

High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

Commitment to Action

United Nations Global Sustainability Index Institute Foundation (UNGSII)

Delivered by Ari Eisenstat

Your Excellencies:

On behalf of the UNGSII foundation, I want to thank you for the opportunity to share our commitment to advancing Health, Employment and Economic Growth. The Global Sustainability Index Institute, which operates as an independent foundation, is working in three key areas to accelerate the adaptation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are: Education, Substantiation and Activation.

The first is "Education." We are committed to empowering stakeholders across the global community to become agents of change in their communities by offering educational programs built on the foundation of achieving the 2030 Agenda. Next year, with the support of the UN Academic Impact network, we intend to launch a rotating Executive master class program that will teach core principles of sustainable development through the Goals, then connect our students with industry leaders across sectors whom they can partner with to build solution-based projects.

The second is "Substantiation." Careful, objective measurement is the key to evaluating the progress of institutions that have committed to furthering the SDGs. We will work with our partners to launch a Global Sustainability Index that shows impact and progress across sectors using cutting-edge data science to provide a transparent dashboard and rating system for businesses, governments, and foundations to measure their success with the SDGs. We will have the opportunity to celebrate and award the world's top performers at our 2017 Global Goals Conference next December, an event that you will all be invited to attend.

Finally, "Activation" is the impact-driver for the third leg of UNGSII's campaign to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. An example of our efforts to activate SDG evolution includes the launch of an impact venture capital fund that we intend to serve as an investment source for social entrepreneurs whose innovations will fuel the achievement of the SDGs and support implementation of the commission's recommendations. For example, we look forward to building partnerships that stage launch pitch competitions in support of the development of innovative technologies for health workforce startups. We envision deploying this network of government, NGO, business, and academic leaders to evolve into, or activate, a network of UNGSII Ambassadors who are committed to serving as bridges between the work of the United Nations and their local and regional communities.

The next 13 years will serve as the most exciting in human history. With exponentially more powerful technologies coming into being, and with a growing global consciousness, we – your generations and my generation - have the opportunity to channel political, social and financial capital to solve the greatest challenges our world has ever faced. The health of our species, the bedrock of humanity's success to date, is at risk. If we can work together to successfully educate, activate and substantiate the SDGs on a global basis, we can ensure a society, economy and environment of abundance for many generations to come.