

SOCIALGOOD UNITED KINGDOM (SGUK)

# SocialGood Summit Report 2023

# About Us

SocialGood United Kingdom (SG-UK) is a chapter of the United Nations Foundation. SG-UK is localising the global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through education and knowledge sharing. We empower communities and individuals with the knowledge and skills, to transform society and contribute towards a sustainable future. We have a niche in the sector and our focus is on Goal 17 (Partnerships for the SDGs). To achieve the SDGs, we intend to harness and enhance human capacity and exponential technologies for individuals, social actors, communities, and organisations to take action on global problems.



# Foreword

With immense pride and gratitude, I welcome you to the publication of our comprehensive report on the Social Good Summit 2023, themed "Closing the Gap." The Summit was a testament to our collective commitment towards a more equitable and sustainable future. As we navigate through unprecedented times marked by global conflicts, economic challenges, and environmental crises, our journey to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has encountered significant hurdles. Despite these obstacles, the spirit of resilience and determination evident during our summit gives us hope and direction.

This report captures the insights, discussions, and innovative solutions proposed by our distinguished speakers. Their collective wisdom and diverse perspectives have shed light on leveraging these challenging times to bolster resilience and drive sustainable development. One of the key takeaways from the Summit was the urgent need to ensure that no one is left behind. As we tackle new threats such as climate crises, food inflation, and ongoing conflicts, it became clear that sustainable solutions must prioritise human development and inclusivity. The panel discussions and keynote addresses highlighted actionable pathways to achieve these outcomes, reinforcing that the SDGs are not just targets but a shared responsibility that calls for united efforts across all sectors.

This report chronicles the Summit proceedings and serves as a call to action. It reminds us that while the challenges are significant, so are the opportunities for growth and transformation. Together, we can close the gaps hindering progress and create a future where sustainable development is within reach.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our speakers, guests, partners and participants for their invaluable contributions. Your dedication and insights have been instrumental in making this summit a success and will continue to inspire our efforts as we progress.

The road ahead is challenging, but with unwavering commitment and collaborative effort, we can achieve global goals and build a more just and sustainable world for future generations.

**Oluwatobi Aigbogun,**  
Executive Director

# SDGs in the UK in Numbers

**21%**

The UK is only performing well on 21% of the SDGs target.

**15%**

Good progress made to reduce food waste - an estimated 15% reduction since 2007 (Goal 2).

**1-in-4**

Childhood obesity rates have shot up in the last year alone with 1-in-4 reception-aged children and 2-in-5 Year 6 children in England now overweight or obese (Goal 2).

**>95%**

Failed to meet the WHO's target of achieving 95% coverage for all UK routine childhood immunisations (Goal 3).

**34%**

The number of children engaged in child labour in the UK has risen by a staggering 34% compared to the previous year (Goal 1 & 4).

**34.5%**

The proportion of seats held by women in lower houses of parliament increased from 18.4% in 2000 to 34.5% in 2023 (Goal 5).

Source: UN Global Compact Network UK

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org.uk/halfway-to-2030-how-is-the-uk-performing-on-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

# Opening Remark

When the SDGs latest report came out in early 2023, we saw that only a remarkable 12% of them had been achieved at the halfway mark. This is alarming! The reality is, one thing



**Michael Sheldrick**

Co-Founder, Global Citizens

that was missing from the narrative of the report is what is actually still possible and what we can still get done between now and 2030. It is still entirely possible to change huge curves right now that could have an impact on people's lives not in decades to come but right now.

Some examples, firstly, polio eradication. This is something that we could actually eradicate within the next few years so long as governments continue to extend their financing. The second is an aspect of the SDGs concerned with slashing the number of children who die before the age of 5. Also, what we see when it comes to life saving vaccines. Yes, we have made progress which was unfortunately interrupted by COVID but there is a

lot we can do right now. If we step up to take action, let the government hear our voice, we can have a huge amount of impact on saving people's lives.



**My overall message here is to focus on what we can change because there is a lot that we can change right now.**

Also, when we focus on what we can change, it has an extraordinary impact by writing stories of success that can motivate others.



**One of the best antidotes to powerlessness and lack of agency is action – it is to show that we can make a difference because we already have made a difference.**

Yes, we face a crisis of implementation and expectation gap. There is a new report that the Global Citizen was involved during the UN General Assembly called the 'Global Solidarity Report' which showed that while the world is at a danger zone right now, what we see around the world is that more than 50% of the world still continue to identify as global citizens, resilient even in crises and people everywhere still believe in the potential for hope. People still believe in the capacity of our institutions to deliver. We have a window of opportunity right now.

Across the SDGs, when it comes to food, hunger, the ability to support a hundred million farmers on the frontlines of climate change. Whilst many people might be feeling that

sense of powerlessness and lack of agency, institutions and platforms like this can really dive in on what is possible and what can still change?

Let's focus on how, then we can tap into the extraordinary public support that we still see out there but hasn't been channelled the right way. The people are waiting to be activated on this agenda.

# Keynote Address

**Background:** The aim is to demonstrate and highlight how we can navigate challenging times without losing sight of the SDGs. How governments can leverage unprecedented times such as a global pandemic, cost of living crisis, conflict, recession, climate crises, etc to bolster resilience and sustainable development. This entails utilising challenges as a launchpad for growth and taking key lessons on how to pursue the development agenda.



**María Fernanda Espinosa**  
Former President of the UN General Assembly

María opened her address with a thought-evoking question, "What are the policy, political and investment requirements to achieve the SDGs? The SDGs in spite of lack of implementation continue to be a roadmap and a compass for a sustainable future for the common good.



We have read the news on the SDGs and it is indeed not good news - only 12% of the SDGs are on track. We have 50% of the world population being women and SDG5 on women's rights, none of the indicators have been met so far.

The global challenges have worsened and the gaps are widening. We see slow pace and even regressions in biodiversity and climate change all of which have been exacerbated by the global pandemic and violent conflicts around the world.

We were already off track with the SDGs even before COVID. We see setbacks in poverty eradication, gender equality, education, hunger, and so on. If the current trends continue, we risk a majority of the

world's population living in extreme poverty, especially women.

The inequality gap continues to widen. We see regressive laws and backlash to women's rights contributing to global gender inequality.



**We have to recognise there has been progress with women's political participation but we are still 130 years away to meet full gender parity even in the political space.**

We are also facing ecological threats such as water stress, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, increased pollution all of which has increased a mass displacement of people and exacerbated conflict. It is estimated that 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly

susceptible to climate change. The 'Ecological Threat Report of 2023' produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace, we see that a 24% rise in food insecurity and water stress can increase the risk of conflict by 36%. Also, emissions continue to increase, steadily putting to risk our targets agreed in the Paris Agreement. We are seeing a rise in global temperatures, wildfires, floods. We used to think these issues only happen in the Global South but we are seeing these trends in every corner of our planet. This is threatening our collective and shared future. If we do not address these planetary crises, we will not be able to deliver on the SDGs because it is also interconnected with increasing geopolitical tensions.

The lack of progress is unfortunately universal but it is disproportionately affecting the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations - indigenous populations, rural women, youth in terms of access to jobs, etc. We are at a crossroads between an old world order with outdated governance designs and the challenges of a new world order as well as a new emerging crisis that demands urgent actions to rethink and redesign the institutions and structures. We need to transform our lifestyle to accelerate actions across all SDGs.



**The key to the challenges that we face is a triad between finance, access to technology and capacity.**

We need \$6.4 trillion per year from 2023 to 2030 to achieve the Global Goals. This is achievable with more

investment, political will, collaboration and cooperation. Not just words but tangible actions. Processes and agreements are not enough especially for the Global South. It is clear that we need the means of implementation to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality. We need debt relief mechanisms, global taxation, a reform of the multilateral financial institutions, and so on. There are opportunities ahead of us. Another critical issue besides the means of implementation, is to have better data and baselines for making science-based decisions for sustainable development. We need to go beyond the so-called Western scientific data but we also need to learn from indigenous knowledge and practices. We need to invest in better statistical capacity and data

literacy to facilitate and inform the decisions we take.

Again, we need a more gender equal world. Women are not only 50% of the global population but key agents of global governance and transformation.



**Women are under-represented in top decision-making positions. We need to work hard to rebalance power worldwide. This will be one of the prerequisites for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.**

All these initiatives to reform global taxation and international financial architecture cannot be gender-blind. They should be women-led. This is not said in a vacuum but evidence shows that higher levels of women's political participation in decision-making are associated

with lower risk of civil war and reduce the likelihood of state perpetrated political violence.

Another critical issue is to look at the new technologies and artificial intelligence as a booster to the implementation of the SDGs and not as a threat. For this, we need strong and profound regulation to forestall any threat to our collective and shared future. We need better and more diplomacy, dialogue, and multilateral institutions. We need the civil society playing a critical and decisive role in the discussions and decisions in the designs of global governance. Global institutions are human creations, thus, the transformations and improvements on the way they deliver and are accountable depends very much on human

agency. We need to foster social ownership of the decisions to overcome the SDG implementation deficit. We cannot leave the whole responsibility in the hands of the government alone but we need to harness our collective strength and wisdom of diverse groups to really push innovative and effective solutions to the global challenges we face. The global community, governments, civil society, the private sector, grassroot organisations must rally together to address these pressing issues.

In closing, the roadmap towards sustainability, a safer and more equal future continues to be the Sustainable Development Goals and we have a big opportunity ahead. That is the future that we deserve, we need and we are

called to transform for the current generation and the generations to come. The future is not far away, it starts today!

# Fireside Chat

## Achieving the Global Goals in Unprecedented Times



**Marrisa Conway**  
CEO, United Nations Association UK



**María Fernanda Espinosa**  
Former President of the  
UN General Assembly

### Conway:

*We are facing a lot of challenges and some of these challenges make it difficult to realise the SDGs. There are so many global conflicts, poverty, inflation, all of which are real impediments to making sure that we reach something far more substantial by 2030. To start, what structural reforms would you like to see to treat these symptoms and how do you see the Summit of the Future playing a role?*

### Espinosa:

*When we speak about institutional reforms, it's like something big and impossible to address. We need to unpack the complexity because*



*transformation and improvement does not happen by magic. It is a continuous process, sometimes transformation comes by incremental improvement.*

Some changes are abrupt because the conditions are right and because the political will is there but some changes take a lifetime. For example, the reform of the Security Council of the UN has been going on for 20+ years. There are some incremental changes that are really meaningful.

Big institutional reforms should happen. We need to adjust our governance structure to be able to respond to the new challenges in a multi-polar world. This requires a rearrangement of power and a different response in the way we take decisions and in the way society participates and engages as well as in the way we are accountable to the people out there. Decisions that are taken internationally have a direct impact on the livelihood, wellbeing and security of people on the ground and we need to make the connections.

The complexity and the level and depth of the crisis or multiple crises that we are experiencing necessarily has to lead to paralysis. On the contrary, it has to lead to more action, engagement, and co-responsibility.

**Conway:**

*Based on your experience of opening doors for civil societies to come into the space that are typically harder to access, are there suggestions about best practices on how civil societies can be better involved with the SDGs and the UN particularly, how the most marginalised communities can be heard in these places of power?*

**Espinosa:**

When we speak about civil society participation, it is not a concession or a big favour, it is because of the way the world is configured - who are the actors for transformation and who are taking the lead for innovation and governance? The role of organised society is extremely important. It is not a concession, it is a right and a necessity. When we work at this very multilateral, international level, it is absolutely important that people at the local level in the municipality and communities connect to what is happening at the international and multilateral level.

The opportunity and possibility to learn from local practices and inform international and multilateral decisions through the lived experiences. This is the only way the new multilateralism

(Multilateralism 2.0) is going to be meaningful. This importance of multilateral literacy is in the ownership, people understanding the importance that they connect to what is happening because it affects their own lives, destiny and future.



The weakest point of the current global architecture is the issue of inclusion. It approaches inclusion as a concession or a big favour and not as a built-in power sharing mechanism for shared responsibility and shared decision-making.

The only way to bridge the implementation deficit we face in all fronts is social ownership and shared accountability and responsibility. This is not a minor thing as we have not managed to solve this problem in over 80 years. The discussion is not only about having a Civil Society Envoy as many are advocating but a structural change, a built-in mechanism to make sure that, 'We the people' in the UN Charter really happens.

# Changemaker Spotlight

**Background:** As a hub, we are dedicated to elevating leadership capacity and opportunities of young people tackling problems in an innovative and creative way.

Reflecting on María's thought-provoking conversation, we cannot leave the whole responsibility in the



**Oyin Olufayo**  
Founder, Gesego Games

hands of the government. This is one of the reasons Gesego exists. We are working to implement these goals and demystify these goals to the audience through our company.

Gesego Games is a development-oriented company dedicated to using innovative games to localise the Sustainable Development Goals and empower individuals. Over the past years, I have been an advocate for the SDGs. Throughout my advocacy, I realised that we really need to demystify these goals to people. We need a better approach to make people understand what the SDGs are. Like my mum would say in our

indigenous language,



there is no way we can get the treatment for something if people do not know they have a problem. There is no way people can participate in these goals if they are not aware about it and how they can contribute to it or make it a part of their lifestyle.

Our first product is 'Seventeen' - Gesego covers a wide-range of the SDGs including climate change, poverty alleviation, gender equality, etc. Our first game takes our players through the 17 SDGs including the targets and indicators. It also encourages players to take actions using games.

Through our research, we found that people love games and competition and want to participate while having fun. This is why Gesego exists - combining what you like which is the game and what is crucial which is the SDGs. With your desire to win, you are also able to learn the basic way to contribute to sustainable education as well as the basic way to implement it in your lifestyle everyday.

The impact of Gesego has been significant. We are not only gaining traction in Nigeria, but in countries like Canada, France and the United Kingdom. Through our game, 'Seventeen,' we have been able to expose individuals from different backgrounds and different countries to understand the SDGs in a refreshed and unconventional way which is our goal and we have been able to make a positive global impact. Our game cuts across some hubs in Nigeria and is also available at the University of South Wales's library in the United Kingdom for students to access. We recently introduced the 'Tour a School' programme where we visit secondary schools across Nigeria to educate the students on SDGs through our game.

Some future ambitions that we have are - partner with international airlines to make our game available on flights worldwide for people to get to play the game while travelling as well as allow passengers to learn about development in an exciting and innovative way during their travels. We also aim to diversify our game portfolio by including various indigenous languages because we understand the fact that not everyone might understand English language or a particular language but diversifying this game in indigenous languages will enable people to participate and understand these goals in their local languages. Lastly, our aim is to promote the development and accessibility of Gesego games in schools, companies and international events around the world.

# Panel Discussion

## Leaving No One Behind: Sustainable Solutions to Tackle New Threats

**Background:** The aim of this panel session was to deliberate on ways of achieving best outcomes for every person. People are at the centre of the global goals. New and emerging threats such as conflict, climate crisis, and food inflation affect the human population. This panel session spotlights sustainable solutions for human development. In addition, this panel proposed that every actor must come together to achieve the SDGs. Every sector, public or private must see themselves as stakeholders in this mission.



**Labake  
Ajiboye-Richard**

CEO & Principal Consultant,  
The AR Initiative



**Mandeep Tiwana**

Chief Officer for Evidence and  
Engagement,  
CIVICUS



**Nudhara Yusuf**

Global Governance Innovation  
Network Facilitator, Stimson Center's  
Global Governance, Justice and  
Security Program



**David Connor**

Founder, 2030 Hub

**Labake Ajiboye-Richard:**

*Our focus remains placing people at the heart of the SDGs. We are going to explore sustainable solutions that transcends boundaries, fostering human development and leaving no one behind. The challenges we are facing are dynamic, spanning regions and impacting lives in profound ways from geopolitical hotspots like Congo and Palestine to the economic strain from the cost of living crisis. We are currently facing an interconnection of issues. Against this backdrop, we seek to unravel complexities, identify opportunities and chart the course towards a more sustainable and equitable future.*

*Against the backdrop of the ongoing global challenges that we*

*have including the conflict in Congo, Palestine, Ukraine, the cost of living crisis, how do you interpret the implications of these multifaceted issues on the trajectory of human development and the SDGs?*



**Nudhara Yusuf:**

Global Governance Innovation Network Facilitator, Stimson Center's Global Governance, Justice and Security Program

In terms of the complexity of crises and the SDGs, the Political Declaration that came out of the 78th UN General Assembly shows that you can no longer separate the Sustainable Development Goals from each other if we want to push forward going into the second half

of the 2030 Agenda. We cannot work on each goal on its own. We have to find entry points for accelerators that can push multiple goals forward at once. For example, for recent conflicts and those that have been happening for decades across the globe combined with climate, food crisis, cost of living crisis and political will.

Despite the difficulties and the many gaps that we see in the global governance system, it is helpful to set off with some optimism. What has worked well as a result of the SDG Summit and we can build on from the Political Declaration - first, in the global discourse we have Treaties that can be pushed towards implementation for example, SDG financing where we have seen new commitments, data and monitoring which has been

pushed forward beyond the initial stages.

Second, we had some agenda items that generally had consensus in principle but we did not see the instrument or tool kits that would help us push those forward. We saw new institutional thought processes begin on universal healthcare, importance of parliamentarism, importance of women and youth although issues of sexual violence were missing from the 'SDG Political Declaration.' We see some of these general ideas that had consensus build into some call to action on a serious front.

Third, we saw new language being built that we can start thinking about as civil society actors, hooking initiatives and campaigns onto to push them into calls to action.



**Mandeep Tiwana:**

Agenda 2030 of which the Sustainable Development Goals are part of is arguably the greatest ever human endeavour to create peace, just, equitable, sustainable society. Agenda 2030 did not come out of nowhere but came out of a huge consultative and inclusive process by the United Nations, several governments providing inputs, by people getting involved, and civil societies and activists from around the world coming into a global framework and process providing. In many ways, it was an optimistic moment for the international society as a whole. Importantly, it draws from the international human rights framework and constitutional commitments.

The one challenge is so much money is spent on militarism which could've been spent bettering people's lives. Inequality in the world where some can have so much that they are able to think about going into the outer space while some people don't have food to eat. Why is our environment being destroyed and people being subjected to the ravages of climate change when we know the solutions?

Ultimately, it boils down to one thing - there is a real lack of active citizen participation around the world. We know the solutions but we know that many governments don't act. We know that those who hold power don't act and people are being denied their agency to enable the change they want to see. If you ask most people, they will say they want to live in a world where there is

peace, justice, equality and sustainability as promised in Agenda 2030 but unfortunately, they are not able to seek the social, political, economic transformation in their societies due to a lack of civic space, civic freedoms and democratic spaces around the world because we are living in a particular moment of history where there is a toxic mix of nationalist populism combined with old-school authoritarianism to deny people their agency.



**David Connor:**

Having worked with big businesses, small businesses, are the 99% of just about every economy. There is a version of sustainability and

alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals that is relevant for everyone.

The gaps and data on the subnational level is frightening. About 3-4 years ago, there was no data on gender equality in the city. This caused an effect, an understanding that they need to go and start measuring the data. The most important thing that we've seen is creating our ownership and relevance - the SDGs are often seen as it's about somebody else and not a problem that is mine. For example, 1-in-3 children in Liverpool are living in poverty and the infant mortality rate is rising up. But when we start to have conversations with different stakeholder groups and use the SDG as a convening language, the power is spectacular. The doors we've seen open and lightbulbs go

on and new collaborations we've seen just by using the SDGs as an adaptive framework at a city level.

Although the SDGs are built for countries, you can't just copy and paste that to a city or a region. How can we then begin to make the SDGs locally relevant, create more ownership and engagement, agency and empowerment? There is still an awareness challenge and understanding challenge - it's not just about the budget. It is not enough from a private sector perspective ticking off the SDGs but at a city level, we can have conversations that are meaningful about global abstract things that will make a difference to somebody's job, health, sense of engagement as a community citizen. We could create a community of cities that are

engaged with the SDGs, then connecting those cities together would become an incredibly powerful and empowering mechanism especially for local residents and local community groups.

**Labake Ajiboye-Richard:**

*On challenges to civic spaces and civic freedoms earlier discussed, what are some of these challenges and opportunities to protect those civic society freedoms in the face of the SDGs?*



**Mandeep Tiwana:**

Many of our members and partners who seek transformative changes, a more equal society are finding it very difficult to operate. When they

speak truth to power, when they uncover high level corruption, when they seek to ensure there is progressive legislation, or to document very serious human rights abuses by those who hold power, they are attacked. They have been attacked through smear campaigns, false cases and laws that prevent them from operating and getting funding from credible international and domestic sources. It is a whole gamut of restrictions the global civil society organisations around the world have to navigate. In the CIVICUS monitor, a participatory platform that measures fundamental civic freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and expression around the world, we see that 85% of the world's population live in countries where these civic

freedoms are denied. Despite the fact that SDG16.7 talks about responsive, inclusive participatory and representative decision making, SDG16.10 talks about access to information and fundamental freedoms; SDG17.17 talks about effective civil society partnerships.

This a loss of opportunity where civic spaces and civic freedoms are denied. It is a lost opportunity for civil society to provide innovations in how sustainable development is carried out, to ensure there is service delivery to the most excluded populations. It is also a lost accountability to ensure transparency and participation in how public funds are used.

What is happening is some governments are picking certain goals and are not prioritising goals that are rule of law or participatory government - if you really want to expand the progress on the SDGs, we have to enable greater civic space from the local level to the international level. There are huge challenges in civil society access and participation.

Until we are able to resolve this, we will be losing civil society's contributions to creating a better world for all including social cohesion, peacemaking, justice, innovative solutions that we need at this current point of time.

Only a few percentage of the SDGs have actually seen some progress. In fact 30% of the SDGs have either not moved or have seen regression

from the 2015 baseline when the goals were put in place.

*Labake Ajiboye-Richard:*

*From a global governance perspective, shed some light on innovative approaches or technologies that can enhance global governance challenges.*



**Nudhara Yusuf:**

One of the big reasons we keep finding ourselves pushed up against the SDG agenda is because it tends to come after we've dealt with the current threat. We think of putting out the fire on big emergencies and crises to come back to the SDGs as opposed to thinking how do we integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into addressing

all of these threats and how addressing the Sustainable Development Goals is going to decrease the threats?

With the increasing global crises and the world reaching its breaking point, we see more and more threats and less and less focus on the SDGs. A big important part of this is thinking about our future planning and strategic foresight in the way we work towards the Sustainable Development Goals, global governance and innovation as a whole. It is not about creating an institution that will work today but that is going to work tomorrow and the generations that follow.

In some of the work that we do, we are very happy to be supporting the Climate Governance Commission, the Feminist Policy series towards

'Our Common Agenda' and the 'Summit of the Future' proposals to think about how do we not add gender as last minute or just an addition but think about it more deeply?

Another aspect is artificial intelligence - thinking about the emerging threats from new technologies but also the opportunities. If we use it well, harness the opportunities, it could be something really incredible and help accelerate so many of the Sustainable Development Goals but if we get it wrong, we create yet another asymmetrical power structure, yet another reason to decrease civic participation. We need to make sure that we get the right side of this early.

The SDGs Summit was a moment to reevaluate and stock take. The Summit of the Future is really a time to raise the ambitions of the multilateral system to think about how we are doing what we are doing. The Sustainable Development Goals are the mountain that we need to climb and the Summit of the Future is about chipping away the mountain itself to make it easier for us to climb. Some of the things we are thinking about is how civil society feeds into and takes ownership of the process. At the UN, we are putting together the 'People's Pact for the Future' to help us to find the theory of change of the Summit. How can we define what we need member states to do as a result of the Summit? What are the overarching objectives and theory of change? How are we taking 78 years and in 2024, will be

79 years of lessons learnt at the United Nations and feed it back into the system so we don't repeat the same mistakes we've made so many times in the past pushing forward. There are going to be several innovative solutions coming from civil society for a consultation by several stakeholders (including UN Foundation and United Nations Association United Kingdom) in this process.

**Labake Ajiboye-Richard:**

*What do you envision as the role of hubs like 2030 Hubs in promoting collaboration and innovation for achieving the SDGs?*



**David Connor:**

There needs to be an accessible, political catalyst. Mayors come and

go, political cycles change. There is a real need for the people to understand the 2030 Agenda and give them a sense of agency, support and connectivity.

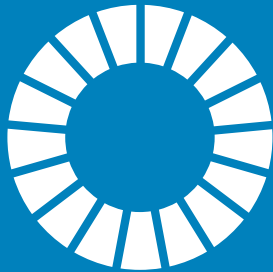
There are people gravitating towards the SDGs but are not connecting even at the local levels. For the last 7 years, we have been delivering awareness and stakeholder engagements - we are still identifying them after 7 years and putting them together. It is almost trying to get these big global principles and global mechanisms to a hyper local level - providing a set of tools that will give confidence to the grassroot communities. If there is a facilitated and support network that is independent from government and communities can authentically and safely engage with.

Technology can be a part of connecting. We have the technology and mechanisms to do this right now - it is about supporting the people that are on the ground that are already doing these things and connecting like minded people. The impact is huge once you start to do that. For instance, Liverpool is now a city of 2 million people and 80,000 businesses. If we could get 80,000 businesses making a 1% better impact every year then the world's a different place but most of them still haven't heard of the Sustainable Development Goals and what they could do or should do not only locally but their role as a global citizen.

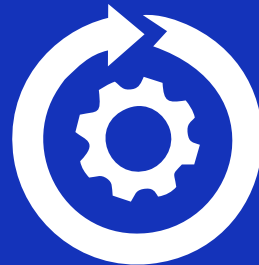
There is a great opportunity to engage with those communities. Sometimes, we should be encouraging the understanding of

the SDGs in our communities first. Yes, we've got the global challenges but if we can help individuals and community groups at the local level, what you've just done in any city or town could be replicated around the world - use the lens of the SDGs as the lens for global citizenship. We are still not really engaging as a family of impact makers around the world.

# Recommendations and Action Points



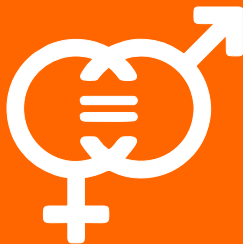
THE GLOBAL GOALS ARE ACHIEVABLE WITH MORE INVESTMENT, POLITICAL WILL, COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION.



WE NEED THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION TO MAKE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS A REALITY - A COMBINATION OF DEBT RELIEF MECHANISMS, GLOBAL TAXATION, AND A REFORM OF THE MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.



WE NEED BETTER DATA AND BASELINES FOR MAKING SCIENCE- BASED DECISIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. WE NEED TO GO BEYOND WESTERN SCIENTIFIC DATA AND LEARN FROM INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES. WE MUST LEARN FROM LOCAL PRACTICES AND INFORM INTERNATIONAL AND MULTILATERAL DECISIONS THROUGH THE LIVED EXPERIENCES.



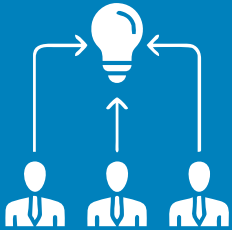
WE NEED A MORE GENDER EQUAL WORLD. WOMEN ARE NOT ONLY 50% OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION BUT KEY AGENTS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND TRANSFORMATION.



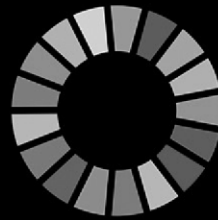
WE NEED THE CIVIL SOCIETY PLAYING A CRITICAL AND DECISIVE ROLE IN THE DECISIONS AND DESIGNS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTS, CIVIL SOCIETY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND GRASSROOT ORGANISATIONS MUST RALLY TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THESE PRESSING ISSUES.



THE ONLY WAY TO BRIDGE THE IMPLEMENTATION DEFICIT WE FACE IN ALL FRONTS IS SOCIAL OWNERSHIP AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.



WE NEED TO DEMYSTIFY THESE GOALS TO PEOPLE. WE NEED A BETTER APPROACH TO MAKE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE SDGS REALLY ARE - MAKING THE SDGS LOCALLY RELEVANT, CREATING MORE OWNERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT, AGENCY AND EMPOWERMENT.



**AGENDA  
2030**

THERE IS A REAL NEED FOR THE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE 2030 AGENDA AND GIVE THEM A SENSE OF AGENCY, SUPPORT AND CONNECTIVITY.



WE NEED TO CREATE A COMMUNITY OF CITIES THAT ARE ENGAGED WITH THE SDGS, THEN CONNECT THOSE CITIES TOGETHER TO BECOME AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL AND EMPOWERING MECHANISM ESPECIALLY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.



WE HAVE TO ENABLE GREATER CIVIC SPACE FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL IF WE REALLY WANT TO EXPAND THE PROGRESS ON THE SDGS



TECHNOLOGY IF WELL OPTIMISED AND HARNESS THE OPPORTUNITIES, IT COULD HELP ACCELERATE SO MANY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

# Thank You!

We would like to say a big thank you to our partners particularly, the United Nations Foundation and United Nations Association UK (UNA-UK) for the great work they do and helping us to put this Summit together.