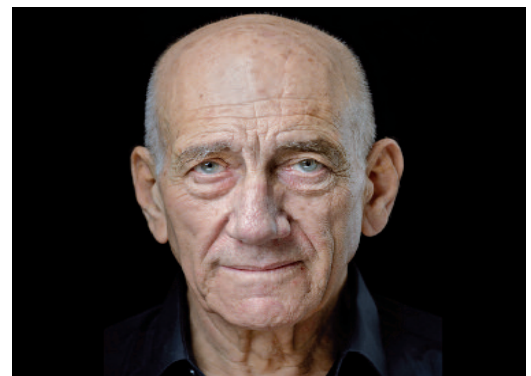
wreck and compared the dichotomy between our rhetoric and our actions to that of a make believe world.' **Ehud Olmert**, Former Prime Minister, Israel, further added, 'although the major global issues can be easily identified, only strong leaderships can solve them.'

### Technology is Running Amok

**Dan Mapes**, Founder, Verses.io, USA, began the discussion by talking about the role of technology and about how we are forced to adopt it to handle issues we are facing at the moment. **David Smith**, CEO, Zanzstrat, USA, highlighted the influence that satellite technology will have on the future. **Vivian Guo**, President, Jacksonville Artificial Intelligence Group, USA, brought to light the security issues digital users of today face and how significant



*Arthur Mutambara, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Zimbabwe*

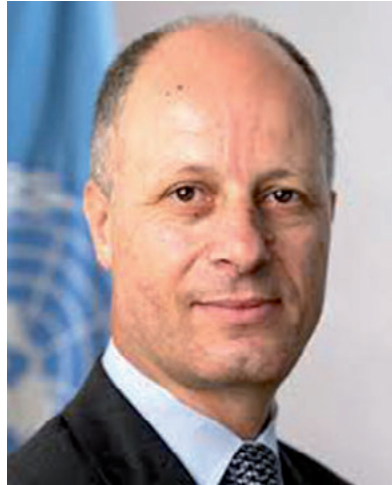


*Ehud Olmert, Former Prime Minister, Israel*





*Caroline Kennedy, Author, Attorney,  
Former US Ambassador to Japan, USA*



*Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division,  
UN Department of Global Communications*



*David Miliband, President and Chief Executive  
Officer, International Rescue Committee (IRC), USA*

improvements and solutions must be developed to maintain the safety of the online population. **David Bruemmer**, Founder, Adaptive Motion Group, USA, explained how human centered design plays a major role in how technology is adopted in societies. **Edson Prestes**, Professor, UFRGS, Brazil, highlighted that technology can also be risky to humans.

### **Quietly a Revolution may be Fomenting**

The session started with the host, **Anna Tunkel**, Head of Global Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships, APCO Worldwide, USA, mentioning the health impacts of COVID in the past 10 months. The discussion further highlighted the economic impacts. People working in 21 % developed and 50 % emer-

ging economies lost their jobs and salaries. As per reports from McKenzie 1 in 4 women ended up leaving the workforce taking the total to approximately 2 million women worldwide. Black men and women have been able to recover only 15-20 % of the jobs lost. But this pandemic has bought the workforce together, there is more sense of understanding and people have been able to pay attention to their mental health not only on an individual level but on an organizational level.

### **Re-designing for post-COVID Equitable Growth**

The session was opened with the discussion on how post-Coronavirus worldwide monetary development is exceptionally dubious and will be lopsided over the world. One of the panelists expressed this as an opportunity to grow leaps and bounds. He explained this by giving one of his real-life experiences in India which has the highest number of 2 wheelers but still America's biggest company Harley Davidson hasn't been able to market. One of the panelists also expressed his opinion about how S&P 500 companies were still able to manage their finances and some companies like zoom, Amazon had their shares soaring high even in these unprecedented times.



*Pierre Buyoya, Former President of Burundi*



*Amany Qaddour, Director,  
Syria Relief & Development*



*Gideon Rose, Editor, Foreign Affairs, USA*



*Sarah Wayne Callies, Actor, USA*

## Navigating Business in a World on the Edge

Moderator **Richard Hames**, Founder, Centre for the Future, Australia, started off by stating that pandemics have the potential to influence many things including the balance of global power. **Joel Rubin**, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, USA, spoke about there being a huge uncertainty in the US. **Calvin D'souza**, Associate Managing Director, Kroll, Canada, said that, 'during times of economic distress, there is an increased appetite for crimes.' He stressed on the importance of people's mental health as an aspect of leadership that we must focus on. **Vikas Shah**, CEO, Swiscot Group, UK, highlighted that, 'We have larger risks than ever before. Currently, businesses can't make long term investment decisions due to uncertainty. They must adapt to the new world, and realise their new responsibilities.'

## Influencer Angels for Refugees and Humanitarian Crises

This session had the panellists discussing the devastating situation of countries around the world. **Gideon Rose**, Editor, Foreign Affairs, USA, the moderator started off by sharing how his involvement with the IRC made him aware of some of the world's

worst problems. **Amany Qaddour**, Director, Syria Relief & Development, USA, spoke about the difficult situation in Syria and how it not only focused on holistically treating trauma and emergency services during the conflict. **Sarah Wayne Callies**, Actor, USA, feels that there will always be suffering, loss and displacement. **David Miliband**, CEO, IRC, USA, spoke about how NGOs help in finding solutions for such issues. **Caroline Kennedy**, Author, USA, spoke about the ecosystem of funding and the need to change the way we think as funders.

## Building Trust post-COVID

**Monica Marshall**, Managing Partner, Ruder Finn, USA, speaking on building trust post-COVID, started the session by stating a Greek quote 'Trust is like the air we breathe. No one notices it when it's present, but only when it's absent'. COVID has accelerated distrust in government as well as fake news. Lack of trust and leadership can fail the economy. Decrease in trust tends to increase in activism which is volatile and not dependable. We are living through a pandemic, but we are facing a parallel 'infodemic'. As trust in traditional media is decreasing, this leads to an increase in usage of social media for information



*Zach Conine, Nevada State Treasurer, USA*



*Sanjeev Khagram, Director General and Dean,  
Thunderbird School of Global Management, USA*



*Christine Heenan, Founder and Chief Executive  
Officer, Clarendon Group*

purposes, which is mainly sentiment driven. Humble and modest leadership is the need of the hour.

### **Paving Professional Pathways for the Disenfranchised**

‘From climate change to COVID, we are experiencing something unprecedented and have spared no one’, **Murali Vullaganti**, Founder, PeopleShores, USA said, and set the tone for what should change in this current scenario. **Joe Donovan**, Director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Mississippi Development Authority, USA, said, ‘COVID has made us think about fundamental change. As leaders, there needs to be research and thinking about disenfranchisement horizontally.’ **André G. Shearer**, Chairman, Indaba Foundation, USA, further added, ‘Power has been corrupted on racial lines and we need an approach where everyone is uplifted.’ The way technology is progressing, it might lead to more and more disenfranchised. Digital fluency and education are very important and are the magic pill of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Ensuring inclusive prosperity**

Speaking about how collaboration is the way to improve societal outcomes,

**Anthony Santiago**, Director, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, USA spoke of deepening inequalities in economic prosperity. **Wade Channell**, Senior Economic Growth Advisor for Gender, USAID, USA enthused that the problem can be fixed by acknowledging that historically. **Zach Conine**, Nevada State Treasurer, USA, explained the need to refresh government systems during the pandemic. **Vít Jedlicka**, President, Liberland, stressed that liberty works and helps pull people out of poverty faster. **John Montgomery**, Founder, Lex Ultima, USA, shared that there is a move toward multiple stakeholder models that provides a far greater rate of return to investors. **André Navarro**, CEO, Millennium Investment Bank, Portugal, emphasized that you can’t bring prosperity unless you focus your resources.

### **Carbon Removal at Scale: The Third Pillar of Global Climate Transformation**

**Sanjeev Khagram**, Director General and Dean, Thunderbird School of Global Management, USA, started the panel by speaking about the need to adapt to sustainable energy and focus on climate restoration. **Victoria Fine**, CEO, Orb Media, USA, spoke about the need to





*Chris Gorell Barnes, Co-Founder,  
Blue Marine Foundation*



*Farah Pandith, Senior Fellow, Kennedy School of  
Government, Harvard University, USA*



*Eduard Shalsi, Minister of State for the  
Protection of Entrepreneurship, Albania*

depoliticize the issue of climate change. **Frédéric de Mevius**, Co-Founder, Planet First Partners, UK, stressed on the involvement of larger corporations in climate activism. **Rick Parnel**, CEO, Foundation for Climate Restoration, USA, emphasized the importance of restoring the oceans and atmosphere. **Kathleen Rogers**, CEO, Earth Day Network, USA, explained the need to focus on partnering with similar foundations to promote natural solutions to climate transformation. **Lori Guetre**, VP, Carbon Engineering, Canada, spoke about the capital-intensive nature of large-scale scrubbing of carbon dioxide.

### **The Emerging future is Bright**

In the beginning of the discussion, **Edward Shenderovich**, Co-founder, Knotel, USA, said, 'the coronavirus pandemic has truly disrupted the office world, but we all realised that work can be done remotely.' **Gregory Millen**, Managing Director, Tailhit, New Zealand, spoke of how the future of work is creating a new divide. Before COVID-19 the divide was AI and what that could do to people. The new divide is those people, who need to prosper but have failed to do so in the physical world. **Sandy R. Climan**, Founder, Entertainment Media Ventures, USA, further added that the

entertainment industry has the possibility to unite us. He also mentioned that the most exciting and positive thing about the future is that we are all on a global platform.

### **The CEO in age of disruption**

Globally, CEOs are under immense stress to perform. There is a greater need today to think innovatively, set new goals, adapt to change, and learn new skills to remain relevant. **Joe Hyrkin**, CEO, Issuu, USA, suggested ways to overcome disruption by differing with the very notion that we are in an 'age of disruption'. He suggested to seize this opportunity to grow, create and to be new. **Allen Morrison**, Professor,



*David Mayer de Rothschild, Founder, Voice for Nature*

Thunderbird School of Global Management, USA, in his initial remark defined the scope of the panel discussion which essentially summarises the crisis, CEOs are facing worldwide today. Whether it is pandemic, political, economic turmoil – the landscape is changing.

### Leading Change, Thriving on Risk

Talking about the rapidly changing times, **Wendy Dent**, Journalist, Guardian US, USA, began the session by highlighting current issues like the China vs USA war of market supremacy, the upcoming US election, Brexit and other world order events. Panelists opined that we must learn from experience since we keep facing minor or major crises often, but they occur in cycles and can be predicted or curbed. Then the discussion moved to all the issues worldwide and the roles powerful countries play. Apart from these issues they contrasted the historic events with the small patterns we see today and what risk they could pose to the world. New factors like social media is the major dynamic which can help us avoid the mistakes of the past.

### The Conservation Continent: Africa's New Opportunity for Development

Discussing Africa's opportunity for development, the panel spoke about how Africa was previously seen as the failed continent but has revived. **Rashid Sumaila**, Director, Fisheries Economics Research Unit, University of British Columbia, Canada, quoted 'Africa is an example of a collaborative continent and doesn't require hard cash to invest into the right places and can be a force to reckon with by 2030. For the world to do good, Africa's development is very important.' **Hailemariam Desalegn**, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, then moved on to discuss that many countries have already



*Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia*

made the majority of their land as a protected zone. **Russ Feingold**, Former Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region of Africa, USA, then highlighted how external countries are supporting Africa through fundings.

### Redefining Philanthropy: Using Data, Machine Learning and AI to Inform Action and Drive Sustainable Impact

'Philanthropy has transformed from general giving to more targeted programs. In this technology driven world, data needs to be available for our drive to do good.' **Doug White**, Philanthropic Advisor, USA, quoted during the discussion on Redefining Philanthropy. **Jim Rendon**, Senior Writer at the Chronicle of Philanthropy, USA, explained that 75 % of charities did not have donors to fund their technology. **Dr. Joan LaRovere**, Cofounder of virtue foundation, USA, mentioned small charities had technology, bigger foundations can collaborate with them. **Kate Bahen**, Managing Director of Charity Intelligence, Canada, said that due to the power of data, donor focus has shifted to food banks and women shelters. On a closing note, all the speakers opined that donors will need to shift the focus to technology.

## Civil Society: Transformation and Global Challenges

‘Private Sector cannot be successful if the civil society is not supporting it’ stated **Hanifa Mezoui**, Director, AICESIS, USA. The speakers in the session addressed their view on global challenges and SDGs.

**Daniela Bas**, Director, DISD, UN DESA, USA, said ‘The COVID 19 crisis has provided us the opportunity to rethink the existing socio-economic policy framework in order to work better’. The change needed has to be structural as we realize that the global challenges are interconnected. **Munir Akram**, President, UN ECOSOC, USA, added that, ‘We need to build back on the basis of the blue prints which are the SDGs.’ Hence transformation needed has to start right from local level to national level to SDGs to address these challenges better.



*Miki Ebara, Chief International Correspondent, NHK World, Japan*



*Jeff Hoffman, Chairman, Global Entrepreneurship Network, USA*



*John Studzinski, Vice Chairman, PIMCO, USA*

## The Un-led Global Crisis

Speaking about the current global economic crisis, **Lyric Hughes Hale**, Editor-in-Chief, EconVue, USA, highlighted the need to focus more on humanitarian areas and global leadership and coordination. The WHO is underfunded and requires restructuring. Political leadership is weak and technology is changing the face of the world. **Clyde Hutchinson**, Partner, Journey Partners, Ireland and **Adel Afiouni**, Former Minister of State for Investment and Technology, Lebanon, spoke about the kind of leadership needed to lead the global crisis by taking the financial and global market stand. A developing economy is likely to pay decade long dues for structural failures. Emerging markets are facing these problems because of major leadership gaps. Structural imbalances in developing economies are extremely deep and have a severe impact on the population.

## Corporate Leadership post-COVID: Unite. Inspire. Create.

During a discussion on Corporate Leadership **Francis Govers**, Autonomy Lead, Bell Helicopter, USA talked about how the firm handled COVID-19 crisis by getting most staff to work remotely, but emphasized how the firm being a high tech company could transition quite smoothly. **Joe Landon**, VP, Lockheed Martin, USA, said, ‘considering the manufacturing nature of our company, we couldn’t work remotely and had to take measures to maintain the wellbeing of our employees.’ **George Yip**, Professor, Imperial College London, UK, suggested that post-COVID leadership has primarily been about doing more with less resources. **Dawn Ely**, CEO, Palladium Group International, USA, suggested the need to alter our culture to help us make the working environment more people friendly.

## Globally Green Policies post-COVID

In the session of Globally Green Policies post-COVID, panelists discussed how natural sources of energies can be used in different industries globally. They spoke about the importance of having zero acceptance policies in terms of the emissions from the energies. The vision of the companies should align with such policies, only then a substantial change can be seen. The pandemic has also taught us that we can opt for digital solutions which save a lot of energy and reduce global emissions. A change in government policies is required where the deadlines set to achieve low carbon footprints are closer to ensure their success. Although we are still not close to achieving a low-carbon life, continuous developments and innovations will definitely help us accomplish our goals.



## The Satisfying Zing of Cryptocurrencies

**Ramesh Raskar**, Associate Professor, MIT, USA opened the conversation on 'The Satisfying Zing of Cryptocurrencies'. **Paul Sanar**, CEO, Rio Advancement Inc, USA mentioned that Cryptocurrency is a great solution for COVID-19 and would provide an analytical approach to this Pandemic. This is a great opportunity to store bitcoins which has a tradable value. **Benjamin Dahl**, Co-Founder, Swedish Blockchain Association, Sweden added, 'we need our countries to open up and encourage open source development and innovation on the top of the network.'

## Mutuality amid COVID-19

All the speakers mentioned that the companies and businesses have switched to the survival mode by doing different things. Some businesses are concentrating on the employee welfare and cutting external sources, some are sharing profits and responsibilities with the employees and some are working on innovation as they believe it is the key to survival. An interesting point to note is that in Africa the women entrepreneurs are collaborating more than before in order to survive. More and more businesses are moving from the stereotypical shareholder focus to stakeholder focus in order to survive as this pandemic has affected businesses in all fronts.

## Coaching in Times of COVID

Speaking about coaching in the COVID-19 times, the speakers opined that COVID-19 has changed and made us rethink everything. Nothing will go back to the way it used to be even if there is a vaccine. First, the speakers spoke about what coaching meant to each of them. Some said it is a transfer of knowledge and is objective oriented and some said coaching is about



Session 'Mutuality amid COVID-19'

the process and not the content. The speakers were also of the opinion that CEOs in today's world have to rethink their strategy and business models as the old business models might not work. Incorporating a sense of resilience, agility and having a culture renewal is important to motivate employees and implement effective organizational strategies.

## Reaching for the Future with Technology

The moderator, **Alexis Taylor**, Director for Global Engagement, Global Entrepreneur - ship Network, USA, started the discussion about how to be a system leader, what the right mindset is, and the right technology. He posed a question, 'What is the right infrastructure we need, to help create a better future we want?'. The speakers added that now everyone is realising unfortunately due to the pandemic, that those who have money can get education, bring in broadband to their homes, stay connected and the majority don't get this. Thoughts were shared about how new business models are needed. The main topic of discussion revolved around the fact that technology is the path to a brighter future.



Swaha Pattanaik,  
Global Economics Editor,  
Reuters Breakingviews



*Dalibor Jevtic, Minister for Communities and Return, Kosovo*



*Jerry Hultin, Chair, New York Academy of Sciences, USA*



*Bintu Keita, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Africa*

### **The State of the World: A Strategic Assessment**

The panel started off by acknowledging the fact that the entire world, regardless of the background, is in the same boat, more or less similar to times during the world war. True leaders should look at each adversary as an opportunity. The current state of the world is really complex because of transparency and overload of information. COVID-19 has also pushed the world to find out certainty from all the uncertainty around and find solutions. The discussion then moved to how companies have adopted to the extremely changing times. All panelists agreed that companies going forward should be modular in nature. Finally, the panel agreed that there needs to be more empathy and solidarity between countries to work together in a post COVID world.

### **Behavioral Changes Post-COVID**

**Rick Noack**, Reporter, The Washington Post, Germany, started this session discussing how consumer behaviors have changed due to COVID-19. One of the panelists spoke about how Greenland, a fishery, mining, and tourist hub was impacted since the mining and travel industry came to a halt. **Sunday Adejo**, Co-Founder, Biodry2Energy, UK, further went on to tag

‘COVID’ as ‘TSUNAMI COVID’ and stated that the waste management system which was being converted into natural resources, halted because of lower or no demand. One of the panelists whose company produced parts for Renault Global, explained that it wasn’t just the automobile industry that was affected but all the external suppliers too had to face the heat because of a sharp decline in demand for vehicles.

### **Cluster Hubs Post-COVID**

The session on Cluster Hubs Post COVID-19 began with **Manfred Zeuch**, VP, Concordia University of Edmonton, Canada, speaking about the rapid online shift after lockdown and how there has been growth in skills and technology. **Sashka Avanyan**, Co-Founder, Creopia, Armenia, said that after the pandemic hit, she realized people wanted to work with more value aligned projects. **Evgeniya Shamis**, Founder, Sherpa S Pro, Russia, highlighted that in these unpredictable times, it’s good to be a scientist, and work with technologies as money is being invested there. **Jonathan Greechan**, Co-Founder, Founder Institute, USA, talked about entrepreneurs taking the opportunity to expand holistically. Concluding the session, **Pina Hirano**, Founder, Asteria, Japan, mentioned that



*Lynn Zovighian, Managing Director,  
The Zovighian Partnership, Lebanon*



*Session 'Advancing the Fifth Industrial Revolution'*

COVID-19 has brought many challenges and hopes of generating many innovations.

### **Greatest Transfer of Private Wealth: Next Gen Family Offices**

**David Homan**, Impact & Entertainment Advisor, Dalio Family Office, USA started the discussion with an interesting view of many people in the world. The view that private wealth creation has led to many societal challenges in the world as well on the sidelines. **Lynn Zovighian**, Managing Director, The Zovighian Partnership, Lebanon, mentioned 'the need to bring data to diplomacy'. **Matthew Celenza**, Founder and Chairman, Boulevard Family Wealth, USA, mentioned about his work in the US with ex-criminals and helping them giving the opportunity to build back their communities. The meeting concluded with Lynn Zovighian mentioning about her work in Lebanon and her plans for the future of her work.

### **Advancing the Fifth Industrial Revolution**

The growing realization that technology cannot fulfil everything is leading us to the fifth industrial revolution, said **Isabel Maxwell**, Founder, Magellan, USA.

**Yali Saar**, Founder, Tailor Brands, USA said, 'We define and identify our own problems. We need to keep politics aside to find solutions for our problems.' The new generation of technologies involves quantum technologies which will disrupt the current tech industry. As a society, we need to be proactive to build a strong foundation. COVID-19 has identified the systemic gaps in our healthcare system. The session concluded by stressing on the need to look inwards first rather than outwards. We need to prioritize, develop metrics and make decisions on what is important.

### **Awakening to a Digital World**

**Sylvia Vaquer**, Co-Founder, SocioFabrica, USA, started the panel by emphasizing how this crisis has exposed the great divide between digital haves and have-nots. **Florence Mauchant**, Founder, NeverTechLate, USA, spoke about lack of digital acceptance in older adults. **Jon Soberg**, Managing Partner, MS&AD Ventures, USA, explained how COVID 19 showed us that access to the internet and smart devices is crucial to profitable productivity. **Amy Peck**, Founder, EndeavorVR, USA, stated that there has to be a commercial/financial incentive for companies to cater to the digital needs of the





Luca Visentini, General Secretary,  
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)



David Reiling, Chairman and Chief Executive  
Officer, Sunrise Banks, USA



Gunjan Sinha, Chairman, MetricStream, USA

lower strata of society. **Samuel Huber**, Founder, Admix.in, UK concluded the panel by emphasizing the need to support people who create accessible technology.

### Venture Capital Post-COVID

The discussion centred on business performances of various sectors during COVID-19 than venture capital forecast. There has been a disproportionate and scattered impact of COVID and the real picture of its impact still needs to emerge to predict behaviour of investors. 'People looking for purposeful investment are the new addition to the due diligence process essentially covering environmental, social and governance issues', said **Sari Miller**, CEO, Sarjay, Inc., USA. There will be a significant surge in venture capital investment in healthcare and there has been a huge private equity infusion in the biotech sector too. The optimism is, macro-markets have remained healthy, and surely businesses which are more compliant to consumer needs and safety protocols are likely to thrive during the pandemic.

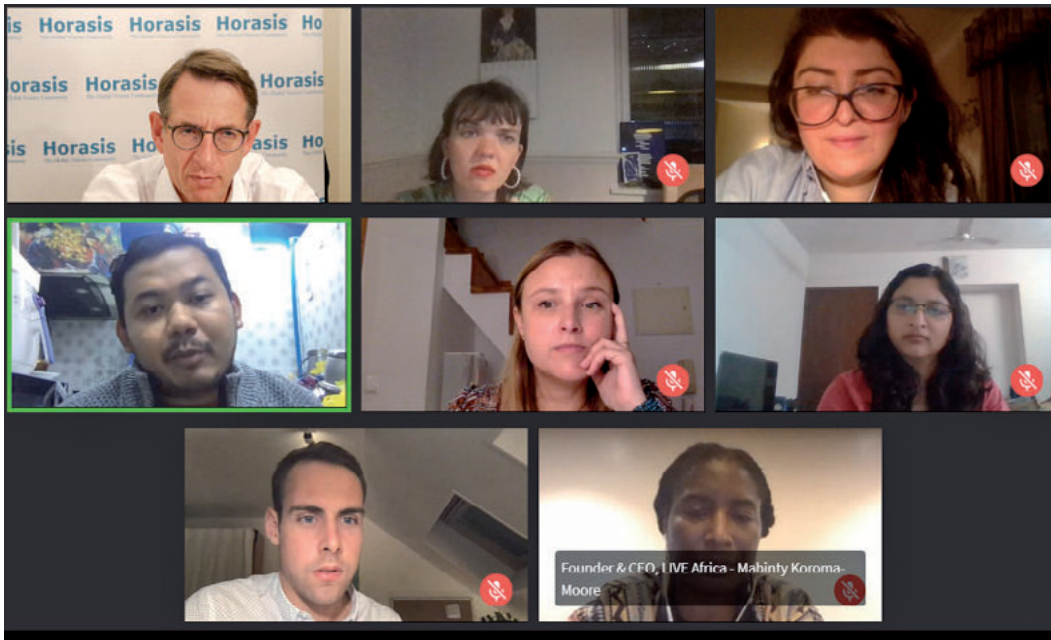
### Populism vs Multilateralism

The session moderator was **Brendan Davis**, Producer and Partner, International Troublemakers Inc., USA. **Pallavi Ahluwalia**,

Managing Attorney, Ahluwalia Law Offices, USA, introduced the change and scenario in the current world where the number of immigrants into the US reduced from 100,000 to 18,000 when they started changing laws and with COVID-19 it has come further down to 8000. **Hans Köchler**, Professor, University of Innsbruck, Austria, then spoke of the alarming issue of the misuse of terms populism and multilateralism, and how leaders have to learn that international cooperation and multilateralism are key for growth. **Sanjit Sethi**, President, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, USA, then suggested, we must see all the external factors to make decisions.



Lakshmi Puri, Former Assistant Secretary-General,  
United Nations, USA



*Horasis Young Visionaries*

## Horasis Young Visionaries

The session comprised the next-generation changemakers. These people are the catalysts for change. **Yonca Braeckman**, Co-Founder, Impact Shakers, Portugal, is heading an African-based company called LIVE AFRICA which supports tech, education, and other impact projects. Notably, everyone was talking about different ways to make the world a better living place by using AI, ML, and other new technologies. **Sai Gole**, Co-Founder, BharatAgri, India, is running an Agro-based company in India which is helping farmers increase their production but at the same time with low production cost. **Okka Phyto Maung**, Founder and CEO, Recyglo, Myanmar, spoke about his company Recyclo working on a circular economy waste solution using AI, ML, and improving the traceability of waste.

## Announcing the 2021 Horasis Global Meeting

**Bernardo Correa de Barros**, President, Visit Cascais, Portugal thanked the esteemed panelists and affirmed the commitment of the City to hosting the Summit in 2021. Referring to the pandemic, he shared his city's decision to protect its most important assets – its' people. The President pointed out that his city is a role model for public service, where the private and public sector work together. Speaking about the warm people and entrepreneurial atmosphere of the city, he divulged that his government has established agencies to facilitate foreign business and investment. He expressed his delight at welcoming the summit to the city – Cascais! The charm of the Atlantic Coast.

Cocktail Party ⓘ



## Horasis Community Building and Networking

October 01, 2020, 06:30 AM - 07:15 AM CEST(+02:00)

Horasis is providing a matchmaking tool to connect with other delegates - each participant will be randomly matched with another to speak for 5 minutes by video, then become paired with another, and so on.

*Business opportunities were identified during discussions on the digital side-lines of the event.*



*Closing the Gap on Gender Equality and Women's Leadership*



## How to get involved

Horasis meetings are supported by selected partner companies that contribute their expertise and resources to Horasis by setting the agenda of its meetings. Our partners share with us the belief that the future can only be inspired through joint efforts within a visions community.

The following partnership schemes are currently on offer:

	Global Partner	Strategic Partner	Knowledge Partner	Networking Partner
<b>Duration</b>	1 year	One meeting	One meeting	One meeting
<b>Meetings</b> (Global, Asia, India, China)	All of one year	One meeting	One meeting	One meeting
<b>Logo</b>	Main backdrop Alongside Horasis logo	Side backdrop	Side backdrop	
<b>Booth</b>	Booth in registration area			
<b>Speaking slots</b>	Introducing a politician Chairing a plenary session Chairing a dialogue session	Chairing a plenary session Chairing a dialogue session	Chairing a dialogue session	
<b>Further offerings</b>	Hosting of a reception	Presenting the Award		Hosting a coffee break
<b>Delegates</b>	10	5	3	2

Please contact Horasis for further information.



# Horasis

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