Virtual Side Event

to the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable Development (HLPF)

The role of partnerships between Governments and civil society to build policies and responses for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from Covid-19 and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

Thursday 8 July 2021, 8:30 – 10:00 (NY time)

On Zoom - click here to register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ceGOUfcrT_SFQnRhyPD4bw

I. Presentation:

This side-event aims to examine the role of partnerships between Governments and civil society to build policies and responses for a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from Covid-19 and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The discussions will focus on different examples of cooperation between Government and civil society organizations, foundations or citizens to create, scale up or change responses to different crises such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea is to share good practices and show that an inclusive partnership-based approach is essential to reach the sustainable development goals. The past months have shown that the participation of all stakeholders is needed to build back better.

This event will be open by Ministers and will involve multi-stakeholders, including civil society organizations. Discussions will be in English. Interpretation in French will be provided.

II. Context:

Facing the many global challenges and crises we are going through, all stakeholders must join hands and innovate together. This innovation should not only lead to proposals and actions but it should also generate new modes of governance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered the worst economic recession since 1930 with far-reaching social, economic and health consequences all around the world. It has stressed the need to engage with civil society and citizens in order to build adequate responses and leave no one behind. This approach also stands for the other challenges that we need to address collectively such as climate change and inequalities.

In the meantime, the measures taken by several States in response to the crisis have had significant repercussions on the space allocated to civil society and human rights. Despite
difficulties, civil society has mobilized to fill the gaps created by market dysfunctions, by providing assistance to most disadvantaged people and defending rights.

Through all the SDGs, Governments are increasingly called upon to co-construct their environment, health and economic policies, in order to achieve an inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery, with the support of civil society stakeholders, including citizens’ panels. Several countries have responded by reinforcing dialogue and establishing facilities to support civil society in the long run. One such example of participatory democracy is France’s Citizen's Climate Convention, which – under the initiative of the French President and the Minister for the Ecological Transition – discussed ways to reduce the country’s carbon emissions in a spirit of social justice. Its work led to a bill, which is currently discussed in Parliament. Citizens, civil society organizations and sometimes companies can be positive driving forces behind proposals for public decision-makers.

As another example, through their structural and operational specificities, linked to their flexibility of action and innovation, foundations have a full role to play in international development, alongside public actors. Philanthropic practices for development are growing in number across the globe, mainly in Africa and especially in the health sector. In Europe, philanthropic actors are becoming more structured. In France, foundations are increasingly interested in international development, as can be seen in their mobilization in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Strengthening partnerships between Governments and foundations represents an effective instrument to achieve an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic development. To this end, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs has launched a new “Philanthropy and Development” Strategy to scale up partnerships between the French Government and foundations, with a view to contributing to the implementation of SDGs.

In the spirit of the Agenda 2030, these partnerships and innovative democratic exercises should be encouraged to build back better. We invite participants to showcase other examples of partnerships.

**Topics:** climate and environment, health, inequalities, governance, partnership, innovation

This event will relate in particular to SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

### III. Programme: [TBC]

**Moderation by [Ms. Carrie Nooten]**

**Welcoming Remarks by Ministers:**
- H.E. Ms Barbara Pompili, Minister for the Ecological Transition, France
- H.E. Mr. Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Secretary of state, Ministry of foreign affairs, France

**Keynote intervention by pre-recorded video by:**
- Mr. Selwin Charles Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Assistant Secretary-General for the Climate Action Team, United Nations

**Panelists:**
- Dr. François Bonnici, Director of Schwab Foundation for Scio Entrepreneurship and Head of Social Innovation, World Economic Forum, South Africa / Switzerland
- Ms. Iara Pietricovsky, President of Forus international Forum of NGO Platforms, Brazil
- Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact, Kenya
• Mr. Blair Glencorse, Founder and Executive Director of the Accountability Lab, Open Government Partnership USA
• Ms. Pendo Yaredi Daudi, Director, Barefoot college, Zanzibar
• Mr. Gabriel Baracatt, Executive Director Fundación Avina, Bolivia
• Mrs. Béatrice Garrette, Executive Director, Pierre Fabre Foundation, France

Interactive discussion with participants

Closing remarks by Ms. Maryam Uwais, Special Adviser to the Vice-President on Social Investments, Federal Government, Nigeria