

BUSINESS FIGHTS POVERTY: REBUILD BETTER

THREE INSIGHTS BUILDING SKILLS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: FROM LEARNING TO ACTION

DATE: **FRIDAY 24/09**

THEME: **PARTNERSHIP**

FORMAT: **WEBINAR**

SPEAKERS

■ **Andy Bird**, CEO, Pearson

■ **Els Howard-Polman**, Vice President - Business Development and Innovation, Pearson

■ **Patrick Hull**, VP Future of Work, Unilever

■ **Natasha Kwakwa**, Global Head, Community Programmes & Impact, Group Sustainability, Standard Chartered

■ **Mario Elías Gonzalez Lupercio**, Shared Value and Innovation, CEMEX

■ **Richard Stagg**, VP Portfolio Management & Publishing Director, Higher Education, UK Pearson

Moderator:

Katie Hyson, Director of Thought Leadership, Business Fights Poverty

IN THIS WEBINAR HOSTED WITH PEARSON, OUR PANELLISTS DISCUSSED WHY EDUCATION IS A POWERFUL DRIVER OF CHANGE, HOW SUSTAINABILITY CAN BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF LEARNING, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN DELIVERING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

FINALLY, OUR SPEAKERS TOUCHED ON TOPICS RELATED TO TECHNOLOGY AND INCLUSION, AS WELL AS THE ROLE OF COMPANIES IN FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES VIA TRAINING INITIATIVES.

KEY INSIGHTS

1 EDUCATION IS A DRIVER OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE

Education has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with schools and universities closing or moving online and students and their families struggling to transform their houses into learning environments. Andy Bird reminded us that education is foundational for all communities and how the pandemic accelerated the technological transformation of learning for students at all levels, from pupils to executives. Through education, people move out of poverty, and millions benefit as technology makes learning more accessible and affordable. As well, many multinational corporations are under

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pressure to provide more reskilling and upskilling opportunities to their workforce while also helping their smaller partners in value chains enter the digital world.

2 COMPANIES NEED TO PLACE SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HEART OF LEARNING

Natasha Kwakwa highlighted that young people, the workforce of the future, are looking for purpose-driven jobs in companies that are helping societies become fairer and greener. In this respect, Patrick Hull argued that, in order to achieve sustainable outcomes, businesses need to focus their employee training programmes on developing skills that are not only technical but also emotional and social. Skills such as critical thinking,

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES, BUSINESSES NEED TO FOCUS THEIR EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAMMES ON DEVELOPING SKILLS THAT ARE NOT ONLY TECHNICAL BUT ALSO EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL.

creativity, and collaboration can drive sustainable outcomes when embedded within a culture of purpose. Likewise, Richard Stagg pointed out that the goals of upskilling and reskilling initiatives must be turning issues into skills. Companies must aim to transform sustainability into learnable abilities and to engage their employees in intelligent pathways so they gain knowledge from projects and the practical realities in which they are involved.

3 PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY ENABLERS OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING

For partnerships to succeed, they must have a clear and shared vision while taking advantage of the strengths of each partner. Els Howard-Polman spoke of learning as a collaborative initiative that involves businesses from different sectors and other organisations to provide life-long learning opportunities to individuals facing challenges brought about by the future of work. For instance, an employee should continue to have access to skills training even if he or she leaves his or her current company. For Mario Elias Gonzalez Lupercio, the success of cross-sector collaborations like the one described by Els depend on partners being able to break free from bias, egos, and silos. Leaders must embrace cooperation, inclusion, and common rules to make partnerships work for everyone.

RESOURCES

- [Unleashing the Potential of Young People to Succeed in the Future World of Work](#)
- [Pearson: Future of Learning](#)
- [Unilever: Future of Work](#)
- [CEMEX: Global Partnerships](#)