



## MEDIA RELEASE

### For immediate release

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Responsible Business Forum closes with new solutions and commitments

- *New lab-style format leads to collaboration, solutions and commitments*
- *Plans underway for Forum to track and support delegates on their progress of commitments*

**Singapore, 16 October 2018** – The Responsible Business Forum (RBF) on Sustainable Development closed on a high last Friday, with delegates pledging to pursue and advance some of the key solutions conceived of during its two-day programme.

Amongst these, 100 Resilient Cities revealed that it would work with RBF, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) to pilot tools and guidance that help cities articulate their complex urban challenges. This would improve the private sector's understanding of the issues involved allowing for more real-time, and systemic responses. According to Lauren Sorkin, Managing Director, Asia-Pacific, 100 Resilient Cities, forums such as RBF are ideal places for cities to bring well defined problem statements; when diverse and talented business and civil specify leaders convene, its fertile ground for active solution-creation.

With the new lab-style format, RBF delegates were given the opportunity to pre-register and participate in a sequence of workstreams under one of the five areas: *Climate action, Urbanisation, Circular economy, Human rights, and Food and nutrition*. By the end of RBF 2018, new commitments were made. Delegates had been led to reframe issues, examine current solutions, formulate their own, and subsequently commit to certain goals and targets within their chosen focus area.

“This year, we set out a new approach to help delegates identify ambitious yet realistic steps towards the SDGs. This new process has borne some fruit – I hope to see the same energy channelled towards what delegates pledged or expressed interest to work on post-RBF,” said Tony Gourlay, Chief Executive Officer, Global Initiatives.

#### ***Driving wide-reaching impact***

Notably, Climate Action participants committed to develop and publish a micro-grid roadmap document for governments of lesser-developed countries who need help to surpass legacy energy systems and modernise energy infrastructure and regulation. This roadmap document would comprise best practices from other countries, financing options, partnerships and more, as well as culminate in a series of dialogues with the business chambers of commerce, other multilaterals banks and agencies, and a conference next February.

The group focusing on Human Rights found ways to get businesses involved in strengthening child rights, women's equality and migrant labour rights in supply chains. They recognized the need to build safe spaces for women to thrive in the workplace and for stakeholders to work closely with the government to develop standards to combat forced labour. CP Group committed to creating a Human Rights Academy on Business and Human Rights to be piloted in Thailand, while HP encouraged others



to join them in the Responsible Business Initiative to enhance ethical recruitment practices. Other businesses called for an ASEAN Labour Migration Policy.

Simon Baldwin, Director, SecondMuse Indonesia stressed the importance of building innovation ecosystems that can help accelerate novel ideas to market. As a first step, SecondMuse would undertake a mapping exercise to identify the relevant stakeholders (for example innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, corporate partners and government departments) based in Singapore who can contribute to circular economy innovation. “A collective ecosystem approach helps to de-risk involvement in innovation while at the same time it allows the rewards associated with growing new sectors of the economy to be shared across multiple stakeholders ” said Simon. The innovation and collaboration agency aims to launch a challenge statement that will identify key opportunities in the circular economy space at next year’s RBF.

Those in the Food and nutrition track opted to focus on the interrelatedness of human and planetary health, and the role and influence of food at its centre. Together with partners, WWF proposed the development of a content hub involving multiple contributors, run by a full-time secretariat comprising different experts, to deliver consistent information to different generations of family-units. This will be designed to drive consumer awareness on how food should be consumed, in a way that is good for both people and our planet. As a commitment, partners will continue to work together to identify a city in which the solution can be piloted.

UNDP also shared that it was developing a compact with service, technology and telecom providers to mine data around risks and opportunities to change consumer behaviour.

### ***Building on key 2018 insights***

Delegates went away from RBF 2018 reminded that a siloed approach is often ineffective. Partnerships, if established properly, provide a more cohesive picture of the challenges at hand. Partnerships linking public, private and civil society actors together also help bring sustainable ideas to market more effectively. There is also need to foster an enabling environment that celebrates experimentation and allows for greater collaboration and neutral facilitation. “It has truly been a productive gathering. We will engage delegates over the next 12 months on the progress of specific commitments and help support these pursuits,” said Tony. “We hope to have updates and new experiences to share at the next RBF.”

### **For media enquiries, please contact:**

Monica Hornung Cattan  
[monica.hornung@globalinitiatives.com](mailto:monica.hornung@globalinitiatives.com)

Cedric Monteiro  
[cedric.monteiro@undp.org](mailto:cedric.monteiro@undp.org)



RESPONSIBLE  
BUSINESS FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

Shaping the World in 2030:  
Partnerships for SDG Action

SINGAPORE, 11 - 12 OCTOBER 2018



**For more information about the organisers:**

**About Global Initiatives** [www.globalinitiatives.com](http://www.globalinitiatives.com)

Global Initiatives is an international company based in Singapore that promotes sustainable partnership solutions to global challenges through film, media projects and public-private initiative driven events. The Responsible Business Forum (RBF) global event series helps drive sustainable industry solutions through public-private partnerships that enhance responsible business growth.

**About UNDP** [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.