

CREATING AN INTEGRAL APPROACH FOR MEASURING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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THEME: **CLIMATE**

FORMAT: **ONLINE
WRITTEN DISCUSSION**

PARTICIPANTS

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- **Antony Karanja**, Researcher, Youth Cafe, Kenya
- **Maria Pia Bianchetti**, Private Sector Policy & Influencing Manager, UNICEF
- **Andrew Means**, Senior Director Global Impact Data Strategy, Salesforce.org
- **Edel Heuven**, Climate and Resilience Specialist, CARE
- **Sandra Sanchez**, Founder and Director, VToujours

Moderator:

Katie Hyson, Director of Thought Leadership, *Business Fights Poverty*

IN THIS ONLINE WRITTEN DISCUSSION, OUR PANELLISTS EXPLAINED WHAT IS NEEDED FOR US TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS, THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDAS TOGETHER, AND HOW CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS CAN BE POWERFUL ENABLERS OF CHANGE.

Participants touched on topics related to assessment frameworks for climate justice, the challenges with integrating social and environmental impacts evaluations, and the role that collaborative initiatives can have in shaping our economy.

KEY INSIGHTS

1 A STRUCTURAL CHANGE IS NEEDED FOR US TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Participants started the discussion by pointing out that even though the world's richest 10% of the population are responsible for 50% of the global carbon emissions, the most vulnerable suffer the worst impacts of climate change. Our panellists cited numerous examples of companies and collaborative initiatives that are stepping up to promote climate justice. Businesses can take advantage of impact assessment frameworks to set ambitious targets, such as decarbonising supply chains and ensuring partners follow human rights standards across operations. Also, to enable structural change to the relationship between business, nature, and society, multinational

TO ENABLE STRUCTURAL CHANGE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUSINESS, NATURE, AND SOCIETY, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS MUST INCLUDE ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROCESS OF DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND MONITORING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES.

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**EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT
CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS
HELP SCALE UP PROMISING
ACTIONS AND LEVEL UP THE
PLAYING FIELD FOR COMPETITORS.**

2 MEASURING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TOGETHER IS CRITICAL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Several target-setting platforms for climate are emerging, and the use of benchmarks for social impact evaluation are also spreading rapidly across different industries. Likewise, standardised reports on sustainability and ethical conduct are consolidating good practices in the corporate world. However, managing social and environmental objectives within an integrated framework following the spirit of climate justice remains a challenge. Panellists listed a series of recommendations to help companies with regard to this: businesses need to rely more often on holistic approaches to planning and evaluation; they must be responsible for a higher share of the reporting costs of sustainable and social practices throughout supply chains; multi-stakeholder consultations should be regular procedures; and data collection and analysis need to be embedded in the daily work of social and environmental teams.

3 CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATIONS ARE KEY TO PROMOTE THE CHANGE WE NEED

Our panellists agreed that partnerships between companies, governments, civil society actors, and international organisations are important enablers of change. Through collaborative initiatives, partners can share resources, knowledge, and best practices for improving their social and environmental impacts. Also, effective and transparent cross-sector partnerships help scale up promising actions and level up the playing field for competitors. For instance, in agreement with governments and international organisations, companies from the same sector may be more compelled to link executive remuneration to environmental and social targets, guarantee living wages across supply chains, and develop accountability mechanisms for their own businesses. Finally, partnerships can be powerful advocates for reforming the institutions that shape our economy.

RESOURCES

- [World Benchmarking Alliance](#)
- [Fairtrade Standards](#)
- [Climate-Smart Villages: An AR4D Approach to Scale Up Climate-Smart Agriculture](#)
- [Lessons from Paris: Global Biodiversity Framework Must Engage Business, Grow Finance](#)
- [Supporting a Just Transition](#)
- [Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis Handbook \(CVCA\)](#)
- [Beyond Science-Based Targets: A Blueprint for Corporate Action on Climate and Nature](#)
- [How We Will Grow our Ingredients in Harmony with Nature](#)
- [Nature is Everyone's Business](#)
- [Science-Based Targets](#)