

Civil Society at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019

Fact Sheet

February 2019



Leaders from NGOs, labour unions and faith-based non-profit organizations



2 Nobel Peace Prize Winners:
Denis Mukwege, Founder, Panzi Hospital and Foundation, Democratic Republic of Congo (2018)
Kailash Satyarthi, Founder, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, India (2014)



132 speaking roles in the Annual Meeting Programme

Civil society initiatives launched at the Annual Meeting 2019

- **WWF: Voice for the Planet and People**
WWF, in partnership with 21 organizations and the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community launched the new global campaign, *Voice For the Planet and People*. It calls for people around the world to raise their voice for nature and asks business and government leaders to raise the level of ambition and action for safeguarding nature. In the first 24 hours, 21,000 individuals worldwide joined the pledge.
- **Oxfam Inequality Report: Public Good or Private Wealth?**
Oxfam International launched its annual inequality report, which highlights the disproportionate impact of poverty on women and girls. Meanwhile, billionaires' wealth grew by \$2.5 billion per day in 2018. One of the messages Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam International, Kenya, brought to the Annual Meeting was to reform wealth taxes to address growing inequality.
- **United for News Coalition: Gender Diversity Programme**
Founded by Internews, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, United for News, a coalition of media, private industry and NGOs, launched a new programme to increase gender diversity in the news media. Several pilot programmes will run in Canada, Iraq and Ukraine throughout 2019.

- **Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality**
A group of international businesses teamed up to launch the Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality. Members of the Partnership agreed to operationalize the [UN's LGBTI Standards of Conduct](#) worldwide across their business by 2020. The Partnership plans to enlist at least 50 additional member companies by 2020.
- **Forum Initiative: Preparing Civil Society for the Fourth Industrial Revolution**
With financial contributions from Pact and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and backed by 25 civil society organizations, the Forum launched Preparing Civil Society for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, an initiative aimed at helping civil society to meet the challenges presented by rapid technological change. The initiative provides a multi-sector platform to accelerate responsible technology practice and the future readiness of civil society through cross-sector learning, collaboration and investment.
- **Together for SDG 8.7: Renewed efforts to eradicate all forms of forced labour**
The World Economic Forum gathered champions from the private sector, civil society leaders and representatives from the public sector to plan how the Forum could support positive development in businesses' value chains, promote ethical profit through multistakeholder cooperation and eradicate all forms of forced labour. Business leaders agreed that companies should be willing to acknowledge that modern slavery exists in their supply chains and find effective solutions to address it.

Perspectives from the sector

Digital transformation

Mark Viso, Pact

“To enable digital transformation, you need leadership, innovation at the core and ways to capture the conditions that make the success.”

Lauren Woodman, NetHope

“Technology has a tremendous potential for good. In a world of limited resources – and every government faces limited resources – one of the key questions that we are going to have to address in Globalization 4.0 is where to invest. How do we learn from one another and do so dynamically, and make sure that policy-makers are listening and understanding what they are hearing?”

Modern slavery

Gary Haugen, International Justice Mission

“Breakthrough happens when a corporation stands up and says, ‘We’re not perfect. We’re working on it, but we have a problem.’ From there, we can work together to end modern slavery.”

Globalization

Kezevino Aram, Director, Shanti Ashram

“In the experience of faith communities advocating for the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, when people are brought together for the right cause, they are ready to take the extra mile.”

Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty International

“If you look at our response to the 2008 financial crisis, it was: system recovery, system maintenance, system protection. Whereas what we needed to have learned from that moment is that the current system is not working and what we need instead is system redesign, system innovation and system transformation.”

Debbie Stothard, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

“Bring back the voices of people impacted by the earlier iterations of globalization, not as victims, but as the engineers of innovative solutions.”

LGBTI

Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

“The companies involved in this initiative are leading by example when it comes to the human rights of LGBTQ people in the context of employment. I support their efforts to extend the initiative to a greater number of private-sector actors, as well as to engage with civil society.”

Workers and gender equality

Winnie Byanyima, Oxfam

“Too many of our [African] countries do not yet have a minimum wage; workers have no voice, no rights. This is not the basis for a new global bloc that is going to deliver for our people. The worst jobs are in the informal sector – it is women working mainly in that informal sector – we need to transform this. And to do that has to be planned. Our governments need to take charge to seize the opportunity before us.”

Christy Hoffman, UNI Global Union

“We need tripartite solutions. There will be people who are displaced. So unions, business and governments need to come together to have labour market policies that make sure that, as people navigate the change, there is support for appropriate reskilling.”

Katja Iversen, Women Deliver

“2018 was a pivotal moment for gender equality. We see it in many of the economic discussions, much more than we have ever seen before. But despite the progress, we are still looking at a workforce that excludes in places, underpays and overlooks a good chunk of talent. What team would win if you put half of it on the bench?”

Elizabeth H. Shuler, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

“We need wage-led growth. People are working two or three jobs and the quality of jobs has gone down. They are piecing things together to make ends meet. I believe that insecurity threatens our competitiveness.”

Trust in technology

Eileen Donahoe, Global Digital Policy Incubator, Stanford University

“There has been a dramatic swing in the pendulum from optimism to pessimism in public opinion about the impact of digital technologies on societies. We see an erosion of confidence among democratically-oriented governments about their ability to fulfil their obligation to simultaneously protect the liberty and human rights of citizens, the security of societies and democratic processes, all while advancing economic growth. There is loss of confidence as to the feasibility of doing all of this simultaneously.”

Corruption

Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International

“We need to keep on fighting together to create the appropriate infrastructure to fight corruption and to make people aware that the victims of corruption are the people themselves. We have to create the channels to organize the energy of citizens in the after-indignation phase of scandals in order to foster the participation of people, engagement, dialogues [and] activities from citizens to report on public services.”

Climate change

Sharan Burrow, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

“For every dollar you invest in climate solutions, you are going to create jobs.”

Greta Thunberg, Climate activist

“I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic ... and act as if the house was on fire.”

Selected civil society sessions during the Annual Meeting 2019

Civil society community sessions

Responsible Innovation for Social Impact

Moderated by Lauren Woodman (NetHope), the session highlighted experiences from civil society and industry in leading processes for responsible digital transformation in their social impact work. Participants reflected on challenges in defining and designing these processes internally and the need for stronger links and learning among existing efforts in the social sector. In addition, the Forum initiative, Preparing Civil Society for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, was launched during the session.

For more information on this initiative, contact David Sangokoya, Knowledge Lead, Society and Innovation, at das@weforum.org.

Panellists and discussion leaders included:

- **Sherif Elsayed-Ali**, Director, Partnerships, AI for Good, Element AI, Canada
- **Aria Finger**, Chief Executive Officer, DoSomething.org, USA
- **Louise James**, Managing Director, Accenture Development Partnerships, USA
- **Caroline Kende-Robb**, Secretary-General, CARE International, Switzerland
- **Alexa Koenig**, Executive Director, Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley, USA
- **Thomas Reichert**, Chairman, Global Practices; Global Leader, Digital and Analytics, Boston Consulting Group, USA
- **Helle Thorning-Schmidt**, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International, United Kingdom
- **Mark Viso**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Pact, USA
- **Tae Yoo**, Senior Vice-President, Corporate Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility, Cisco, USA

Protecting and Empowering Workers in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Moderated by Sharan Burrow (International Trade Union Confederation), this multilateral session invited participants to reflect on existing efforts from labour and industry leaders to build a future for workers in the Fourth Industrial Revolution across four pillars: peace, democracy and rights; economic power regulation; global shifts and just transitions; and equality. The session also introduced the Forum’s Centre for the New Economy and Society.

For more information on the Forum’s labour community, contact Kira Youdina, Community Specialist, Civil Society, at kyou@weforum.org.

Panellists and discussion leaders included:

- **David Edwards**, General Secretary, Education International, Belgium
- **Sherif Elsayed-Ali**, Director, Partnerships, AI for Good, Element AI, Canada
- **Christy Hoffman**, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Switzerland
- **Kerstin Jorna**, Deputy Director-General, Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission, Brussels
- **Troels Lund Poulsen**, Minister for Employment of Denmark
- **Lizette Risgaard**, President, Danish Trade Union Confederation (FH), Denmark
- **Bettina Schaller**, Head, Group Public Affairs, Adecco Group, Switzerland

Interfaith Leadership and Dialogue for Global Cooperation

The global community faces increasing challenges of distrust and conflict across key fault lines. Faith communities have increasingly been characterized as drivers of division in society in areas of conflict and on various issues, with deep distrust in media, scientific consensus and global institutions. Moderated by Ali Velshi, Anchor, NBC News, USA, this session re-emphasized the roles that faith communities and leaders play in addressing these challenges and working towards harmony and cooperation. They do so by fostering peace and reconciliation, instead of violence; justice, instead of discrimination; and diversity and respect in dialogue, instead of division.

For more information on the Forum’s faith leader community, contact Berit Gleixner, Community Specialist, Civil Society, at bgl@weforum.org.

Panellists and discussion leaders included:

- **Kezevino Aram**, Director, Shanti Ashram, India
- **Mirek Dusek**, Deputy Head of the Centre for Geopolitical and Regional Affairs, Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum

- **Faisal bin Abdulrahman bin Al Muaammar**, Secretary-General, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), Austria
- **Robert Muggah**, Director, Igarapé Institute, Brazil
- **Karen I. Tse**, Chief Executive Officer, International Bridges to Justice, Switzerland
- **Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson**, Cardinal, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican City State

Selected civil society televised sessions

A “Fourth Social Revolution”? <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/towards-a-fourth-social-revolution>

A Jobs Creation Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/a-jobs-creation-strategy-for-the-fourth-industrial-revolution>

Achieving a Single Market in Africa <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/strategic-update-on-sub-saharan-africa>

American Economic Power <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/outlook-for-the-united-states-ee13e109-e537-443a-a5a4-f86807d4c3e0>

An Insight, An Idea with Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Laureate 2018 <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/an-insight-an-idea-with-denis-mukwege>

Building Sustainable Markets <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/building-sustainable-markets-d0a4999d-b0e8-44b7-8513-ae57f503ed4c>

Defending the Shared Space <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/the-shared-space-dilemma>

Ending Modern Slavery <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/ending-modern-slavery>

Ending the Corruption Crisis <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/ending-the-corruption-crisis>

Escaping Extinction <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/surviving-biodiversity-loss>

Financial Innovation for Global Health <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/a-new-architecture-for-global-health>

Identity in a Digital World <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/identity-in-a-digital-world>

Learning Today for Tomorrow's Jobs <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/new-collar-jobs>

Making Digital Globalization Inclusive <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/making-digital-globalization-inclusive>

Media Freedom in Crisis <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/reconstituting-the-fourth-estate>

Promise and Peril: Mining Underwater <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/promise-and-peril-in-the-deep-sea>

Safeguarding Our Planet <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/a0W0X0000DYyDVUA1>

Searching for Truth <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/searching-for-truth>

Speaking Out Under Threat <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/speaking-out-under-threat>

Strategic Outlook on the Digital Economy <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/strategic-outlook-on-the-future-of-the-digital-economy>

The Cost of Inequality <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/the-price-of-inequality>

The Female Icon <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/the-female-icon>

The State of Public Opinion <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/a0W0X0000EY667UAD>

Violence Against Women <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/violence-against-women>

Women in the New World of Work <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting/sessions/strengthening-women-in-the-new-world-of-work>

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019: List of civil society participants

Asheesh Advani, President and Chief Executive Officer, JA Worldwide, USA

Yasunobu Aihara, General Secretary, Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO), Japan

Kezevino Aram, Director, Shanti Ashram, India

Peter Bakker, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Switzerland

Seth F. Berkley, Chief Executive Officer, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Switzerland

Jeanne Bourgault, President, Internews, USA

Sinéad Burke, Founder, Sinéad Burke, Ireland

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Belgium

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam International, Kenya

Cornelia Camichel Bromeis, Pastor and Elder, Evangelische Reformierte Kirchgemeinde, Switzerland

Stephen Cotton, General Secretary, International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), United Kingdom

Aron Cramer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), USA

Steve Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer, PATH, USA

Bineta Diop, Founder and President, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Switzerland

David Edwards, General Secretary, Education International, Belgium

Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair, Transparency International, Argentina

Brian Gallagher, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way Worldwide, USA

Githinji Gitahi, Group Chief Executive Officer, Amref Health Africa, Kenya

Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi and President, Conference of European Rabbis, Russian Federation

Gary A. Haugen, Chief Executive Officer, International Justice Mission (IJM), USA

Christy Hoffman, General Secretary, UNI Global Union, Switzerland

Ahmad Irvani, President and Executive Director, Center for the Study of Islam and the Middle East (CSIME), USA

Katja Iversen, President and Chief Executive Officer, Women Deliver, USA

Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers' Forum India), India

Agnes Matilda Kalibata, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Kenya

Neal Keny-Guyer, Chief Executive Officer, Mercy Corps, USA

Marco Lambertini, Director-General, WWF International, Switzerland

Berel Lazar, Chief Rabbi of the Russian Federation, Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, Russian Federation

Laura Liswood, Secretary-General, Council of Women World Leaders, USA

Adrian Lovett, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Wide Web Foundation, USA

David Miliband, President, International Rescue Committee, USA

Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director, Greenpeace International, Netherlands

Faisal bin Abdulrahman bin Al Muaammar, Secretary-General, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), Austria

Denis Mukwege, Founder, Panzi Foundation, Democratic Republic of Congo

Kumi Naidoo, Secretary-General, Amnesty International, United Kingdom

Yetnebersh Nigussie, Senior Inclusion Adviser, Light For The World, Austria

Sania Nishtar, Founder and President, Heartfile, Pakistan

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Chair, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, USA

Paul Okumu, Head, Secretariat, AfricaPlatform (ACP), Kenya

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT), Chad

Ricken Patel, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Avaaz.org, USA

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal Otalora, Leader, Climate and Energy Practice, WWF International, Switzerland

Jonathan Thomas More Reckford, Chief Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity International (HFH), USA

Lizette Risgaard, President, Danish Trade Union Confederation (FH), Denmark

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch, USA

Valter Sanches, General Secretary, IndustriAll Global Union, Switzerland

Peter Sands, Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF), Switzerland

M. Sanjayan, Chief Executive Officer, Conservation International, USA

Kailash Satyarthi, Founder, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, India

Elizabeth H. Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), USA

Gayle E. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer, ONE, USA

Andrew Steer, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Resources Institute, USA

Debbie Stothard, Secretary-General, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), France

Ishmael Sunga, Chief Executive Officer, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), South Africa

Hilary Sutcliffe, Director, SocietyInside, United Kingdom

Mark Tercek, Chief Executive Officer, The Nature Conservancy, USA

Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International, United Kingdom

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, President, Swedish Trade Union Confederation, Sweden

Greta Thunberg, Climate Activist, Kringlaskolan Södertälje, Sweden

Karen I. Tse, Chief Executive Officer, International Bridges to Justice, Switzerland

Luca Visentini, General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Belgium

Mark Viso, President and Chief Executive Officer, Pact, USA

Andrew C. Wilson, Executive Director, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), USA

Lauren Woodman, Chief Executive Officer, NetHope, USA

Contact

This document was prepared by the World Economic Forum Society and Innovation team.

For all inquiries about civil society at the World Economic Forum, please contact CivilSociety@weforum.org. For more information about civil society engagement at the Forum and current projects, visit our [website](#).



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IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD

The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

World Economic Forum
91–93 route de la Capite
CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 869 1212
Fax: +41 (0) 22 786 2744

contact@weforum.org
www.weforum.org