
Subject: Powerful tools for financing development

From: Commons Cluster (glansvanessen@gmail.com)

To: glansvanessen@yahoo.com;

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2015 3:05 PM

Dear Mr. Emile van Essen,

All UN Member States have resolved to end poverty in all its forms without leaving anyone behind. There is still doubt as to whether this can be achieved by 2030 using the forms of financing that have hitherto been discussed at the UN.

A workshop held at the UN on February 10th, 2015, on ***Powerful and Innovative Approaches to Financing Development. Commons: Social Solidarity Economies, Shared Societies, Cooperatives and the Internet***, drew attention to a vast array of resources, already being made available for development by people and their communities worldwide. This grass roots movement thrives on sharing, caring and a sense of community from local to global levels. It would reach even the most marginalized, given the governmental support it needs to flourish in its unique ways.

Speakers from the French, Brazilian and Rwandan Governments mentioned the critical importance of this grass roots movement and suggested ways in which it could be further unleashed. Ten further commitments were suggested for governments to make to create more complete shared societies. These recommendations came from the approximately 100 former Heads of State and Government who as members of the Club of Madrid had coined the term.

Speakers representing the International Cooperative Alliance, the Mont Blanc Meeting Association and the Commons Cluster as well as a representative of Indigenous Peoples provided a wide array of examples of the creativity use by this grass roots movement to generate the equivalent of trillions of dollars for sustainable development and innovative ways in which much more could be generated.

The enclosed Summary of the workshop ***Powerful and Innovative Approaches for Financing Development*** was made by some of the panelists under the leadership of Professor Marilyn Fowler. It contains a link to the 80-minute video of the whole proceedings made by the UN; and an executive summary of the gist of each of the statements.

The writers of this Report would be most grateful if:

1. Your Excellency would kindly make the Report available to all sectors of your government who you believe could put it to good use;
2. The Netherlands would see fit to develop and/or support wording that stresses the critical importance of enabling commons, social solidarity economies, shared societies, cooperatives and universal access to the Internet as a means of ending poverty everywhere and leaving no one behind.

- for the Final Agreement on Financing Development to be agreed in July, 2015;
- for the agenda of the High Level Political Forum that will oversee the implementation of sustainable development between now and 2030.

Yours respectfully,

Marilyn Fowler, PhD, Professor of Consciousness and Sustainable Development, John F. Kennedy University;

Rob Wheeler, UN NGO Representative of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN and the UN NGO Major Group Commons Cluster;

Lisinka Ulatowska, PhD, Coordinator Commons Cluster, UN NGO Representative of the Institute for Planetary Synthesis, the Association of World Citizens.

[Web Link to the enclosed Summary and current publications](#)