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LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: TIME FOR SPECIFICS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. MCARTHUR: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to Brookings. My name is John McArthur. I am what's known as the team mascot for the Sustainable Development Goals, but also a Senior Fellow, here, at Brookings, a Senior Advisor to the UN Foundation, and a partner with the JICA Research Institute. We're here, today, to talk about a book, "Leave No One Behind", and, also, the ideas around it.

This is a project that came together through a longstanding cooperation between Brookings and the JICA Research Institute. We're very grateful to their support and their collaboration in this. Thank you, but it's coming in the context of a broader moment of thinking through what are the sustainable development goals for, what are they meant to achieve, and what do they need to be achieved?

Homi Kharas, who is the co-editor, here, at Brookings, with Izumi Ohno, and myself. We had a conversation, almost a couple of years ago, where we said -- and we're taking stock on the sustainable development goals. There's this through line pledge, a through line pledge that the ambassadors, who are negotiating the goals, said, over and over again, especially if one looks back to the final day, when the goals were set, on Sunday, August 2, 2015, when the negotiators brought to a conclusion three years of work to say what's this all for, and we have one of those negotiators here, today, Ambassador Elizabeth Cousens, who is the U.S. Lead Negotiator. In that final day, the thing that people kept saying, over and over again, is we will leave no one behind.

Our commitment in taking on these goals, yes, is to tackle the issues of global sustainability, yes, it's to tackle the issues of global prosperity, but, above all, the first, among equals, is the pledge to leave no one behind. So, in thinking about that, we said, as analysts and researchers, and sometime practitioners, well, what does that mean? What does it mean to take on a pledge of no one left behind? Who was about to get left behind, and what would it mean to take -- to think through what it would do, or what it would look like to take it on?

As we thought about, and we convened, a tremendous roster of authors and analysts, we realized that it came down to specifics; specific people facing specific problems, in specific places, to the

extent I, personally, have started to think we should be thinking about the SDGs, not as the sustainable development goals, but as the specific development goals because they are, ultimately, about people facing problems in the places where they live.

So, we decided to take that to heart, and, if this will work, can we bring up the screen? We even did some analytics that Homi, and I, and a former colleague of ours, Krista Rasmussen, who's now based at UN Foundation, we said, well, what would it look like to actually think through who is on track to get left behind, and, in that context, we said, well, a lot of these issues are life and death.

The sustainable development goals have commitments to get child mortality down to no more than 25 deaths per thousand live births, in every country, by 2030. They have a commitment to get noncommunicable disease mortality down by one third, in every country, wherever it started. They have a commitment to commit -- to cut suicide, homicide, maternal mortality, and traffic deaths. Well, those big pledges, those admirable pledges that, presumably, each of us would all endorse, those come down to specific peoples' lives, and as we looked at the math, in very basic terms, we said, well, you can actually look at how each country is doing, and if the world, and each country, keeps going as it's going, then you can see how many people will live or die. What's the difference, if we fulfill this commitment or not?

So, this is, in my view, the starkest form of whether people get left behind or not. It's whether they even get the chance to live, and, by our estimation, there are 44 million lives at stake, about 29 million who will die prematurely from noncommunicable disease, and about nine million children who will die before their fifth birthday, and more than a million, each, from suicide, homicide, maternal mortality, and traffic deaths. That's the difference between what the world is doing, right now, and what it's promised to do, by 2030.

Those are specific people, in specific places, facing very specific problems, but the goals, of course, are bigger than that, and this is just the people focused side of it. This isn't meant, in any way, to diminish the challenges of climate or oceans or biodiversity, but it is meant to focus in on the people dimension of this problem, and when we looked at these broader challenges, if you can see this, these are the number of millions of people whose basic needs are on track to get left behind, through our best estimate.

Air pollution, there's a commitment to cut air pollution. We said, well, what if we, at least, interpret that as -- cut it by half? Well -- and the new Director General of the World Health Organization has really taken this on, with gusto, in the past year. More than 90% of the world is living in mortality augmenting air pollution. So, if that's not cut by half, at least 3.6 million -- billion people will be suffering with that.

We looked at inequality in public leadership, gender inequality, pardon me, in public leadership. If you look at the discrimination that's seen in women in office, for example, and you see that as representative of societies, writ large. At least 1.9 billion, roughly two billion, women and girls are being excluded, in accrued math, from equal opportunity to lead in society.

One can go down the list; sanitation, undernourishment, access to electricity, extreme poverty, and so forth, hundreds of millions of people being left behind. These aren't broad abstractions. These are actual people being left behind, and that's our point. Whether each of these numbers is precisely accurate, or not, is not the point. The point is that there is some specific number of people that we can identify as being left behind.

Now, we didn't want to leave any author behind, either. These are all the authors. I think we got all, except two, their photos, who were able to contribute, many of whom are here, if you could just raise your hands briefly, some of whom, who are here, who contributed important chapters. We thank you so much for contributing, but this is just to give a sense of the range of voices and people who brought us to this day, for this book. We have topics ranging from gender equality, in the first chapter, to the second chapter, pardon me, after the introduction, to challenges of migration, challenges of the ultra-poor, challenges of fragility, challenges of small holder farmers, challenges of places within countries, where people are more likely to be left behind. We have a range of angles that are taken, and even the challenges of politics, and of power, that need to be confronted, in order for these goals to be taken seriously.

So, with that, I'm delighted that we have an extraordinary panel today, that you'll hear from in a moment. We have a person, who is, without much argument, something of the Godfather of the term leave no one behind, in the sustainable development goal agenda, who is Homi Kharas, who's our

colleague, here, at Brookings, who Chaired the high level panel on the Post 2015 Agenda, for the Secretary General, which, actually, crystalized this concept as a driving thought, in 2013, and has been carried through ever since. So, we couldn't have a better person to moderate this. We have Distinguished Ministers from Niger and Dominican Republic, and we have the CEO of the UN Foundation, Kathy Calvin, and we're honored that -- I think, as some of you might know, this is Kathy's final tour. She has led the United Nations Foundation with distinction for, well, depending on exactly how you count it, roughly a decade, and has been there for nearly 15 years, overall, helping to lead the way, and Kathy, recently, announced that she's stepping down, and handing it over to her successor, Elizabeth Cousens. So, we're honored that they're here, today, and able to share in this, and share their thoughts, as we do so.

So, with that, I'm going to hand it over to our colleague, Izumi Ohno. Izumi is the Director of the JICA Research Institute. She's an accomplished academic and practitioner working on these issues of development, inclusive development, and the social sciences of it, for many, many years. She's been an extraordinary collaborator in this project. We're deeply grateful for her practical collaboration, as an editor, but, also, I would argue, one of the most thoughtful collaborators we've had the chance to work with, in recent years, as someone who's clearly dedicated to this, not as an academic exercise, but one that matters, for real people. So, Izumi, over to you. Thank you so much.

MS. OHNO: Thank you, John, and, then, good morning, everybody, yeah, with Distinguished Honorable Ministers and guests. My name is Izumi Ohno. I just wanted to have a few -- that -- remarks about this book, and, also, that, because I come from JICA, Japan International Cooperation Agency, our feature is a development cooperation national agency, in Japan. So, what that is -- mean for us, and then, finally, I wanted to -- just a few remarks about the part I learned by working through this book, together, with the Brookings Institution. Okay.

Okay. So, I'm very much honored, and -- to be here, to share that -- our book, and also messages, and as -- that John and Homi said, that JICA Research Institute has a long standing collaboration, research partners, with the Brookings Institution, over the -- almost 10 years. So, actually (inaudible) volume of collaboration, we have had. I think those, all of them, are focusing on the -- how we

can do for global development solution, in a concrete way, so that previous one, whether from summit to solutions, which was -- just came out, after the UN adoption of a strategy. We wanted to make move, from just talking, from conferences, to actual implementation.

Now, we wanted to do much farther, how we can do much more specific action, the rich people, what kind of program, what kind of places are being -- that what will being left behind. So, this volume, which we are really working so much, and we are very much glad for the Brookings Institution, and Homi, and John. Okay.

Let me say just a few words about why you have decided to deal with this topic because I think Leave No One Behind, SDG, is such a important end, and, then, this year is very much important for the world, and, also, for Japan to take it very much seriously. I do know that the 2015, as of '19, is a highly important year in the various senses. We just had a G-20 Osaka Summit, well, in Japan, with the leadership, on the presidency in compiling that, our communique, and the leaders (inaudible) of which include development issues, on the Leave No One Behind. We also had a Yokohama in Tokyo, TICAD, our international conference to discuss Africa, featured major places for where to -- it was a major effort to do it, and then we came back from UN SDG Summit.

So, now, we have to, like, take up concrete actions. This is why -- that the Leave No One Behind book is a joint effort for major international intellectual. It means that that's a policy effort, in that they're urging international communities to take specific actions; people, places, facing specific problems. I think there are two ways important of this. I think, publication and book, we wanted to move from slogan to implementation, and, second of all, I think that many, many reports and publications are researched and done, but I think many of them are asymmetric, and, also, are country focused, but I don't think, at the country focused (inaudible) data is sufficient.

So, we have to match more, go into detail, to really achieve this target of Leave No One Behind. For example, the UN report, World Bank had (inaudible) SDG, and then there are a lot of -- I think that there are reports, which are talking about -- that each country is having difficulties, but how can we make it happen, in each place. It's such -- it's a very important thing. Okay.

Just a few words about the JICA activities. As a development cooperation agency, we

really have put it in paper how we can achieve better, contribute to SDG, in three ways. One is we have a core to vision of human securities, and quality growth. A human security is to protect the most vulnerable people from the diverse shocks and risks, and so that they can live in dignity and then free, a freedom for the fear, and, also, we try to achieve quality of growth in sustainable, resilient, and, also, inclusive growth, and we wanted to focus on maybe 10 goals, directory, at the same time. We want to work through partnership to achieve innovation. So, we are very much active in various areas, but -- on our healthcare, education, disaster, these -- infrastructure, various things.

At the same time, thinking about that this Leave No One Behind, I feel like we try to focus on, maybe, in the area, tan area, in the right -- left side, but I started to feel like, by learning from this research collaboration, we have to do more, in a innovating way, in working with the various partnership. So, we try to keep better, our traditional cooperation approach. At the same time, we have to do more, in the new innovative approach. So, we have to, maybe, we have to go beyond traditional approach to the developing cooperation, which include partnership with, like, cities, our partnership with the private sectors, and, you know, also, we have to be very specific about how we can utilize various information data. So, that really require that that -- we have to think about technology issues. So, we have to really go beyond traditional approach, too, and, now, lastly, I just wanted to mention that, the, maybe, future. So, we are, right now, in the 2019, and, then, we have to keep going because we are at a kind of fourth year, and the fifth year we are entering, and, then, talk about 2013. For Japanese, I think we have a lot of important benchmarks like Tokyo Olympics in 2020, next year, and then we are also going to have Expo in Osaka, and then I think we are really discussing how we can contribute, as a nationwide, and those are the citizens to contribute to that, the SDG sustainable societies. So, I hope discussion today will benefit a lot, for after thinking about -- to take concrete action. Thank you very much.

Again? Okay. So, I will just to invite that the panelist to -- how about model discussion, by Homi Kharas, and please move ahead.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you so much, John and Izumi, for kicking us off. My name Homi Kharas. I'm the Director of the Global Economy and Development Program, here, at Brookings. So, you know, we have a fantastic panel to, basically, talk about the ideas in this book. John has already started

with the introductions, but there were a few quite important pieces that he left out.

So, on my left, you know, he mentioned Kathy Calvin, as the President and CEO of the UN Foundation, and the many years that you've been in that position. He did not mention that, in 2011, she was named one of Newsweek's 150 Women Who Rock the World. Kathy, we're looking forward to, you know, seeing a performance from you, a little bit later. Before she joined the UN Foundation, Kathy was with the AOL Time Warner Foundation, and, before that, at Hill and Knowlton. To her left, we have Minister Hwang Arielle Jimenez. He's the Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development, from the Dominican Republic. As such, he really leads a lot of their work on the reform of health and education policies, in the development sphere, but the thing that really attracted me to, from his bio, was that he was the co-author of the first atlas of economic complexity, and, for many of us working in development, that atlas was a real eyeopener, both in terms of the substantive content, but also in terms of the absolutely fantastic graphical presentations of complexity. So, thank you for making complexity a little bit simpler for us to understand, and that's a very important part of the Leave No One Behind problem because it's a very complex problem that we need to make simple.

To his left is Minister Ibrahima Guimba-Saidou. Minister Guimba-Saidou, from Niger, is the Minister and Special Advisor, and is in charge of the e-government strategy and implementation in the ICT push in Niger. He's also the -- represents Niger on the steering committee of the Smart Africa Alliance, and his background, as you can imagine, is in ICT and telecoms, and he was in the team of Intelsat, and, then, Izumi Ohno, my friend and collaborator, from the JICA Research Institute, you've already heard from.

So, it's a terrific panel, and, Kathy, I wanted to start with you, and, you know, just start with this idea, which, in many ways, is a -- quite a strange idea, that the way to start the process of development, in a place like Niger, should be in New York, and with these, you know, big UN conferences, we come together, we convene, we establish sustainable development goals, we put out these, you know, these thoughts about, you know, rallying behind Leave No One Behind, but why does it start in New York, and what's the value of starting there, rather than starting at the bottom, or is it the case that, actually, we did start at the bottom, and just took it up to New York?

MS. CALVIN: I think the latter is the truth, but it -- everything must culminate at the UN. So, it was the right process. You know, this -- in 2000, Kofi Annan, and maybe two other men, in a room, created the MDGs. Now, John, I know you're telling the real story of how that all happened, but that is the lore, that the MDGs were a challenging political construct, at a time when there was a need for a political construct, at the beginning of a new millennium, on how we were going to take care of the whole world, and the millennium development goals were a new concept. We hadn't had goals. We hadn't had processes by which countries could be evaluated and held accountable, and, over time, over the 15 years of their existence, I think people came to recognize they were successful because they actually change -- led to changes in behavior in countries, not from the top, but from the bottom up.

So, when it came time to look at the fact that they were coming to an end, we realized several things. One was that, while we had met the goals, globally, and that felt really good, in most of the goals, we really hadn't met them in specific places, on specific problems, affecting specific peoples' lives, and that that was an unacceptable outcome. While we were successful, and, as Bill Gates, and Bono, and many people have said, we made progress that was previously unimaginable, we still hadn't made it for everyone, and, so, we needed to come to grips with that. So, Homi, I give you credit for recognizing we needed to capture that concept, that we had left people behind, that we weren't reaching the goals if we didn't include everyone, and that those were stubborn places in every single country.

So, two other recognitions happened, or three, I would say. One was that those goals were about those people, over there, in countries that needed assistance, and, in fact, there was a need for making change and bringing people along, in every single country in the world, including this one. So, the goals had to be universal this time, and the third recognition was that you can't solve one problem without understanding and thinking about another problem. A girl's education can be deeply affected by her access to health, and vice versa.

So, everything is interrelated, and the only way we would get forward was to take all of them into account, including our planet, which had really been left behind, previously, and, then, finally, it was a recognition that this could not be talked down. It really did require all sectors, civil society, individuals, the private sector, and, so, we did hear from the world. There was a survey, where people

said what they wanted, and what they needed in their communities, and what that they hoped that the world would do to respond to the fact that progress needed to be made in their homes, and, then, there was the report you did, I thought, really crystallized for leaders, and that was a multisector panel.

You had private sector, and civil society, and government leaders, and it became the basis for a conversation that Elizabeth Cousens, and others, grappled with, where people brought their different opinions to the table, but they actually traded horses and reached agreement on all of these things, 17 goals, but, more importantly, these three really huge concepts, and I think what we are now grappling with, as a world, as we are at four years and almost five years in, is that, as long as we think about this at a global level, we cannot make the progress we need to make.

It does really require the countries to identify where they need the help, where the people are that are most at need and vulnerable, and to find the solutions that really matter, and, so, I'll just close by saying the next 10 years are being defined as the decade of delivery. That is not just the decade of talk or action, but decade of delivery for people, and places, and problems, and it was just so reassuring to see that the Nobel Prize for Economics recognized three development economists who have been talking about exactly this approach, specific problems, and specific interventions, and specific places. So, I think the world is coming together around a very big idea that started here, came up here, and, now, is back, there.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you, Kathy, and, now, and, so, you know, let's keep with that thought, and, Minister Jimenez, let me turn to you, and say how do you, then, take these kinds of big ideas and translate them into practice, and Kathy mentioned the idea that, in many ways, the goals are integrated. So, it's an integrated package. Of course, we understand that, but it does introduce a degree of complexity in implementation because, especially for a relatively poor country, it's difficult to do everything at once. So, you have to choose. People say where are the priorities? So, how do you actually wrestle with that on the ground?

MINISTER JIMENEZ: Sure. Well, first of all, I must say congratulations for selecting this topic of Leave No One Behind. I usually say that averages can be very unfair because it may lead you to think that everyone is benefiting in the same way, and might leave some people unseen, in the process.

So, in terms of the SDGs, the policy process is intrinsically a political process, and a process in which different voices and different interest group determine the agenda of the country.

So, the SDGs really help to put on the agenda people because it's normally about interventions. It's normally about what are we going to do, and not always who is going to be involved, and I really think that the SDGs, in the policy process, we need to think not only how we are going to achieve it, but what particular policy are going to be implemented, and I want to give you an example.

In the case of the Dominican Republic, we've had growth experience of very high growth. From 2004 to 2012, average growth of real GDP was 5.5, which is quite good, for a developing country. The only thing is that the real wages were not growing, and, therefore, the impact on poverty reduction was limited, whereas, after 2012 and since this year, we've had higher growth, but we've seen a very significant increase in real wages. Real wages are growing at 3.2% each year, which has led to a poverty reduction.

So, we can see the same growth experience having different consequences to people in the same country, in a relatively close time period, and that means that the way that we achieve growth is also as important as the growth rate. Before, we were growing in a model, in which productivity growth was leading the growth, and that was a productivity basically achieved in urban cities, whereas, now, the priority is given to the rural area in which we have seen a decrease from 51% of poverty rate, in the rural area, to 35%. So, we're expecting the next year -- no, sorry, 35, no, 29%. So, we're expecting that, by next year, we can achieve 25%. So, rural poverty is going to be half, which is quite good, and how does it -- how did we change the policy process, while bringing different people at the table?

Normally, we have academics, policymakers getting in a room and designing policies. So, people are left as recipients of the consequences of our decisions, whereas, now, we're putting people at the center. We're putting people not only as receivers of whatever consequences we have, but, also, an active party in the process. I want to give you just two examples of how we are translating particular SDGs in that.

We have, recently, released the Territorial Cohesion Fund, which my ministry is leading. So, we have selected the 23 communities with highest poverty rates. So, we have a fund that we're

going to go to the communities, and we are going to invest in the infrastructure that those communities need. So, they have to identify the infrastructure, and they have to prioritize the infrastructure because resources are limited. So, in that sense, we have seen a very much higher impact of any dollar that we put in the budget.

Also, there is another policy that we have implemented, and it was the increase in the loans for the agricultural sector. Before, we used to give loans to big companies working in the rural area, thinking that they could create more jobs, whereas, now, we're giving it to small farmers, to mutual funds, for small farmers, that are increasing their capacity to invest in technology, to invest in improved seeds, in order to achieve higher productivity. So, we have seen policies, you know, including more people, when we include them in the discussion.

We have this program. It's called Surprise Visit of the President. So, he goes, every Sunday, to a different community, poor communities, and he sits with them, and he discusses what do you want the government to do, and he says -- he usually says I'm not giving you free money. I don't believe in free money. You're going to pay it back, and you're going to pay an interest rate, a very low interest rate, but I want to make sure that we invest the money in the things that you decide. So, I think that the process of deciding policies are very important in order to not let anyone behind.

MR. KHARAS: That's really interesting. There's a lot there that we'll come back to, but I was particularly intrigued that, you know, in a country which is relatively smaller in size, I mean, your total land area is not huge. You still have real issues of community -

MINISTER JIMENEZ: Yes. Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: -- differentiation, and that your programs are still oriented around recognizing the differences amongst those communities.

MINISTER JIMENEZ: Sure.

MR. KHARAS: Minister Guimba-Saidou, let me turn to you because, you know, Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world, you were mentioning to me one of the youngest countries, the youngest country in the world. You're faced with this huge array of challenges, and, on the one hand, people say to you, you have to do everything, and then, on the other hand, people say to you, and you

only have this much resources, you have to prioritize. How do you, actually, take those two completely different pieces of advice, and try to reconcile them?

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: Yes. Thank you very much. Maybe a slight correction. I don't think that we're one of the poorest country. Actually, we're, potentially, one of the richest. I'll tell you why, and, really, probably, that's the reason why I'm even here. That's why -- it's the reason why I joined the government.

Until recently, I think, the focus was put on dollar value, on mineral resources, and it was really never put on people, and that's why, actually, earlier -- early, I told you because I think that it's key, here. We are the youngest country on Earth. Median age in Niger is 15 years old. Two third of the population is under 25 years old. So, I think, potentially, we are one of the richest because we believe, I think all of us, that human capital is really the most important resource that we need to have, but I'm emphasizing on the potentially because, now, we have quote unquote raw material, all this youth, spread across the country, a large country, 1.3, almost 1.3 million square kilometers, and we have an extremely low density of population. We're racing, actually, against time. It's really important for us, if we are to ride on this new wave, to address all those issues, development issues, more or less, at once.

So, Leaving No One Behind, I think, really speak to us because we have been left behind for so long, and we came up with an approach, which is interesting, in really leapfrogging. What we have decided to do is leverage technology to actually catch, you know, the train. Why? We believe that, again, when you take a country, like Niger, just maybe, to give you a better picture, we're the only country, also, where you don't have that many people in the cities. The capital city, Niamey, has only six percent of the population. It's unique. Usually, in developing countries, you have most of the population in the capital city.

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: You take the 10, the top 10 cities in the country, they account for less than 15% of the population, really. So, it's really quite unique. It's like a blockchain type of thing that we have, in Niger. So, when you look at it, I mean, on one hand, you see challenges because it's really difficult, almost impossible, to trade some sort of economy skill, if you approaching your

-- the standard way because it's just too expensive. It's just too expensive. It's just not sustainable. You cannot maintain the efforts, and then, also, it's difficult to reach, you know, the right population. So, what you have decided to do is to -- let's come up with a citizen centric approach, and focusing, also, on service delivery because, at the end of the day, it's really -- it's about service delivery. How can we enable this youth that we have by really providing to her the necessary ingredient to really transform their communities?

So, for us, really, that movement around SDG come, like, at right point. I -- we, actually, set up a process, which I call carpooling for the global engine because what we're trying to do is we have to address all this at once. We cannot focus on just one element, and why carpooling? Because that's how we're going to create the economy of skill, and we bring all the stakeholders, government, private-public sector, development partners, and ask them to ride with us, on that development bus, into each and every village of Niger. We launch a program called Smart Village. So, now, you understand why, because we're mostly in rural areas, and Smart Village is the program through which we connect and connect it, but we connect by -- they are connecting by bringing services to the unconnected.

So, we build information highways. So, we don't have physical roads. We have a digital road into each and every village, and what we do, when we bring -- we drop a connection in a village, we bring -- it's -- we bundle it with healthcare, with education, because, also, what we're focusing on is really knowledge acquisition. We believe that if those fresh brains are exposed to knowledge, to information, then, we'll really be able to bank on the demographic what you call it, a dividend, and be able, actually, in those remote areas, to really bring transformation because people will have access to healthcare, to education, to, also, information because most of them are farmers or shippers, so, really, the real information on farming, so that they can increase, you know, the production and productivity in the villages, and then be linked, also, at the same time, to the rest of the world. So, that's what we have set up in Niger, and addressing, really, all those issues. What is gender? What is poverty? Oy. You know, sometime, I mean, I even like to say that we have a comparative advantage because all those were living them, really, firsthand.

So, instead of seeing it as a problem, let's turn it into an opportunity, and then that's why,

and where, also, technology is important. I even call it, like, a fertilizer because if we're able to really use the beauty of technology to provide all those -- access to all those services, which otherwise wouldn't be possible, then, we will be able to transform the country into one of the potentially rich country. So, I'll -- probably going to stop, here, for now.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you. I mean, that is really inspiring, and I love your analogy of the carpooling to development, but let me push you a little bit, and say you mentioned in that carpool that you've also got development partners.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: Yes.

MR. KHARAS: Do all -- what do -- what -?

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: What do all of the donor countries, these people who are trying to help you, how do they feel about Leave No One Behind, and about what you're trying to do? Are they fully on board? Have you had to -- had problems in corralling them into this vision, which might be a bit different from the, let's say, the traditional way that they've thought about development?

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: Yes. I mean, I -- so, I've been in office for slightly over two years. It hasn't been an easy ride. It was bumpy, at times, with some of the partners because they -- unfortunately, some had, already, ideas on how to implement things in our countries.

MS. CALVIN: Yeah.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: So, they just want us to say yes. You know, they know it all, and, then, we have to -- we just have to -

MR. KHARAS: That's called country ownership in this town.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: So, we had to push back. So, with some, it was really brutal, even, but we've -- many, fortunately, I think, they were, maybe, hoping that in a country, like Niger, actually, they will have this type of conversation. So, the UN is one of them, even signed an LOI, with the UN agencies, and that trade, I don't know if you know this, but the UN Foundation is part of the pilot that we're running in the country. So, the UN has really fully embarked in this approach, and then some other development agencies, because we told them exactly what we wanted. There were even a few that I had

to ask to politely leave my office because, I mean, we didn't -- they need to accept that we have to work as a team -

MS. CALVIN: Yeah.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- and, also, they need to accept that there is, maybe, a bit of homework that we need to do together because the most important thing is, also, even for me, is really to go into villages, and to ask people what they really want, I don't know it, and that's what we have been doing.

So, now, after two years, I'll say most of the development partners are on board. Last July, because Niger has hosted the African Head of States Meeting, organized an integration lab, and it was really well attended by most of the partners. So, now, we have the ball rolling. There is funding coming, but -- and, then, I'm slowing certain things down because we need to really make sure that we control that, that we work as a team. We still have some donors who have their own agenda, who still want to, because they have money, they just want to impose their views. So, we're struggling a bit of -- with some of those, but most of them, now, I can say, understand that it makes sense, really, to work together. It makes sense, also, to complement each other because each of the topics -- you take agriculture, I mean, you can have 100 programs, just in agriculture. So, we had to work to show them that they all can still achieve their agenda, while working as a team, you know?

MR. KHARAS: So, that's great. Izumi, let me turn to you, and I saw, on one of the slides that you put up, that, you know, Japan had hosted the G-20, is still the G-20 Chair, for this year, and I know that Japan, actually, made a big effort -

MS. OHNO: Yes, yes.

MR. KHARAS: -- in part, thanks to -

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: -- you, and, you know, your leadership on this, to include the SDGs, as a topic for the G-20 -

MS. OHNO: Yes.

MR. KHARAS: -- and, so, we've sort of seen this idea move from the UN to other kinds

of clubs and groups, who see it as something that they could also promote. Tell us a little bit about, you know, why is this important for Japan, and why did they take these kinds of ideas and try to push it through a, you know, a group, the G-20, which is, actually, largely about how the world economy should proceed, rather than about the poorest people, let's say, in the world economy?

MS. OHNO: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I think there are two issues. One is -- I think, for Japan, itself, I think Leaving No One Behind is a very important, I think, also, political messages. I think our problem is different from the problem with a developing country. I will touch upon that, but I think, for Japan, also, we are really facing a new sort of challenges, like we are aging population. Our population is -- younger people is decline -- that they're decreasing, with how to revitalize the local cities, for example. So, it's some big challenges, and then, for us, to Leave No One Behind is a nice way to -- how to re -- kind of reorganize our thinking in the policy issues.

So, I think Japanese government also took that opportunities to really -- we have to take a leadership, and, also, for the world. At the same time, there are lots of important meaning for remaining issues, which we have to tackle, and then manage the way society has responded, as always. So, it is one things. The other is, I think we have -- because we have been working for many, many years, for developing cooperation, and we feel that there are many issues which we can share, globally, through the accumulative experiences, and, then, and, also, I think that the G-20, and, also, the -- that, like, Tokyo, that, maybe, we are also coming to Tokyo Olympics, and, then, those are very important benchmarks for us to really link what we have been doing, that -- over that, and through international cooperation, with that kind of -- the -- all the global challenges, to make peoples aware of this.

So, what we did in that G-20 process, and with the G-20 process, but really put together with civil society, areas' symptoms, and then really brought together -- there are a lot of academia, from (inaudible) including you, and then, when realizing important messages, after we tried to work hard by linking with the Takata business people, and, also, we are totally -- jointly take action for that, contributing to those global challenges.

One thing I wanted to mention is it's interesting things happening in Japan, and also the -
- in local area, particularly in the Western part of Japan, because of the very organized G-20 summit, in

Osaka, and, also, they're going to host, maybe in 2025, that -- the Expo, also, and, for them, how to revitalize the economies by utilizing their knowledge and technologies, and, also, by linking ways. I think global challenge, it's very important. So, in that Western part of Japan, they're very -- quite active partners been going on in Western, as kind of a civil aid (inaudible) and JICA is collaborating with the civil society and business people, and, also, that -- the local government, of organizing the (inaudible) that the Western part of, kind of, that, the SDG platform, and that really funded the basis for G-20 discussion, and, also, that future of the, I think, SDG platform. So, this is what's happening right now.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you. Let me do one more of this, one more thing I really wanted to go to the panel. Then, I'm going to open it up to Q and A from the audience, but, Kathy, you start to mention it, and Minister Jimenez, as well, this whole idea of voicing agency, and we have, in the book, a chapter, a little bit of a provocative chapter, but the title is something about whether people are being left behind, or whether have been pushed behind, and, so, it's really a question about, ultimately, about power of voice in agency, and you brought that up, at the beginning, in your comments. Do you want to say a little bit more about that, and how we should think about that, especially here?

MS. CALVIN: Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: It seems to be something quite -- that's actually, now, moving from something that people would talk about, perhaps, but not necessarily act on, to actually starting to be a little bit more engrained in many of the conversations we're having.

MS. CALVIN: Yeah. I think, yeah, what we're seeing, in movements, across the board, from young people in climate to Me Too, you name it, there is a very strong view of nothing about us, without us, that has to be brought into this conversation, and, you know, what both of you talked about, about listening to your citizens, and really empowering them, I think, is such a big challenge, you know, because, so often, development, country on, means so many different things, but it doesn't have the people at the table, who have the greatest knowledge of what's needed, and, also, will have very important views about what priorities are, and how much they're willing to do, themselves, and pay.

So, we just have to make sure that the process is leaving no voices behind, as well, and I think it's related to two other issues that I would say, probably, have to be thought about, in every country,

and one is the source of data. Is it good enough? Is it too disaggregated that we really don't know enough about women? We just know in general. Is it old and cold, which is typically the case with statistical data from countries because it's just expensive to collect it? How do we better use big data?

So, I think one of the exciting things, that also came out of your report, was a data revolution report that followed, and how we think about improving the data we collect, and then the data we act on, and the data we measure is essential to getting those voices heard because the data is only about people, at the end of the day, and the other is who is account holding governments, two great governments -

MS. OHNO: Yeah, exactly.

MS. CALVIN: -- but who -- not every government is great, but who's really holding them accountable? Is it your civil society, and are they fully empowered, those people? Is it journalists, and are we training our journalists to be good at reminding people what was agreed to, in New York, or agreed to in Capital, or in community, and how are we fully -- fulfilling it, and I can't say enough about how the -- this median age is really going to be a part of the challenge, and the solution, as we get through this decade of delivery.

I mean, the U.S. and Germany are, at median age, 36 and 38, respectively. Here, you are, at 15. Yemen is, I think, 16. Uganda is, maybe, 17. I mean, it's a world of difference, and that -- and we are looking at the biggest populations, also, where the biggest poverty is, still is. So, it's -- we've just got to find a better way, but I think young people are going to demand it, and the tools are there, now, also, because of technology, but I'm curious how you guys are helping that.

MR. KHARAS: Minister Jimenez, I mean, I was so fascinated by this concept of the Surprise Visits. I mean, that seems such a -- so, how did that come about? Whose idea was it, and tell us about how, you know, has it been -- you seem to suggest it's been effective, but can you give us some examples about, literally, what changes, what kinds of changes have happened, as a result?

MINISTER JIMENEZ: Sure. Yeah. I can give you a practical example, not from Surprise Visit of the President, but one of my visits to the communities. So, I went to the second poorest province in the country, which is called Pedernales, near Haiti. So, when we went there, and we talked to people,

the first thing they said was we don't need more training. We've been trained to do candles. We've been trained to do this and that, and that we need clients, not training. Whatever client you have, we will know how to make it. So, bring us clients.

So, that changes all the priors that we had -

MS. CALVIN: Right.

MINISTER JIMENEZ: -- relative to what we thought, it was needed. I remember going to these other community, and talking to them, and, after that, I realized, you know, none of my training and my readings and that helped me in here. I don't know much more than them. I should be a facilitator of their own process, and not the leader of the process because they know what they need. They know how to do it. They just need resources and coordination.

So, going back to your question about Surprise Visit. It was the President's idea. So, let me just tell you something about Dominican politics. So, the current President, he lost the election in 2006. He lost the Primary. So, he dedicated his time to go around the country and talk to people, of course, building his platform, and he realized that all the things he thought about, of those communities, when he was Prime Minister, were not true. So, he realized that talking to people, listening to them is the best way to have the knowledge in order to design appropriate policies.

So, that's why he came up with the Surprise Visit. He goes, every Sunday, to different communities, and he meets with all the leaders of the community, and they discuss two things; first of all, infrastructure, what they need. Sometimes, it's a very small infrastructure, with not a lot of money, but very high impact, and, also, what kind of loans they need in order to increase their productivity. Is it a factory? Is it a genetically modified seed? Is it this or that, and after they decide, the President's office gives the loan.

So, I think, in order to Leave No One Behind, and I want to get back to you, Kathy. I think that we have to lea -- we shouldn't leave anyone unseen, and we need to invest in data. Data collection is costly, but that is the only way in which we can realize that there are some things that we don't get if just look at averages, if we look at numbers for the entire country. So, we have to invest more in data in order to be able to see them.

The second thing would be Leave No One Unheard. The way we designed the policy process has an impact in which kind of policies we end up deciding. So, it's -- I think those two things are very important, seeing people through the data, and listening to people through the policy process.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you. So, on data and technology, Minister Guimba-Saidou, I mean, what you described about dropping, essentially, a digital highway into every village, actually, creates opportunities for a completely different type of data collection, information. In the book, we make some use of satellite imagery, as a way of getting, you know, more immediate real-time data, and, perhaps, more objective data, than sometimes comes out of government statistical offices, but how do you, sort of, view that process, as giving more voice and identity to, basically, the people in these rural areas, which, I presume, must have been quite difficult to be seen, be heard, et cetera, without that?

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: Yes. So, so, definitely, a country, like Niger, lacks of data, right? That's why I think many projects actually were just developed, based on wrong information, even. So, this program, which I mentioned, the Smart Village Program, is about connecting about 15,000 villages -

MS. CALVIN: Wow.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- and, so, that will give us the opportunity to collect an immense amount of data, and, behind what we're doing, we have already started it, is to build a platform with the youth. So, we have, really, very good programmers. Data is sent, as to which we're bringing together, to collect those data, and, then, to be able, now, to guide us to interpret those datas into various and different way. That's one.

Two, from the very beginning, we want to be really specific. Each village is unique, and it's more or less like a franchise approach that we're having because, in each village, basically, what we're doing is organizing the community. It's really the community leaders that usually have a group of -- because women have their own -- we call them cooperative. I don't know, what's the -- name is in English, but them, and they have the group.

MR. KHARAS: Okay. Yeah.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: So, we use them, but we also have what I call the help

desk of the village, which is a group formed by the youth, and we already start choosing -- having the gender equality because we want to have the same, it's a group of four, so, two female and then two male, young people, which we train, and who are actually, really, the help desk in the village. We go through them because we have literacy challenges. So, they're the one helping those who are not literate because technology is also about, really, inclusiveness. So, how can we make sure that people speak digital, and, then, also, they are the one making sure that we're implementing what the community has requested for.

As you, maybe, mentioned, earlier, there are so many things to do, that we need to find a balance between being specific, but, yet, making sure that all the fundamentals are in place, and that's -- so, we're using the combinations, yes, pooling data from the villages, having people on the ground telling us what to do, and monitoring all those, and it's really exciting because it's something that have never been done before.

So, the only thing that we're convinced of is that it's going to work. We just need to make sure that people are empowered, and that people have their -- have access to knowledge. That's why we're focusing on the knowledge. What we want to avoid is to tell people what to do, or to tell them, you know, they need more of this or that. We don't want to do it at all. I think I'm a good example. I was born in one of the remote place of Niger, and I'm where I am, today, because I've been exposed to knowledge. No one has told me what to do. I wanted to be an astronaut. Really, that was my dream. I mean, I end up being in (inaudible) but it's close enough. It's -

MR. KHARAS: It could still come true.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: Now, but no one told me. So, you imagine, I mean, a young kid from Niger, in this type of environment, you know, thinking that he can become an astronaut.

MS. CALVIN: All right.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: So, that's the type of, I mean, dream that we want to entertain. So, if we give people, again, access to knowledge, and, based on their specific requirements, you know, addressing -- we need to address the immediate needs, like we cannot compromise on healthcare, on education, and some of the fundamentals, like ID, making sure that people -- because we

need to identify people to be able to -- but, so, those are the fundamentals that we need to put in place, but, the rest, we have to leave it up to the community, and then support them, and, yes, and collection from data, through those, link -- because the platform that we're deploying, I mean, it's a combination of satellites, fiber, microwave, so, whatever technology can help us pull data, actually, we use.

MR. KHARAS: So, Kathy mentioned that most data is old and cold. So, now, for you, you know, as you think about finetuning programs, et cetera, what are we talking about, in terms of data? Are you basing it on data that is one year old, six months old? Is it more of a, you know, interactive kind of thing? I mean, just give a quick sense of the change.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: So, for now, I mean, we have to -- for now on, it's really interactive because we go in the community, we collect data because there wasn't anything before, and most of the data that I have seen are really wrong data because what were happening -- and then they edit or because the country, again, is really vast, and then we don't have roads. Most of the country is in the desert. I can guarantee you that there are some places that, if you travel to those places once, you don't want to go back because it's just -- it's really -- it's tough going there. So, most of the data that comes from those areas are not even worth using. So, we prefer to go, at least at the beginning, on, let's say, a completely virgin territory, and then, as I said, start by bringing the fundamentals, connecting the clinic because they don't have doctors. So, we drew telemedicine.

MS. OHNO: Telemedicine, I see.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: We bring a local -- we put a local server in the village with some free information, like Wikipedia -

MS. OHNO: I see.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- Khan Academy, on a local server, a raspberry pie server, and then have a free Wi-Fi in the village -

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- that people can access. Again, it's about making sure that they have free access to knowledge. So, that help us, you know, put the fundamentals, and then we have a community center, where we talk to the various groups. So, if it's farmers, we train them. We talk

specific about them -- with them. We share information on weather, on seed, I mean -

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- the basic that they need. So, that's what we're doing for now, and then -

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- collecting the data. Probably, in two, three years, we'll have enough data, now, to start, really, planning accordingly, and then try to anticipate, you know, some of the problems.

MS. OHNO: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: Sounds like a fantastic foundation. Let me open up to the audience for Q and A. We have about 15 minutes plus left.

MS. OHNO: Thank you. Thank you. Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: Microphones will come around. If you can just identify yourself, please, and ask a question, please.

MR. SICILIANO: Sure. My name is Anthony Siciliano. I'm with the Center for Global Health and Development. Thank you for the panel. It was a great discussion, and I just wanted to ask, one of the strategic partners that I've noticed wasn't really discussed were investors. There, currently, is expected to be a three trillion dollar funding gap to make the development goals quote unquote sustainable, and, for example, we recently held an event at UNGA, which brought together not only Ministers of Health, Ministers of Finance, but also private sector corporations and the heads of private equity and venture capital investors, and let me just give you a quick example

Decentralization of healthcare, that is a great driver to not to keep -- to not leave people behind. It brings the services to remote areas. It, through coin activity, will allow almost rapid testing, rapid diagnosis. The concept is wonderful, but private sector investors, who actually can have the funding to make these things scalable and replicable are only, now, being brought into the process, and had they been engaged earlier on, the model would have fit, and, our organization, what we're doing, now, is bringing the investors in to work in the context to get to concept, to get these funded, to make

them truly sustainable because, in light of the funding gaps, the difficulty in raising enough donor capital, the capital markets are, really, where we're relying upon.

So, my question, to you, as a panel, is, our approach, in terms of engaging investors, is that something that you, as a panel, have seen as indispensable to quote not leave anyone behind, and, if so, what steps do you see as necessary to engage the investors, the private sector, that don't necessarily speak our language of health? I come from a health background. I practice law. I don't know a lot about finance. I've gotten to know a lot about finance, but they speak in a completely different language than health professionals do. So, do you see that as important, and, if so, how do you see the necessary next steps to make these truly sustainable? Thank you.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you. Let me take a few, and then I'll come to the panel. There's a lady in the back.

CAROLINE: So, is this working? Yes, it is, now. Okay. So, I'm -

MR. KHARAS: Nope. Not anymore.

CAROLINE: I'm Caroline, from the Process Fund. I have a question, largely, for Minister Jimenez. So, do you -?

MR. KHARAS: You are, you know, destroying the microphones.

CAROLINE: So, have you encountered, I know this was touched on a little bit more, any of the major influences of colonialism that still exist in a lot of developing countries, either from UN or other -- just foundations you've had to work with, and, if so, what have you done, and what do you -- what have you had to do to push back against the colonial influences of a lot of, especially, corporations, who are, maybe, trying to just exploit developing countries or markets, and expanding capitalism, or are you just using this to your advantage, or how are you doing -- dealing with these kinds of issues?

MR. KHARAS: Okay. Thank you, and, right here, please. Do we have something working?

MR. ELMENDORF: I don't think I need a mic. I'm -

MR. KHARAS: Yeah. There are people behind, as well.

MR. ELMENDORF: Okay. I'm Ed Elmendorf, from the UN Association, and Partnership for

Transparency, formerly the World Bank. I want to push further on the issue of specifics, and how we get to specifics because I sense, and this is where I challenge all of you, that state driven from above services will not reach those who are left behind. We -- I'd like to hear more about how the civil society can, in fact, be engaged, what can be done to encourage. It's the formation of more civil society organizations, what can be gone further, to acknowledge the accountability of the Public Authorities, to the civil society. It seems, to me, this kind of shift will leave fewer people behind, at a time when governments, around the world, seem to be closing in, and reducing the space, for a civil society. Thank you.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you. What if we start with those, and, then, I'll come back for another round from audience? Minister Jimenez, those were questions, specifically, to you.

MINISTER JIMENEZ: Yeah, sure, and I might want to connect it to the first question. So, I would say we have to distinguish between investors that create jobs, and that is the main focus, and job creation is one of the main drivers of poverty reduction. So, we have to include investors, in the process, because we have to put in place the needed infrastructure and public services that they need, in order to invest, and, through their investment, they can create the jobs that we need.

That is different to having investors do public services, which creates a challenge for the government, that we need to improve our ability to regulate it, and our ability to monitor their practices. Often times, governments are, somehow, experienced in service provision, and in supporting other participants in the process, but regulation, and having to decide who does what, and the consequences of bad actions is quite a big challenge, especially in developing countries that are very relational, because relations are formed, and any decisions that you make affect, while one other network, that you have to take into account.

So, back to -- I would go to the second question, but colonialism, honestly, no. We have a lot of FDI. We have -- we are the second country receiving the highest FDI numbers in Central America, and in the Caribbean, after Panama, and what we have seen is that multinationals, you know, they have their interests. We have to admit that they are profit driven, and they look after being -- having the highest profit possible, which is acceptable, as long as, they respect our laws, and they respect our

procedures, and all that.

So, you know, it's a normal process of defining the limits of actions, but we've seen job creation. We have seen productivity growth, and linkages to small firms. So, that's good. In terms of other donors, let's say multilateral agencies, and other countries, I relate a lot to my colleague Minister, when he was saying, that sometimes they have their own agenda. They know what they want to do, and they want to impose the agenda on the policy process, and I've had the same experience.

I say, you know, if that is your priority, probably, you can see other that would prioritize that, but not in our country. So, if you want to work with me, this is my agenda, and you cannot change it. We can discuss it, but you cannot impose any topic, that it does not respond to our basic needs.

Regarding the civil society, I'm working, a lot, on that. So, one of the areas, in which I put in a lot of emphasis, is in transparency because I think that when we give, to the population, the information that they need, they are able to interact in a different way, and they have power. So, I am putting in the web page all the public investment that we're doing. So, it's called The Investment Map. So, people can see where the government is investing, who is the contractor, what's the execution, in terms of the physical and financial execution, and the details of the contract, and, in that way, they can participate in the local process.

They can say, you know, the government has given you all these amounts, and you haven't started. Why is it? We're also putting in the web page all the information about NGO's. So, many NGO's, in our country, they receive a public money, money from the government. So, we're putting that in a web page that is user-friendly, and, in that way, people can know, well, the government is giving all this money to this NGO, and they are not providing me the service that they say they should provide. So, by giving data, by giving information, I think we give power, and we change the discussion, inside the community, and in the nation as a whole, and let me just finish. I talk too much.

We're also -- been transparent on what level we should have, in terms of both SDGs in our National Development Strategy, where we are, and the policies that each Ministry say they are going to implement, in order to achieve the goals, and reduce the gap. In that way, I'm looking that people can have a different way to participate in the discussion. They can say, you know, doing those policies, you

are not going to reduce the child mortality, or if you're prioritizing that policy, I don't see that in the budget.

So, I think that improved the discussion, and, at the end, it ends up improving the policy process.

MS. OHNO: Yeah. Can I just -?

MR. KHARAS: Thank you.

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: Izumi?

MS. OHNO: Yeah. Yeah. The rearing, the private sectors' loan, yeah, I think it's a very, very important issue. Actually, we have discussed a lot. We, Takata G20, in the same 20 process, and, I guess, despite the growth of potential, over import and all the private sectors, I think, they are quite aware of that sustainable development goal. At the same time, I think, in reality, for various reasons, it still hard for many of the corporates to integrate that concept into real business strategies.

So, how we are going to do it? I think that we have a good chapter, by the professor, John Nelson, and that they're for more, like, private sectors, activity, like (inaudible) how that the small holders, agriculture holders, can be linked with -- at the big business, and, there, they have the kind of better quality, the training, and then the marketing. So, how that, I mean, that the business coalition integrating small holder become a very good thing. So, I think we -- it's an important thing that we have to really advertise, and then share those good practices much more globally, and then incentivize all the kind of growth potentially (inaudible) to take on that.

At the same time, I think that I wrote about -- I said ESG investment is now picking up, but I think we should do more, as in incentivization, so that they can -- maybe, minimally, ESG is still climate financed. So, how are we going to turn that into much more human centered? I think our investment. I think that is very, very important thing. So, this is what I just wanted to say. Yeah.

MR. KHARAS: All right. I think we have time for one last question. Who's going to be the brave soul? All right, we'll do two, two brave souls.

MR. SAUL: Hi, my name is Griffin Saul. I'm a fall intern for UNA-USA, at the UNF. My question, in specifically, is for Minister Ibrahima, but I would love for everyone to answer, as well. You

mentioned that Niger is working to build human capital, and, in some cases, you guys might be the richest country, as a result of that. As a young person, that very much resonated with me because I believe in young people's ability to catalyze change. I'm curious what Nigeria is doing to build social capital, though, because we know so much of social change revolves around building relationships and harnessing the power of people. So, is that taken into consideration, when you're visiting communities, and connecting villages, and, if not, what steps you do to move forward with that? Thank you.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you. Behind you.

DANIELE: Hello, my name is Daniele. I'm leading an international network. I'm working for Women Entrepreneurs, in the Americas Region, very focused on Hispanic Women, and, so, I have, basically, two questions. So, one is -

MR. KHARAS: One.

DANIELE: Okay, one question. So, basically, it is -- so, what I saw -- what I see in the country, at the country level is, first, that there's still a need to offer mentoring, training, and a lot of non-financial services, but the question is how -- who is leading the -- who has the ultimate responsibility to coordinate that, at a country level, because, as a non-profit, I think that we feel lonely in this. We feel that we are providing a lot of services, and we don't get the support from financial, multilaterals, and also private sector, and public sector. So, we feel totally lonely in this work, on promoting sustainability, the SDG.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you.

MS. CALVIN: I'll take a quick answer for some of that. You know, so, I think, one of the challenges is, that we see in every government, work is done in silos, and I think the silos are going have to change. Many of you know Geeta Rao Gupta, who was, for many years, here, with the ICRW, and then went to UNICEF, and she's, now, working on a project to show that you can't get to the gender solutions, to take one, without, really, making sure you're breaking down the silos between the Health Minister and the Energy Minister, and the Women's Minister, if there is one, and, so, I think, that's got to be part of the solution that comes in this regard. So, we take care of that.

I think the other silo is the New Investor Movement. It needs to connect with the

philanthropic, and the -- we need blended finance because the solutions and the money just aren't at the same scale yet, and, so, it's not connecting properly for the size solutions -

MS. OHNO: Yeah.

MS. CALVIN: -- that people need, and, so, money may go into the wrong places, or we may be judging the wrong thing. So, I think, that's another piece of the challenge that will have to be addressed.

MR. KHARAS: Yeah. Minister?

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: Yeah. Thank you. So, maybe -- it's one of the thing that we are doing in Niger. Like, my department, actually, is doing exactly that. I coordinate all the government efforts. So, what we -- that's why even, maybe, I was talking about carpooling. I'm the one driving the car, you know, the bus, so, so to speak. So, that's really what we do. So, I talk to -- I'm the facilitator. I talk to the Minister of Health, the Ministry -

MS. OHNO: Nice.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- of Education, and then I try to aggregate all the needs, and then put, you know, common platform, and I also do talk to NGOs and then to the different players, in doing that, and what we -- maybe there are a few things that we're doing also. I set up clusters, where you're talking about civil society. Actually, they are invited into clusters. For example, in agriculture, under the leadership of the Minister of Agriculture, we bring the NGO, we bring development partners, the civil society, the youth, because that's really the entrepreneurs, to discuss and, then, set the priorities, and start implementing things. So, we do it in, right now, in five, six clusters; health, education, environment, and, what you call it, local -- what you call it -- local content, development and things. So, we are going to have a few more, and there is even a place that I set up. It's like an innovation place that we're setting up, for where this conversation is taking place.

The other thing, also, maybe we're getting civil society. We're the first country to have signed the Table of -- Mountain Table Agreement. So, Niger, I mean, so, journalists, actually, can really speak freely. They don't go to jail, and then they're really bringing all they need to bring, you know, to the surface, so that we're held accountable.

A few other things that we're doing, maybe, specifically for the youth, we are -- we have been organizing, for the past 29 months, a monthly boot camp on technology. So, what we do, during those boot camp, every month -

MS. OHNO: I see.

MINISTER GUIMBA-SAIDOU: -- we pick a topic. It can be, maybe, technology for people living with disabilities, or technology with religion, technology with health, technology empowering women. So, every month, there is a specific topic, where we bring, again, civil society, and, then, the youth. We discuss that topic and see how we can remember. I say that we're really using technology to address, you know, the key development issues. So, we're having that conversation. We're using that boot camp to train people.

So, schools actually send us students, which we train during the day, and then, at the end of the day, we have two or three programs that we continue running. We have set up a specific track for kids 15 and under, that we try to initiate to coding, et cetera. I have initiated the program, volunteer program. That's -- so, next year, next summer, we intend to send youngsters, actually, in villages. So, they will go spend a month or two in those villages, actually contributing to it, so, training those, I mean, the youth that is in the village, and then also helping the communities. So, that's what we're trying to do, really, to get to the population, involved for the youth. I'm the only department, actually. I accept all internship. I have more interns than staff, yes, and I'm doing it on purpose because I believe with what we're trying to do. I want to get, you know, the population involved. I want them to take ownership of what we're trying to do, and the best way of doing it is through inviting them. My office -- sometime, I'm there even until midnight. I don't have hours. You go Sunday, there are people there because I have organized some space, where they have good internet connection. They -- I put resources at their disposal. The only thing is they need to tell me what they're working on, so that, you know, we can build on their findings, and try to do things.

So, we -- we're trying, I mean, really different things to see what works, and then, because we have -- you want to make sure that everybody's involved. You cannot also be too specific. So, if there is a group of youngsters, who want to work on a specific thing, the only thing that they want to

know is how it's relayed to the big picture, and then how they are going to, also, be accountable, and then try to work with them.

MR. KHARAS: Thank you. Thank you very much. Well, we've reached the end of our time. Please join me in thanking our wonderful, wonderful -- and thank you to Kathy. You know, I don't know how many more times we will have the pleasure of seeing you up on this stage. We, certainly, hope we will, but, in your current capacity, this may be one of the last times, and, so, we really wanted to just say thank you so much for everything you've done, not just today, but over the years. So, thank you.

MS. CALVIN: It's been an honor, and I know, without me, there, there will be room for many more of you to carry that torch forward. So, go on, do it. Thank you very much.

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