

BUSINESS FIGHTS POVERTY: REBUILD BETTER

THREE INSIGHTS

HOW DO BUSINESSES PUT PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION?

DATE: **WEDNESDAY 03/11**

THEME: **CLIMATE JUSTICE**

FORMAT: **WEBINAR**

SPEAKERS

■ **Anouk Heilen**, Global Sustainability Director, Social Equity and Inclusion, Unilever

■ **Katie Hoard**, Senior Global Director, Sustainability & ESG, AB InBev

■ **Lisa Manley**, Vice President, Sustainability, Mars Inc

■ **Dr Tara Shine**, Director, Change by Degrees

Moderator:

Katie Hyson, Director, Thought Leadership, Business Fights Poverty

IN THIS WEBINAR HOSTED WITH MARS INC, OUR PANELLISTS DISCUSSED THE MEANING OF CLIMATE JUSTICE, HOW COMPANIES BENEFIT FROM TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE SERIOUSLY, AND WHY BUSINESSES NEED TO ENSURE PEOPLE'S VOICES ARE HEARD.

OUR SPEAKERS TOUCHED ON TOPICS RELATED TO INTEGRATING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS, THE RISKS FOR BUSINESS LEADERS OF NOT BEING AMBITIOUS ENOUGH WITH THEIR CLIMATE AGENDAS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE.

KEY INSIGHTS

1 CLIMATE JUSTICE MEANS PUTTING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS TOGETHER

Effective climate action needs to go beyond net-zero targets to consider how social and environmental challenges are integrated. In this respect, for Lisa Manley, businesses' responsibility for building a better world is connected to principles.

To ensure a just transition, companies will have to act to help countries reduce poverty and inequality levels, as well as improve diversity and inclusion in society. As an example, Katie Hoard explained that curbing carbon emissions in long value chains depends not only on measuring and monitoring the emission indicators of

MULTATIONALS NEED TO SUPPORT THEIR SMALLER PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS IN ADOPTING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, COMPLYING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES.

plants but also on assisting stakeholders to become greener. Multinationals need to support their smaller partners and suppliers in adopting renewable energy sources, complying with human rights, and tackling inequalities.

2 COMPANIES BENEFIT FROM APPLYING A CLIMATE JUSTICE LENS TO THEIR CORE BUSINESS

There is no doubt that ignoring the effects of climate change on people and on the planet would be extremely costly for companies. Crucially, however, a lack of ambition can also be equally risky for businesses. As Anouk Heilen pointed out, key stakeholders do want executives and leaders of the private sector to take serious and immediate action against the climate crisis. Many companies already

CONSUMERS ARE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THEIR POWER AS THEY PRIORITISE BRANDS THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH HIGH SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE STANDARDS.

recognise that applying a climate justice lens to their core business is beneficial. Young talent wants to work for employers that are committed to social and environmental causes, and consumers are increasingly aware of their power as they prioritise brands that are aligned with high sustainability and social justice standards.

3 MAKING PEOPLE'S VOICES HEARD IS CRITICAL FOR FOSTERING CLIMATE JUSTICE

Dr Tara Shine argued that implementing policies that promote climate justice requires companies to create mechanisms to listen to people. Companies' employees, other stakeholders, and communities affected by climate change should be engaged in designing, implementing, and monitoring solutions for social and environmental issues. Moreover, integrating CSR and sustainability teams is essential to fostering climate justice, even though this type of integration remains a challenge not only for companies but also for governments and civil society organisations. Finally, improving communication and participation strategies can help put people at the centre of the fight against climate change—to this end, companies need to employ their advocacy power in favour of systemic change.

RESOURCES

- [Unilever: Climate Action](#)
- [AB InBev: Climate Action](#)
- [Mars Inc: Climate Action](#)
- [Change by Degrees](#)