

SDG Interlinkages and Mapping

Roundtable conducted on Thursday, 28thth January 2021 at 06:30 pm-08:30 pm IST

Host: Swedish Institute **Country:** Sweden

Number of Attendees: 77

Number of Countries: 18

Moderator :

1. Karon Shaiva - Chief Impact Officer & Managing Director of Idobro Impact Solutions
2. Chelladurai Solomon- Founder Chairman, COE South Asia

Experts:

1. Björn Holmgren - Consulate General of Sweden in Mumbai
2. Miguel Ángel Cruz Pérez- Mexican geologist
3. Maneesh Paul - Director, R&D Directorate, Acharya Institutes
4. Pranati Shroff - CoFounder and Director, Sprout Greening Ideas
5. George Joseph - Chairperson, SANI, Kerala Chapter

Summary:

The Roundtables at RISE World Summit are the core activity to encourage collaboration around the challenges the world faces. Subject matter experts enable breakthrough interactions to identify outcomes for post-event joint efforts and alliances, knowledge assets, and more for collective impact. More information on RISE Summit can be found at <https://risesummit.in/> The Global Swedish Institute Alumni Meet is about the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals from a Sweden Alumni perspective when it comes to both challenges and opportunities. The Roundtable aims to encourage discussions, inspire and raise awareness about the Global Goals, and how everyone can collaborate and contribute to making the world more



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Mr. Ramamurthy- TS Forest Dept - Asst Conservator (HRD)
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socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable. Sweden, historically committed to international collaboration on global issues, is dedicated to doing what it can. The Swedish Institute's toolkit – Accepting the challenge – Sweden and the 2030 Agenda will be explored as an outcome and way forward for Alumni Chapters in their respective countries and between alumni.

Challenges:

Karon Shaiva Welcomed everyone & explained the format of the roundtable where there would be 3 sections: Challenges, Capabilities, and Collaborations All the

participants were requested to talk about these concerning their programs. She invited Mr. Bjorn to initiate the discussions.

Mr. Björn Holmgren (Consul at Consulate General of Sweden in Mumbai) emphasized the fact that emissions, traffic accidents, and ineffective traffic flows are problems shared by all large cities of the world.

Beroz Gazdar spoke about challenges in the context of interconnected SDGs.

Mr. Murthy mentioned that unless raw material & services are locally sourced for manufacturing, it would only worsen the climate crisis. He also believed that sustainable growth is the largest paradox in existence today. It was not possible to grow and be sustainable at the same time, he said. He raised the concern that the biggest challenge was measuring and monitoring and how the 169 targets and 246 indicators would be used.

Ms. Shilpa Jain from Khushi, India, spoke about working in the area of public health, nutrition, and education how she experienced that different partners have different demands. She mentioned that she was not sure if everyone understood the SDGs. Only a few of the 246 clearly defined benchmarks or thresholds, leaving all the SDGs open to interpretation. She felt that come 2030, there would be a new version of SDGs called SDG 2.0. With the SDGs being so interconnected, the difficulty was how all this would be assimilated at the country level.

Miguel Angel Cruz said UNESCO adopted SDGs but still needs to develop targets, metrics, etc. It's a challenge to see sustainability reflected in a territory.

Deanne from India, spoke about NGO - RING "Red is the new green" that is related to menstrual health and how it is mapped. In this, the topic of menstrual health was linked with almost all the SDGs. She also spoke about a few administrative and technical challenges.

Mr. Jason Bell from Michigan spoke about how there was too much emphasis on individuals but that it was necessary to work together and then only would the problems faced by the entire humanity be solved. He shared his thoughts on how a human was the fundamental unit of society.

Saif from Dhaka - CARE focused on research on Scope 3 emissions - particularly in Retail Advertising - of a major Australian telecom giant. Scope 3 emissions are most often not measured, and even if they are measured, the scope is extremely narrow. His research showed how the company had set ambitious Science Based Targets but was considerably understating annual Scope 3 emissions figures, which is often 70% of total emissions that a company generates. He further added considerable more work, investments, and research is necessary to accurately measure and report.

Mr. Steve Donofrio mentioned that Cleantech is one thing, clean living is another. Until we learn to take personal responsibility on a large scale the technology will not have an impact.

Ms. Sana Dharani, Mumbai, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat said that the Implementation of policies through the adoption of climate action/adaptation activities by the masses was also a critical challenge.

Ms. Neha Bhagtani, Tata Capital, Mumbai, agreed with Mr. Moorthy by saying that there was no clear definition or benchmark for each indicator.

Mr. Vishnu from St Xavier's Institute of Education, Mumbai said there are good initiatives by the government, but they fail because they are not



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Mr. Vishnu - Alumnus of St Xavier's
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planned to be sustainable; like turning wet garbage into compost. It is a very nice project for renewable energy. But that more research was needed to make projects like these sustainable.

Mr. Ackson Mwale agreed with **Mr. Kumar**. There is a lack of frameworks that can be used to operationalize the SDGs. As a result, it is difficult to measure how much has been done and also to compare the progress made between countries.

Prof. Vinod Menon, Founder member NDMA, Govt of India said that one of the challenges is the inadequate recognition of the damage and loss estimates of hydro-meteorological disasters and climate change-driven extreme events. He also mentioned that the targets and indicators for SDG13 Climate Action were very confusing and not amenable to greater community perception and acceptance for behavior change.

Capabilities:

Mr. Björn Holmgren (Consul at Consulate General of Sweden in Mumbai) moved the discussion towards some of the solutions & capabilities. He mentioned by gathering creative ideas and developing concepts, they could generate solutions to improve the current situation. The mission of the Sweden India Mobility hackathon was to design, test, and execute ideas for the future – with a particular focus on mobility.

Harjeet outlined that localization was very important for achieving sustainable goals. As it could help people to manufacture and utilize locally so that the available resources can be tapped effectively.

Mr. Kumar Moorthy Iyer from Pune agreed with Harjeet and said that the local manufacturing should be confined for local consumption only and not for export. Besides, any profits generated should be plowed back into the local community to generate newer opportunities and not repatriated to other regions, as is the norm today. The crisis will only worsen before it gets better if we follow this paradigm switch and the easier option would be re-growth or more appropriately responsible growth. The only realistic way forward if we are to be sustainable is to eschew growth, and the biggest challenge is for us to adopt a simpler lifestyle.

Ms. Yosef (Jerusalem & Monrovia) stated that cultures are very different but the power of shame to the polluters can be an effective way to push back against the lobbyists, especially married with the world bank and related studies to show that they will make more money switching to renewables and to win good faith. He also expressed his worries that the federal car fleet was going to be 100% electric--using the purchasing power of the government to drive the EV revolution! He mentioned on the UN SDG site, there are bullet points under each SDG that may help local communities see how it is relevant to them.

Mr. Kumar Moorthy Iyer said people find it difficult to understand if they cannot visualize and when they don't have perspectives how were they going to do SDGs? Hence the need to bring in perspectives in SDGs like the argument of Global warming needs to accept scientific evidence. Also, he thought it was necessary to look at the proper definition of benchmarking.

Pranati Shroff from Climate Action mentioned their work with the youth on sustainable development. She also shared her views on Sustain and safety that are sustainable perspectives for holistic eco-development and Waste Management in the construction sector.

Vishal Pandya from REConnect Energy, India talked about their work with electric utilities to enable digital energy transition for smarter and efficient energy infrastructure.

Gitanjali -Kaur working on Human rights Talked about Climate Action Pathways and United Nations Climate Action and suggested facilitating the sharing of best practices and knowledge between human rights and climate experts.

Naman Gupta/Mumbai/Govt. Advisor and freelancer talked about mainstreaming examples could be like integrating climate risks during infrastructure planning, promoting climate-resilient crops and Agricultural practices which minimize water usage, improve climate information services in sectors like Agriculture, health, disaster management, etc. He also shared that the Govt. of Maharashtra along with UNICEF has already begun work on developing an environment and climate curriculum for standards 1 to 8.

Dr. Mayank Agarwal talked about his suggestions to the Commissioner, Government of Delhi, to consider Health Information Exchange on Blockchain.

Brig (Dr) BK Khanna talked about his contribution of two chapters on climate change adaptation in the " Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies," premier reference source, published by IGL Global (Information Science Reference (an imprint of IGI Global), 701 E, Chocolate Avenue, Hershey, CA, USA 17033.

Mr. Shyfun Naher said that at this stage we should have a good understanding of the difference between development and sustainable development. There is a need to ensure that everyone is aware that Climate Change affects everyone's business. It is necessary to ensure Govt accountability in increasing monitoring on policy implementation. **Vositha**, Sri Lanka, SLYCAN Trust highlighted post collaborations and multi-actor partnerships as a component that focuses on scaling up capabilities, as well as the need to ensure evidence-based actions are taken.

Mr. Vinod Bhanti talked about Jugad Technology, which is now being accepted, people develop their way to meet challenges. Also, about road safety, certification with Red Cross, Funds, etc.

Maayesha from Bangladesh who is a safeguard specialist, spoke about protection against any kind of abuse and the need to involve youth as they play an important role in nation-building.

Reshmi spoke about green and clean climate and agriculture and industry.

Collaborations & Way Forward:

Karon Shaiva, Idobro, India, also spoke about Mobility Hack. The Swedish Institute is hosting a 42-hour digital hackathon in February 2021. Sweden-India Mobility Hack – Changing the Way We Move The mission of the hackathon is to design, test, and execute ideas for the future – with a particular focus on mobility. Students, entrepreneurs, and other creatives are invited to join, to help solve these issues and support and propel the ongoing development.

She thanked everyone for attending and participating in the fruitful discussion at the Round Table and looked forward to seeing some collaborative action in the coming months.

Note:

For a more detailed understanding of the session outcomes, kindly access a complete recording at <https://youtube.com/channel/UC2UI5Nf1yN0E5hifaSVQpEw>

A LinkedIn group has been created by RISE World Summit Team to foster collaboration between participants. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12494977>

More information on RISE Summit can be found at <https://risesummit.in>