

Side-event for 2020 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Social economy and women empowerment, leverages for Sustainable Development Goals and Climate action

Wednesday, July 15th 2020

8:00 am – 9:45 am (New York Time)

Virtual event on Zoom Platform

The private sector has a major role to play in achieving the SDGs and tackling climate change: notably, the promotion of the social and solidarity economy and of women empowerment provides decisive leverage to develop a greater human capacity, advance gender equality and reduce inequalities.

The proposed side-event for the 2020 HPLF, consistent with the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit 2019, will examine the links between a social and inclusive economy and the empowerment of women in the view of the 2030 Agenda and the fight against climate change.

The discussions will also center on how corporate responsibility and gender equality measures can be better embedded in climate change mitigation and climate resiliency programs, to make for more effective and long lasting solutions.

The « Pact for Impact » Alliance, a global alliance for a social and inclusive economy, was launched in Paris during a Summit that took place on the 10th and 11th July 2019, under the patronage of the French President, with delegations from more than 50 countries. Governments and organizations signed a Manifesto committing to a better integration and advocacy of the social and inclusive economy by international and regional organizations, notably through the exchange of good practices. The Alliance will be organized within the coming months into three working groups: 1/ Governance and finance 2/ Roadmaps and commitments 3/ Mobilization and communication.

Women are at the forefront of the social economy, the “care activities” and the fight against climate change. They are amongst the populations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. They stand to play a vital role in developing lasting climate solutions and in engaging into solidarity actions. The disproportionate effects of climate change on women will likely be exacerbated by the crisis post-COVID19, especially in developing countries. According to an ILO study of the estimated impacts of the global economic shock of COVID19, women would be one of the categories most vulnerable to increased inequalities. But we must also recognize that women are not only victims, they are positive actors of change and they should be empowered to meaningfully participate in the pandemic response.

The proposed side-event will aim to contribute to the research, policy-making, public leadership and corporate responsibility needed to address climate change and the 2030 Agenda in the world after COVID-19. In line with the 2030 Agenda, we understand that all sustainable development action must take an *integrated approach* that recognizes that the social and environmental challenges – as well as their solutions - are all *interrelated*.

Partner organizations:

- 1) L'Oréal: In the last decade, L'Oréal has become a striking example of how a company can undergo a lasting sustainable transformation. The world leading beauty company set out in 2013 an ambitious sustainable development trajectory across its whole value chain called *Sharing*

Beauty with All. It has since undergone a substantial transformation in its operations, innovation and marketing practices, with the aim to transition into a low-carbon business model. On June 25th 2020, L'Oréal launched the second phase of its sustainability journey with a new program called *L'Oréal for the Future*, laying down the Group's latest set of ambitions for 2030. In the context of growing environmental and social challenges, L'Oréal is accelerating its transformation towards a model respecting planetary boundaries and reinforcing its commitments to both sustainability and inclusion. L'Oréal is the only company in the world to have achieved an "A" score in all three CDP rankings (climate protection, water management, forest preservation) for four years in a row. L'Oréal's sustainability commitment has enabled the Group to contribute to 15 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations in 2015.

- 2) Pact for Impact Alliance: An initiative by the Government of France, the Pact for Impact is a global alliance to promote and strengthen the Social and Inclusive Economy, its companies, and all stakeholders of social innovation (Paris 2019 Summit : <https://pact-for-impact.org/>)
- 3) The inter-agencies UN Task Force on the social and solidarity economy (<http://unsse.org/>). The UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE) was established to raise the visibility of the SSE in international knowledge and policy circles. We believe that SSE holds considerable promise for addressing the economic, social and environmental integrated approaches of sustainable development. The UNTFSSSE brings together UN agencies and other inter-governmental organizations, as well as umbrella associations of SSE networks as members and observers. Task Force activities include organizing events at UN and other international conferences, dialoguing with policy makers, preparing and disseminating publications, and engaging in collaborative projects involving the UNTFSSSE members and observers. The most recent achievement was the launch of the Knowledge Hub, a platform that gathers research on the potential of the SSE for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put forward by the 2030 Agenda.
- 4) Catalyst 2030: A global movement of social change innovators, collaborating in this urgent moment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (<https://catalyst2030.net/>)
- 5) RIPESS: RIPESS is a global network of continental networks committed to the promotion of Social Solidarity Economy. The member networks themselves (Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania) bring together national and sectorial networks, thus ensuring strong territorial anchoring. In the current global context, RIPESS fosters intercontinental cooperation and raises the voice and thematic proposals for SSE at local and global levels. RIPESS members believe in the importance of the globalisation of solidarity, and the ability to build and strengthen an economy that places people and planet at the centre of its activities. (<http://www.ripest.org/>)

PROGRAM

PART I – After COVID-19: Paving the way for a more resilient world with Social and Inclusive Economy

Panel discussion on the role of social and inclusive economy in reaching the SDGs. Over recent years, the social and inclusive economy have gained importance all around the world. Social economy organizations and social innovation continue to contribute significantly to a fairer, more sustainable and more inclusive economy and society, playing for example an essential role in the current crisis. We also can see more traditional businesses willing to engage in a more sustainable business model. What is needed to make this economy more recognized on the international agenda? How social enterprises are contributing to the 2030 Agenda and to the fight against climate change?

- Introduction by Mr. Christophe Itier, French High-Commissioner for Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation, founder of the Pact for Impact Alliance
- Panel discussions with :
 - o Mr. Marvin Rodríguez Cordero, Vice-President of Costa Rica
 - o A representative from the RIPESS (name tbc)
 - o Ms. Jeroo Billimoria, One Family Foundation, founder of Catalyst 2030
 - o Ms. Chantal Fanny, Mayor of Kaniasso and Senator of the Folon Region, Plenipotentiary Ambassador, founder of the International Network of women leaders
 - o Mr. Vic Van Vuuren, Chairman of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy
 - o Mr. Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner of Labour and Social Rights
 - o Ms. Yolanda Diaz, Minister of Labour and Social Economy of Spain (tbc)

PART II - Women & Climate Change

Panel discussion exploring the impact of climate change on women. As climate change becomes an increasingly tangible reality, we see that women are the most vulnerable to its consequences, being disproportionately affected by extreme weather events, the loss of agricultural productivity and the destruction of life and property. How do we improve their resilience? And how can governments, business & other stakeholders scale efforts to raise women to positions of influence in decision-making bodies on climate change? While women have the knowledge and understanding of what is needed to adapt to changing environmental circumstances, they remain poorly represented in scientific, political and decision-making scenarios related to climate issues.

- Introduction by Mrs. Alexandra Palt, Executive Vice President Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer, L'Oréal
- Panel discussion with:
 - o Mrs. Grethel Aguilar, Director General, IUCN
 - o Ms. Aditi Maheshwari, Director for Climate Action in the Executive Office of the Secretary General.
 - o H.E. M. Jan Wahlberg, Ambassador of Finland for Climate Change
 - o Mrs. Delphine O, Secretary General of the “Generation Equality” Forum
 - o Mrs. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, environmental activist and geographer, founder of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)
 - o Mrs. Seemin Qayum, Acting Chief, Economic Empowerment and Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development, UN Women.

Final conclusion by Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize
