

Thank you for your participation in our luncheon

HARNESSING INNOVATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

On January 23, 2019, representatives of International Organizations, social enterprises, NGOs, philanthropy, private sector, and academia came together at the World Economic Forum in Davos to discuss our vision for harnessing innovation within and across organizations to achieve the SDGs.

Several calls to action emerged from our round table discussions:

- **Break down the silos:** The local context is key and we need to give people the resources they need in order to address a specific challenge. Innovation does not exclusively happen in dedicated innovation teams or innovation units. We need to find leverage points in the system and help with their convening power to open up new opportunities.
- **Problem-driven innovation:** It is unanimously important to identify the source of the problem we want to solve through innovation and measure whether we solved it at the end of the process. Innovation is not for the sake of innovation.
- **Opening the culture and skills:** The culture of the organization is critical for innovation to succeed – to be able to recognize risk and failure is part of that. Organizations are currently not accepting of that risk. The tone at the top really needs to set the agenda.
- **Changing the systems:** We see numerous intrapreneurs who are trying to get the organization to the next level, that's wonderful, but it does not solve the institutional barriers, which exist as our systems are very much compliance focused.

Addressing these challenges will require not only new forms of collaboration, but pushing our organizations from within to change the systems stifling innovation – in order to create agile organizations in an environment where risk and failure is accepted. The support of our luncheon and the push from the top of the UN shows that organizations are ready.

Join us in our next steps:

1. Workshop - Building effective innovation structures: Many organizations are in the process of setting up “innovation offices” and dedicated “innovation teams,” but what are the different organizational solutions and which one better fits our ambitions and our mandate? We will host a workshop on this topic in Geneva in the Spring. We look forward to discussing your insights and sharing best practices.

2. Research - Profiles, skillsets and mindsets ready for transformation: Many of you pointed towards the need for a cultural change – and the challenge of stretching across boundaries to create innovative ideas while having to work within boundaries to realize and scale innovation. These are stretch goals in large dispersed organizations and we need to learn to embrace them – and develop people's capacity to do so. Our aim is to map profiles of recent graduates and the ideal profiles to drive innovation.

3. Platform - Coming together and opening opportunities: We are all aware of the limitations of our organizations, but there are also tremendous strengths and potential. If we can combine them and find connecting points between the disruptive technology of a start-up, a multinational's power for scaling and delivery, the local embeddedness of NGOs, and an IO's access to governments and beneficiaries' needs, we will be able to harness innovation for the SDGs. As the University of Geneva, one of our strengths is to provide a neutral ground to discussions, to bring people together on an eye-to-eye basis. Our aim at the i2i Hub for Innovation and Intrapreneurship is to provide a fertile ground and act as a catalyst for innovation. We also started as a bottom-up effort and we are now seeking to grow our initiative – with your support. *Please get in touch if you want to become a founding member!*

The i2i Hub seeks to:

- *act as a catalyst for innovation in International Organizations*
- *connect innovators from different organizations, including private and public sector*
- *spur and disseminate ideas to create impact*
- *be a place for eye-to-eye (i2i) exchange of knowledge*



Thank you to the featured speakers, the table hosts and the active participants!

Featured Speakers:

Robert OPP

*Director of Innovation and Change Management
Division, World Food Programme*

Olga ALGAYEROVA

*Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe*

Pradeep KAKKATIL

Head of Innovation, UNAIDS

H.R.H. Prince Jaime de BOURBON-PARME

Senior Advisor, Private Sector Partnerships UNHCR

Thierry AGAGLIATE

Head of Disruptive Innovation, Terre des Hommes

Kileken OLE-MOIYOI

Head of the Novartis Africa Health Alliance

Thibaut FERTÉ

Food Innovation, Louis Dreyfus

Table Hosts:

Kali TAYLOR

Advisor, SDG Lab

Hira HAFEEZ-UR REHMAN

*U-Report Coordination Specialist, Global Innovation
Centre, UNICEF*

Maximilian MARTIN

Head of Global Philanthropy, Lombard Odier

Spiro POLLALIS

*Professor of Design, Technology, and Management,
Harvard Design School*

Charlotte LINDSEY CURTET

Director of Digital Transformation and Data, ICRC

Organizers:

Tina C. AMBOS & Katherine TATARINOV

University of Geneva

Participants:

David EVANS

Head of Global Philanthropy, UNICEF

Thomas NEUFING

*Chief of the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism,
UNOG*

Yves MOURY

Founder, President & CEO, Fundacion Capital

Francis GURRY

Director General, WIPO

Ali OKHOWAT

Innovation Lab Founder, WHO

Serhan AKTOPRAK

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Asa SAINT CLAIRE

Treasurer, World Sports Alliance

Ruth BLACKSHAW

Founder, Young UN

Vaggelis IGGLESIS

*Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy Division at
International Telecommunication Union*

