78th UNGA High-Level Side Event on Social Business, Youth and Technology

Create A World of Three Zeros (Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions) with Achieving Zero Food Insecurity and Zero Waste for human fraternity

13:15 – 14:30PM | September 22, 2023 | CR3, United Nations Headquarters

BACKGROUND

Global warming—The greater the warming, the worse the impact

- The World Meteorological Organization released an interim report on the State of the Global Climate in 2022, pointing out that greenhouse gas concentrations have been rising in recent years. The impact of climate change has aroused wide concern around the world.

- 171 countries signed the Paris Agreement in April 2016. Under the Paris Agreement, all parties will struggle to tackle the threat of climate change, keep the rise in global average temperature below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, and strive to keep the rise below 1.5 °C. By 2020, all countries have basically reached a consensus on actively tackling climate change, and countries accounting for 70 percent of the world economy and 65 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions have pledged to achieve net zero emissions.

- The global COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on human economy and society. According to the United Nations, the pressures of fighting the pandemic and economic recovery in the world’s extreme poverty are clouding the prospects for all parties to meet the emission reduction targets they have already pledged. The combination of global challenges also adds uncertainty to the process of climate governance.

- Facing all these challenges, post-pandemic economic recovery has brought new opportunities for green and low-carbon transformation and full implementation of the Paris Agreement. To turn "crisis" into "opportunity", countries need to work together to build a fair, equitable and win-win global climate governance system.

The international community should join hands to meet the challenge
• The earth is the only home for human survival. It is time to deal with climate change. At this critical moment, which bears on the future and destiny of mankind, the international community should join hands to meet the challenge of climate change, pursue green, low-carbon and sustainable development, and build a community of life between man and nature.

• The world is far from meeting the agreed targets for reducing global warming in the Paris Agreement on tackling climate change, and much more will be needed to achieve the goal of keeping warming below 1.5C. All communities should drive towards net zero emissions to become the new normal for every country, city, company and financial institution, as well as key sectors such as aviation, water transport, industry and agriculture.

• To combat climate change, many countries have announced emission reduction targets. The European Commission has put forward a package plan to tackle climate change, covering transport, energy, buildings and agriculture. The Thai government adopted a five-year strategic plan to promote the biological, recycling and green economy from 2021 to 2026, covering agri-food, healthcare services, energy and biochemistry, tourism and the creative economy. Malaysia is also drafting a national energy policy with a concrete action plan to promote a low-carbon transition in the energy sector. The Singapore government released the "Singapore Green Development Blueprint 2030", which sets out the green development goals for the next 10 years. It proposes that 80% of new buildings in Singapore will achieve ultra-low energy consumption from 2030, and all newly registered cars will use clean energy. China has announced that it will strive to achieve carbon peaking by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060, carry out extensive and in-depth actions to achieve carbon peaking, and launch online trading in a national carbon market.

Young people, the most innovative force in solutions to global problems

• There are diverse civilizations and cultures in the world. Young people are at the beginning of their journey to understand the real world. Only by being inclusive can they see the beauty of different civilizations and cultures in the world.

• Young people today live in an open world, a culture of innovation and an era of globalization. Young leaders should take the lead in abandoning narrow ideological prejudice, self-serving protectionism and self-righteous unilateralism. They should speak for cooperation, solidarity and progress, and foster an open and global vision. Young people will enhance our independent judgment in understanding the real and diverse world, pay more attention to the interests of all mankind, especially the poor and other vulnerable groups, and improve our ability to cope with global issues.

• The global pandemic has shown the world in a special way that no country is an island, and mankind is a community with a shared future. In the face of global issues such as public health, poverty reduction, climate change and environmental pollution, young leaders should take the world as their own responsibility, actively participate in global governance for the common well-being of all mankind, and contribute their advice and wisdom to addressing global challenges.

• In response to the new global challenges, young leaders should break with the influence of traditional thinking, actively put forward new ideas and new methods for
reforming the global governance system and solving world problems, and contribute their wisdom and glory to the building of a new global governance order and a community with a shared future for mankind.

- young leaders of all countries will view the world with appreciation, mutual learning and sharing, reach for the horizon, and conduct in-depth discussions on global governance, poverty reduction and development, climate and environment with the dynamism of ideas, cultural integration and innovation, so as to contribute their youth to the realization of a better future for mankind.

**The global food security continues to deteriorate and Food Coalition are making a difference**

- The latest report: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations shows that nearly 12% of the world's population will face severely food insecure in 2020. 418 million people in Asia and 282 million in Africa will face food shortages. By 2030, 660 million people in the world may still suffer from hunger. It is difficult for the international community to achieve the development goal of zero hunger by 2030.

- The global economic slowdown, high poverty rate, frequent wars and conflicts, destruction of the food production environment and deterioration of the ecological environment have made it more difficult to solve the problem of food security and caused great damage to the food system.

- According to FAO's preliminary estimate of the Food Loss Index, about 14 per cent of the world's food is lost before it reaches the retail stage, equivalent to about US $400 billion a year. Therefore, in addition to strengthening global cooperation to eliminate hunger and expand trade exchanges, it is more important to establish a common concept of opposing waste, saving utilization and adhere to it for a long time.

- The innovative multi-stakeholder ideas as Food Coalition launched by FAO to accelerate responses to global crisis. Which injecting new impetus into concerted efforts to prevent a global food crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. All the voluntary participation of stakeholders and cross-cutting coalitions are encouraged to support innovative initiatives to secure global access to food and promote the resilience of agri-food systems in a sustainable way.

**PARTICIPANTS**

- Heads of States and Ministers
- UN agencies and International Organizations
- UN SDG Advocates
- Academic Leaders from Universities and Think Tanks
- Business, Social Business Leaders and Civil Societies
- Young Leaders, Innovators and SDG Corps from more than 110+ countries
PROGRAM AGENDA

Introduction and Sing for Hope Performance  [5 mins]

Opening Remarks and Keynote  [40 mins]

Moderator: Mr. Dominique V. Dauster, Global Committee on Social Business, for Sustainable Development Goals, Managing Director, Yunus&You - The YY Foundation

- H.E. José Ramos-Horta, President of Timor Leste, 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate
- H.E. Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister, The Government of Cabo Verde
- His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See
- Hon. Dr. Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications and Digital Economy Nigeria
- Dr. Qu Dongyu, Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Keynote:
Introduction by  Lamiya Morshed, Executive Director of  Yunus Centre

- Professor Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Laureate, Chairman of Yunus Centre, Founder of Grameen Bank and UN SDG Advocate Emeritus

Joint Partnerships and Innovations for The World of Three Zeros to Achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals together  [30 mins]

Zero Net Carbon Emissions, Zero Wealth concentration for ending poverty, and Zero Unemployment by unleashing entrepreneurship in all. The Three Zeros Outlines a bright future of sustainable development. All the partners and young people over the world will go into action and pledge their commitment in any platform and partnership possible.

Moderator: Mr. Alex Wang, Managing Director, Global Committee on Social Business, for Sustainable Development Goals

- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- Zero Waste Advisory Board
- Yunus Environment Hub
- Yess Impact
- 3Z Net Zero Investment Alliance
- Make Sense
- 3ZERO Club