

IC Forum 2022

Climate change

31 March – 1 April 2022

International Conference Center Geneva (CICG)

Take Aways

Introduction

In 2022, the IC Forum Switzerland and its partners were focusing on issues related to strengthening IC and its effectiveness with regard to climate change. The forum concentrated on the following questions: Where do we stand today? How do we expect climate change to impact our efforts to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda? What role should IC play in achieving the systemic change required to tackle global warming? How does IC have to change to make the necessary impact? How can development and climate change mitigation be reconciled? What is needed to better mitigate climate change, reduce risks and build resilience through IC? How can we make IC greener and more climate-friendly and thus promote a climate-neutral IC?

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Plenary 1:

For the planet, for the future

Start

- Removing subsidies to carbon fuels; accelerating the transition to a low-emission economy; and investing more in climate adaptation and solidarity. (V Scotti)

Continue

- Keep the vision and movement towards consensus and cooperation. We should do this keeping a close link to science.

Change

- Integrate climate action in all other priorities; there is no development if we do not include climate action. We must increase funding into research for large scale renewable energy solutions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Plenary 2:

Cities: Pioneers in tackling climate change?

Start

- Cooling and connecting cities with biodiversity. We need to embed the biosphere, ecosphere and socio sphere.

Continue

- Reducing air pollution in cities, increase packaging waste collection, plant trees and encourage green behaviour.

Change

- Stop looking at the poorest communities as victims but as providers of solutions. For instance local slum dwellers' associations should be included in local climate mitigation activities.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Plenary 3:

Taking a critical look inward

Start

- Those who contributed least to climate change cannot bear the brunt of the costs (AH Lim).

Continue

- Mainstream climate change alongside gender equality.

Change

- Shift from humanitarian funding to adaptation/investment funding to help fragile contexts to change. So more funding, but also different funding (P Maurer).

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Plenary 4:

Are we making a difference?

Start

- Moving away from a project-based approach, towards a more holistic portfolio approach.

Continue

- Climate and biodiversity change are intertwined, they need to be taken into consideration in all actions. Projects must continue looking more at long term effects as opposed to immediate solutions.

Change

- Let future generations take more responsibility and foster intergenerational cooperation in sustainable development – young people are agents of change.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 1:

Healthy diet for a healthy planet

Start

- International Cooperation has a role to play in getting various actors to work together in achieving just transformation.

Continue

- Pushing for shifts in investment portfolios towards sustainable and transformative investments.

Change

- Go back to diversification: wider range of nutrients, more biodiversity, less risk (I. Elouafi).

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 2:

Producing sustainable energy and using it efficiently

Start

- Need for mid-term cross-cutting strategy on renewables development to enhance involvement of domestic value chains, and human capital. At the same time, we need a phaseout date for fossil fuel subsidies everywhere.

Continue

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Change

- We should not replace one dependency with another. To have resilient energy systems, we always need to choose diversification – both in terms of technologies and energy carriers.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 3: Managing water in a changing climate

Start

- Need to address the use of water shared between several countries (such as the Yarmouk River Basin shared between Jordan & Syria), while joint mechanisms/bodies are needed to limit over-exploitation.

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Change

- There is a large gap between science and politics but also science and general public. To address the accessibility of information, it is necessary to alter the way in which data is presented so that it is 'useable' by both politicians and local communities.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 4: The role of IC in scaling up green investments in developing countries

Start

- Scaling- up sustainable investments in developing countries through the mobilization of private sector funds; this should help finance the SDGs.

Continue

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Change

- Develop sustainable investment mechanisms and trainings specifically for SMEs in emerging countries. They are the backbone of the economy, but do not have the resources and knowledge to attract sustainable investment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 5:

Digital health for resilience

Start

- In a post-pandemic world, digital solutions anchored in a systemic approach, play a key role in preventing and addressing health threats at human, animal and environmental/planetary interface.

Continue

- Continue exploring the potential of integrated digital solutions (including data management) for addressing broader issues at human, animal and environmental health interface (e.g. integrated disease surveillance systems). This requires a concerted multisectoral approach and a strong leadership at global and national level.

Change

- Accelerating the implementation of *One Health* approaches at human, animal and environment interface, for better preventing and responding to future health threats. To this end, leveraging the potential of digital solutions using a systemic approach is key.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 6:

Towards a greener IC

Start

- Combining the provision of technical assistance and advice with financing supports resilience while ensuring guidance. This can help to ensure that risk mitigation is considered by the beneficiary, as well as interplay between different systemic factors.

Continue

- We must continue to use a human rights-based approach when addressing climate issues. By leveraging human rights obligations, better climate legislation on both the national and multinational level can be achieved. This is a crucial tool that empowers individuals and those on the ground to lobby the government as well as to bring these issues to court – with a very high success rate.

Change

- Local communities (incl. indigenous ones) are constantly left out of high-level conversations/conferences/projects.

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 7:

Sustainability and technologies in IC – a happy marriage or a conflictual relationship?

Start

- We need to emphasise the importance of organisations' procurement behaviour – big organisations can signal a shift in demand from certain products to more sustainable options and thus, enact change within their supply chains.

Continue

- Continue developing tech solutions because there is a huge potential to further decarbonise development/ humanitarian aid (currently the estimated share of technology's contribution in decarbonising aid is 30%).

Change

- In addition to scalable mature technologies, we need above all structural changes to leverage transformation (change behaviour – investment, public acceptance).

KEY TAKEAWAYS – Working session 8:

Greening the economy while protecting human rights: a dilemma?

Start

- Placing workers, communities, labour standards and Human Rights at the centre of any transition. We need to develop international norms for social impact assessments of climate action.

Continue

- The Just Transition must be a central part of international cooperation, for example at COP 27 and COP 28. We need to further investments in the Green economy, this will create new Jobs and dissipate the closing of old Jobs.

Change

- Adapt to the new jobs that will come with the fight against climate change. Governments should protect the populations that will be affected by it.