

https://hopin.com/events/corporate-leadership-for-the-sdgs



A free online conference, workshops and meetings organised by Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University – in collaboration with societal partners – confronting grand systemic challenges, how companies and their leaders can address them, and the way business schools, youth, activists and researchers can increase their action and engagement in the UN's 'Decade of Action'.

WHY THIS CONFERENCE?

The Covid-19 pandemic provides yet another signal that the world is facing a number of fundamental and interrelated systemic (grand) challenges. They cannot be solved by 'business as usual'. Fortunately, there is a framework that can help navigate these efforts: **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Introduced in 2015 by the United Nations, the SDGs have become the first integrated effort – based on a multiple-stakeholder engagement process – that maps systemic challenges and stimulates companies, NGOs, citizens, and governments around the world to take up the challenge of systemic change. With 17 Goals and 169

formulated targets, the SDGs provide the **best-available agenda** at the moment to share ambitions and measure progress towards the achievement of a large number of common goals. The SDGs have been embraced by leading companies, all governments, and major NGOs as a positive 'way forward' to address systemic challenges like climate, poverty, gender inequality, energy, water scarcity. The SDG agenda also introduces five basic principles (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnering) and one leading motto: 'leave no one behind'.

17 Interconnected Goals

THE GLOBAL GOALS











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5 Principles



WHY IS CORPORATE LEADERSHIP **NECESSARY?**

Vital in this ambition has been the active involvement of the 'private sector'. Their investment, scaling and innovative capacity is needed to enable positive change on a global scale. It is also vital that they have the willingness to deinvest in activities that have a negative impact on society (including pollution, human rights violations, inequality, health issues, conflicts). Many companies have subscribed to the SDG ambition, not in the least because the envisaged systems change provides them with immense (multi-trillion dollar) investment opportunities as well. But progress is too slow. In September the UN announced a 'decade of action' to raise awareness that stepping-up the pact of the SDGs is required. Research on the involvement of corporations shows that there is not a lack of intentions: more than 90% of big corporations in the world have embraced the SDGs in their ambitions. But there exists a serious gap in developing advanced strategies in realising the SDGs. It proves difficult to integrate SDGs in the core business, many partnerships are started but many are also fragmented or marginal, and the integrative nature of the SDGs is underutilized even by frontrunner companies. UN Global Compact observes 'cherry picking' practices that implies that companies are not yet able to effectively engage in the more transformational part of the SDG agenda. Can corporate leaders step up to the challenge and drive systems change?

WHY A TASK FOR BUSINESS SCHOOLS?

The key challenge is not that corporate leaders do not want to embrace the SDGs and become change agents, but to develop insights and practices on how to best implement these ambitions, either alone or in collaboration with partners. This challenge provides a clear task for business schools and research institutes: to develop the tools, concepts, and measurement to help corporations engage in transformational change. It also requires business schools to train new leaders and support young professionals to get engaged in the SDG agenda to trigger systemic change in the coming ten years.

RSM Erasmus University has embraced the SDG agenda and is active in developing tools and means to support companies in their ambitions to drive transformational (systems) change. In 2017 RSM adopted the SDGs as leading principle to become a 'force for positive change'. RSM embraces the principles of Responsible Management education (as part of the PRME community) and has become one of the leading business schools in the world supporting the SDGs.

THIS CONFERENCE

This conference brings together a number of research training and teaching initiatives that have been developed by RSM, its department of Business-Society Management, and the Partnerships Resource Centre. The initiatives were developed together with a large number of societal stakeholders and supported by research organisations like NWO/Groene Brein (sustainable business models). The conference and workshops will showcase:

- a business scan to address the intention-realization gap
- a textbook to elaborate on all relevant principles of sustainable business
- SDG MOOCs and SDGs cases to train present and future leaders
- a platform for SDG professionals to match supply and demand
- a Future Planet Accelerator
- various other leadership and partnering initiatives.

AIMS

- (1) Speed-up the transition and help corporate leaders to step-up the pace and make their intentions real by introducing them to tools and insights developed by business schools.
- (2) Involve and inspire educators, researchers, and students to actively participate in this transition.
- (3) Provide a platform for communities of practitioners, researchers, and students to get more effectively engaged in the Decade of Action.

THE PROGRAMME

Three tracks focus on three pathways to address the most important challenges:

- Day 1 (26 May): A strategic track that departs from the principle of prosperity and considers how this can be translated into concrete business models aimed at inclusive and sustainable growth.
- Day 2 (27 May): An operational and implementation track: departs from the principle of 'people' and considers how the motto 'Leave No One Behind' can be translated
- into concrete practices that can be implemented and measured.
- Day 3 (28 May): A leadership track: exploring how business can contribute to peace building and planetary resilience, and what leadership styles and practices are needed to expand the scope of business to these domains. Sustainable change and innovation are not merely a technical challenge, but a human challenge for which human qualities such as creativity, compassion and motivation are required.

DAILY SCHEDULE

- 15:00 CEST A general session with keynote presentations and panel discussion.
- Three interactive break-out sessions that cover relevant tools and provide a platform to discuss 'what next?'
- 17:30 CEST the official end of sessions, but the event continues with networking and social conversations organised by RSM's master students.

NOTICE:

All parts of the programme are free to attend. There are a limited number of registrations available. If you register but find that you cannot attend, please let us know so we can assign your place to someone else.

Although you register for the entire event, you can then decide for yourself which day and/or session you want to attend! This means that you can attend just one day; registration for the full 3 days does not mean that you must attend all 3 days.

HOSTS AND SUPPORTERS

This free online conference is hosted by Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University and the Partnerships Resource Centre, with support of Garrison Institute International and the European Platform for Compassionate Leadership.



































Expo Room activities: permanent booths

15:00 - 18:45 CEST daily

A virtual Expo Room will host a number of booths for participants to gather more information from organisations about activities introduced during the conference.

Some booths will also provide a place for further discussion, usually after each day's main sessions from 17:30 -18:30 CEST. Please see the updates on the website for more details of the Expo Booths.

Permanent expo booths are provided by:

- The Partnerships Resource Centre (PrC)
- Garrison Institute International (GII)
- Peace Jam: European Youth Team
- Club de Madrid
- RSM Executive programme
- B-SM alumni Association
- Russell Reynolds
- SDG Traineeship initiative
- And others (see the conference website)

Each day a number of additional booths will be opened to provide continued interaction after a particular breakout session. The featured organisations from that session will be present.

See the conference website for additional information on active expo booths.

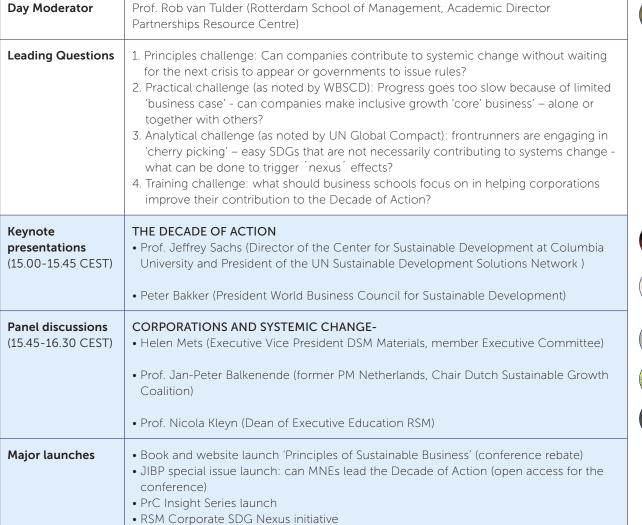


Track 1 (26 May):

The Strategic challenge

"Prosperity through Inclusive and Sustainable growth"









Breakout sessions (16.45 – c.17.30 CEST)	THE WICKEDNESS CHALLENGE: PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS THE PARTNERING CHALLENGE: MAKING IT TRANSFORMA- TIONAL	Moderator: Prof. Annemieke Roobeek (Nyenrode Business Universiteit) Presentation: Prof. Rob van Tulder (RSM) Comments: Willemijn Brouwer (Lead Internal Engagement Corporate Sustainability DSM) Carola van Lamoen (Robeco Head Sustainable Investing) Sandra Pellegrom (SDG Coordinator the Netherlands) Mathew Stephenson (Policy and Community Lead, World Economic Forum) Professor Vidyut Lata Dhir (Professor of Leadership and Organization Behaviour of SPJIMR) Moderator: Marieke de Wal (Director Partnerships Resource Centre) Participation: Rutger Groot (Chairman East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer, Supervisory Board Member East-West Seed Group) Suzanne Larsson (Head Corporate Engagement & Partnerships Solidaridad) Thierry van Helden, Coordinator Public-Private Partnerships of
	THE NEXUS CHALLENGE: CREATING NET POSITIVE EFFECTS	the Sustainable Economic Development of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moderator: Dr. Guenola Nonet (Jonkoping University, Sweden) Keynote: Prof. Måns Nilsson (Executive Director SEI): "SDG Synergies – leverage of interactions in business practice" Co-presentation: Jan Anton van Zanten (Robeco SDG Strategist): "Scientific advancements in corporate nexus strategies" Comments: Maurits Groen (Serial Social Entrepreneur) Piet Klop (Head Responsible Investment PGGM) Mathias Lund Larsen (Senior Research Consultant, International Institute of Green Finance, Central University of Finance and Economics)
EXPO - booth (17.30 - 18.30 CEST)	Meeting with initiatives and organizers of the day	 Dr. Lisa Sachs (Director Columbia Centre on Sustainable Investment) Principles of Sustainable Business (conference rebate) JIBP special issue B-SM Alumni Association SDG Nexus initiative Partnerships Resource Centre RSM Executive programme

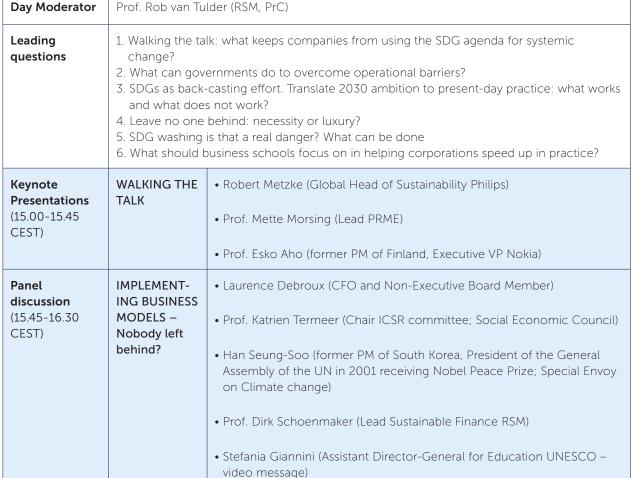


Track 2 (27 May):

The Operational challenge

"Leave No One Behind"















Major launches	 Website and initiatives around the Better Business Scan In-company training initiatives around the SDGs: Tosca, Change Inc. Wage indicator Foundation projects; living wage profiles (143 countries) Executive training programme around the SDGs Other training initiatives: RSM booths 		
Breakout Sessions (16.45 - 17.30 CEST)	TRANSITION CHALLENGES: Overcoming the intention- realisation gap	 Moderator: Geanne van Arkel (Consultant, former Manager Interface; CSR Manager of the Year 2018) Presentation: Thorben Kwakkenbos (Researcher at the Partnerships Resource Centre) Scan users: Esther de Graaf, Ulrike de Jong (TOSCA consultants) Yoeri van Alteren (Change Inc.) Elske de Jong (Manager Sustainable Business Operations and CSR at Arcadis) 	
	THE METRICS CHALLENGE: A living wage as priority? Discussion with the multinationals	 Moderators: Prof. Martin Kahanec (Dean Central European University) Paulien Osse (Director Wage Indicator Foundation) Comments: Companies using living wage as benchmark IKEA: Bogdan Pole (Leading the Development of Global Wage practices) Glovo: Laura Garcia (Head of the Global Experience Team) Philips: Simon Braaksma (Responsible for Philips' sustainability reporting) Further initiatives: SER: Prof. Katrien Termeer (IMVO Convenants) 	
	TRAINING AND EDUCATION CHALLENGE: Business schools as force for positive change?	Moderators and setting the scene: • Eva Rood (Director of RSM's Positive Change initiative) • Florencia Librizzi (Head of Program and Partnerships, SDG Academy, SDSN) Introductions: • Dr Tao Yue (Managing Editor of the Case Development Centre RSM): SDGs in case teaching • Dr Maarten Wubben (RSM Lecturer) • SDG Academy, Community of Practice (one of the pilot-participants) • SDSN Guide: 'Accelerating the SDGs in Higher Education' (one of the editors) Reflections and Q&A: • Prof. Mette Morsing (PRME): what role can PRME play?	
EXPO - booth (17.30 – 18.30 CEST)	Meeting with initiatives and organizers of the day	✓ TOSCA ✓ Change Inc. ✓ Club de Madrid ✓ CSR academy ✓ Better Business Scan ✓ B-SM SDG courses ✓ SDG cases ✓ SDG academy	



Track 3 (28 May):

The Leadership challenge

"Compassionate Leadership in the Age of Interconnectedness"



Day Moderator	Sander Tideman (Garrison Institute International)		
Leading Questions	 How can we build a more fair, equitable and sustainable global economy? What does this take from a compassionate leadership perspective? What leadership qualities are needed to truly contribute to building a more compassionate society? What should business schools focus on in helping corporations speed up transformational initiatives? 		
Keynote dialogue (15.00-15.40 CEST)	THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF GRATITUDE • Kailash Satyarthi (Child labour Activist; Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2014) in conversation with • Paul Polman (former CEO of Unilever, Chair of Imagine)		
Panel discussion (15.40-16.30 CEST)	IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE LEADERSHIP • Heather Grabbe (Open Society Institute) • Prof. Daan Stam (Dean of Engagement RSM) • Shwetal Shah (Youth Representative PeaceJam)		
Major launches	 Future Planet Accelerator B-SM Alumni Association launch and follow-up activities Endowed chair Social enterprise and institutions of Collective Action Initiatives around leadership: Russell Reynolds and SDG Netherlands 		
Breakout Sessions (16.45 – 17. 30 CEST)	PUBLIC LEADERSHIP	Lightning talks by: • Luce van Kempen (youngest SER Crown Member) • Maresa Oosterman (Director SDG Netherlands) Moderators: PeaceJam European Youth Team in collaboration with RSM students	







	BUSINESS LEADERSHIP	Lightning talks by: • Hans Reus (Managing Director Russell Reynolds)
		Edwin van Doorne (Director Global Supply Chain, Friesland Campina)
		Moderators: PeaceJam European Youth Team in collaboration with RSM students
	CIVIC LEAD- ERSHIP	Lightning talks by: • Prof. Tine de Moor (Social Enterprise and Institutions for Collective Action, RSM)
		Werner Schouten (Young Climate Movement; #1 Trouw Sustainable 100)
		Moderators: PeaceJam European Youth Team in collaboration with RSM students
EXPO - booth (17.30 – 18.30 CEST)	Meeting organizations and young professionals; launching initiatives	✓ Garrison Institute: International: GII Team ✓ PeaceJam: European Youth Team ✓ Future Planet Accelerator: Linda van Aken ✓ Social Enterprise chair initiatives ✓ B-SM Alumni Association ✓ SDG Netherlands ✓ SDG House and SDG traineeship ✓ Club de Madrid

THE GLOBAL GOALS





































BREAKOUT SESSIONS - NARRATIVES

THE GLOBAL GOALS











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DAY 1 - breakout 1 THE WICKEDNESS CHALLENGE: **Principals of Sustainable Business**

The Decade of Action can only be served by business if they are not only able to make sustainability 'core' in their business models, but also develop business models for transformational change. This confronts companies with a fundamental question: what principles to embrace in a global system where rules and laws only cover a limited part of the sustainability challenge? How to deal with the risks and opportunities that are created by a rapidly changing - VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) - world? How to translate the 5P's framework of the SDGs (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnering) into strategic and operational principles for companies? This breakout will consider whether a principled approach of companies can provide adequate impetus to the Decade of action and what is needed from stakeholders to support this effort.

DAY 1 - breakout 2 THE PARTNERING CHALLENGE: Making it transformational

Cross-sector partnering is key to achieving the SDGs. In September 2019, UNDESA concluded that despite the overwhelming efforts put in partnering around the world, "we are still only scratching the surface in terms of the number, and quality, of partnerships required to deliver the SDGs." What to do?

DAY 1 - breakout 3 THE NEXUS CHALLENGE: Creating net positive effects

Companies engage in activities that are critical for sustainable development. But their activities may also cause harm to SDGs. A key question therefore centers around impact: how do individual companies' impact each of the SDGs, and how might they improve their positive and reduce their negative impacts? This is the Nexus challenge. Creating a nexus of interrelated positive effects is key to the overall SDG Agenda, but it proves difficult to translate this mechanism to the micro-level of individual firms. How can companies adopt a portfolio of interrelated SDG targets that optimize positive effects and minimize negative effects on sustainable development? What do we know, what insights should we develop further?

DAY 2 – breakout 1TRANSITION CHALLENGES: Overcoming the intention-realization gap

There always exists a (temporary) disconnect between 'intention' and 'realization' in the implementation of strategic aims. In the management practice, it is difficult though to 'Walk the Talk' and close the 'Promise-Performance gap'. The UN Global Compact Progress Report 2019 found that 67% of their corporate signatories are committing to sustainability at the CEO-level, yet only 48% are implementing sustainability into operations. While 71% of the CEOs recognize the critical role that business could play in contributing to the delivery of the SDGs, a mere 21% believe that business is actually playing that role. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung have repeatedly pointed at the problem of companies 'not walking the talk'. How to overcome this gap? This session will introduce a tool - the Better Business Scan - that helps companies map where they are, where they want to go, how to reach that and what kind of operational barriers to overcome?

DAY 2 - breakout 2

METRICS CHALLENGES: Prioritize living wage? Discussion with the multinationals IKEA and Platform Glovo

The SDG project provides a clear opportunity to harmonize and coordinate relevant metrics measure and monitor change. 169 targets are covered by around 230 indicators. Custodian agencies are working on filling the gaps in this setup. Much work has to be done also on linking various indicators to increase intelligent strategies and seize net positive effects. The Nexus challenge was discussed yesterday. But can we also prioritize certain indicators that can function as a 'litmus test' for many other indicators? And can this also be based on an indicator that is not yet fully covered by the SDG-framework. What about 'living wage' for instance? Preferred check on the 'Leave No One behind' principle?

DAY 2 - breakout 3

TRAINING AND EDUCATION CHALLENGES: Business Schools as a force for positive change?

An increasing number of business schools and universities around the world have embraced the SDGs in their teaching, training, and research activities. What is the status of these efforts? Do they help students to be trained to contribute to achieving the Decade of Action and the envisaged systemic change? Can they help in companies to implement relevant tools and hire relevant professionals to help them with transformational change? How to deal with the danger of 'SDG washing' also for business schoolsembracing the SDGs primarily for PR reasons? What is needed for business schools to 'walk the talk' and become a real force for positive change?



FOUNDED BY

Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University



DAY 3 – breakout 1PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Public sector organisations and leaders play an essential role in the delivery of sustainable development goals. They shape the way policy, strategy, resources are delivered to citizens and pave the path for creating change and achieving the SDGs. For a radical change, it is imperative that the public sector identifies their leadership role and the actions required to sustainable change and innovation. What qualities do professionals working in the public sector need to create change?

DAY 3 – breakout 2 BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

The business sector is a vital partner to achieve the SDGs, most specifically in the areas of climate change, economic exclusion, and social inequality, but in order to achieve change, the scope of business needs to shift towards planetary resilience and peacebuilding and redefine their business leadership role and priorities. What does this mean for leadership in the business sector?

DAY 3 – breakout 3 CIVIC LEADERSHIP

The power of people to create and demand change is undeniable, and the youth movement on demanding accelerated change to create a sustainable future is in the forefront with worldwide initiatives such as Fridays for Future, but it does not stop there from human rights activist to indigenous movements to animal welfare defenders, citizens around the world are mobilising and creating change. Leadership in societies and communities requires different styles and practices. What is different and how can people demand and accelerate change?