WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE GREEN INSTITUTE

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EQUITY SESSION

PROFESSOR LOUIS MEULEMAN: Co-founder and Director, Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (ps4sd), Belgium.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

MODERATOR: PEDI OBANI- Associate Professor, School of Law, University of Bradford, United Kingdom.

Dr Obani: We have with us for that panel three distinguished speakers. One of our speakers today is Professor Rosalind Malcolm. Malcolm is a professor of law at the University of Surrey where she also acts as director of the environmental regulatory.

Rosalind specializes in looking at the ways through which law can be used to protect the environment. Her recent work is on the wicked problem of polluting waste from Plastics and how effective our economy might help to stop the problem of waste .Also part of that panel we have Dr. Louise Mueleman. So Louise is an academic practitioner and trainer on sustainability governance, Metal governance and policy coherence and integration. He's a visiting professor of public governance at KU Leuven University in Belgium. He's also a member of the United Nations community of experts on public administration, CEPA, vice chair of the scientific Committee of the European environment agency EEA and member of the global Council on SDG 17 in the UAE.

His latest book is Meta governance for sustainability and this was published by around pledge in 2018. He also has a book on Meta cognizance approach to multi-level governance and vertical coordination for the SDG that's been more recently published in 2022. Thirdly, we have with us today professor Oguge Nicholas Otienhor he has 37 years' experience in nature conservation. Academia in East Africa, Belgium, New Zealand, the UK, and the US, he has developed the landscape conservation program in Northern Kenya that enjoyed ethnological knowledge of the same people with scientific, approaches to increase space, for wildlife, diversify livelihood, basis for communities and build capacity for local people. He has also co-develop his summary for policymakers on the trends and status of biodiversity and ecosystems services in Africa and this was developed for the intergovernmental plenary on biodiversity and ecosystem services. That is the IPDS. Nicholas aspires to generate and share information that will lead to the development of optic and implementation of measures that support Regional Trans boundary -specific conservation goals. In order to provide sustainable livelihoods for the local people and a space for wildlife, in the east African region. So I am sure you are in no doubt as to the immense experience and expertise of the panel on equity as we have with us here today. So with no further Ado, I'll hand over to Professor, Malcolm to talk us through her presentation which is focused on the Keynotes and it brings together all the key issues on this issue of equity in addressing plastic pollution.

PROFESSOR LOUIS MEULEMAN: METAGOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY- Beyond the Polycrisis lies complexity

Prof. Meuleman: I think in Environmental Policy I have seen so many sites and but I'm also an academic specializing in governance issues. And currently all of my associates is being a vice chair of the United Nations committee by experts on public administration. So they say, helping countries with their public administration and governance issues. So to begin with, I mean, the topic I would like to say a few things about is generally that the issue of the poly crisis in which most countries are at the moment. And what does that mean? For US governance, we have the same thing. UN sustainable development goals and they are kind of an overarching policy. The policy framework that Meta policy the policy of all policy. The policy of all policies policy can be defined as what we do. And when and is always needs governance, governance is then defined in a very simple way, as how we do it and with whom and you can see in this picture that policy in Governance are the yin and yang of tackling, societal problems, they belong together and my problem is with my frustration. I think of all

this year's working environmental policy that most people, the officers and also politicians tend to be interested in the policy part in the goals in the targets and not so much in the governance part and when things go wrong, when it doesn't work, they think that the policy is wrong, or example. Yes, Jinn's are not implemented well there must be wrong. No, they're not wrong. They're right. But the governance is neglected. So that's why that's important. And we have the SEC 16 and 17 as the enablers enabling the governor's goals 16 on institutions and things. And since Hampton on partnerships, secondly traditional governance can be top-down hierarchical style or collaborative network style or competitive, the market style of go-biz and different tools and instruments but also values behind it. In fact, these are also three cultures you could say in some countries are typically hierarchical. Some countries are typically market style and others are typically networks. That and the point is muscle shirt is very well if you only have a ham every problem looks like a nail. If you only think hierarchically, then you think to every problem needs a law to solve the problem, which is in practice, not through some problems. You cannot solve for the law and some Things are not eggs and you need something else that I have are so governance for the SDGS must be a dynamic combination of all the three styles in combination to management and design. And this is this approach is called Meta Governance, the governors of Governance. And this gives a lot more options. You can see here, one of the differences between the three Styles, the suitability of problem types. Hierarchical governance is good in crisis management. Network of news is good and complexity, in unstructured, problems and Market. Commons is very good for health efficient for routing issues and these files different know, especially pleased. That these are different, only these 50 different features of governance and understanding this full toe box prevents that we always try the same approach. Even if it doesn't deliver each of these 50 topics has three different expressions of Governance.

And to understand all this makes that you are have a full toolbox as a policy maker and also as a stakeholder. Yes, and now we get to the problem because crisis management is important as we know in current times and we are even the bully crisis time and maybe even in the same crisis, if it continues, but many crises are at the same time, also wicked problems. Complex problems with interest conflicts. And the point is that crisis management asked for a faster, top-down approach, fire brigade, or less type, and complex problems. Hard thing and trying reflecting and adjusting again and trying again and solving small bars of the problem. And this is much slower response. And we've seen how the past year since covid that Focus only on the poly crisis results in simplification, in short-termism, in unlimited funding for crisis management, drawing away money for more complex issues, emergency laws, undermining democracy, which is necessary.

The crisis but it's cannot continue. Some governments tend to continue the suburbs and full neglect of stay in the inclusion of stakeholders and with matter governance as a management framework for leaders at all levels, we can put in place mechanisms institutions to ensure inside and all the side of what is happening in connect, the short and long term governance. So I have for example, four sides mechanisms next to crisis Mechanism in them in a government investing in policy coherence for sustainable development, and that is a specific Target 1714 of the SDG's that contributes strongly to creating the conditions for metal Governance. You can see here, the policy creates for sending the government. I don't know if you know, this concept, but it has eight different sub Dimensions, you could say, and this is all about these important issues, like improving horizontal and vertical coordination. It's a long-term Vision policy integration sub-national engagement, stakeholder engagement. All these important things are there and they belong to the governor's part of the SDG implementation. Civil Society, organizations local communities. And business can also be metal Global Services. This concept of medical homes is not only for government. They can do this by Dynamite using the do back and mix the different roles they can have of being an advocate and a partner. For example, this is graphed is a well-known version of the different ways of and the different levels of involvement of stakeholders. You can see on the left side, this is made what it took to be advocating role and on the right side, the partnership role and that is different and it requires different skills and different Visions from stakeholders and from governments also. Some of this is based on my book; medical options for sustainability and I'm doing lots of trainings will be in this kind of things. It also applies to the big problems that were addressed in the context of this world environment day, acted Plastics, strategy, where you can end the European green deal. For example, I have a bit more experience with. Thank you so far. I hope this was short and a good start for a discussion thank you very much.

Dr Obani: It was excellent. Thank you very much Professor Mueleman. I mean you capture the main element of meta governance sustainability and I think there's a lot of interest in it. We have a question from the audience already asking what is the role of meta governance in addressing plastic solutions.

Prof Mueleman: Yes that's a nice one. I must say, I have worked in the European cooperation for the last 10 years to see very closely the European plastic strategy works and that is a good example of meta governance because, this plastic strategy as to be effected in all seven country in the European union of different cultures and amidst the European commission normally makes package of measures not just one law but a package where you have a piece of legislation, you have some financial incentives and you have information or resurrecting campaign so you have soft and hard tools together combining that is an example of meta governance. Looking back if you see an approach like that doesn't work, fails then it often from the case of one or two of these governor's style I have forgotten or neglected or not wanted. So that is the level of making a tool for plastic strategy for example but you can also have a meta governance mechanism as a kind of supervising maybe not as authority but supervising committee or group who oversee what is happening at a different level and tries to support, at least point out where the problem are. Sorry for the long answer.

Dr Obani: No not at all. I think it was quite informative and in fact it leads me to the next question especially the fact that you situated meta governance within the context of the Europe or the European union. How do you see meta governance interacting with multi-level governance for instance which is one of the main approaches for addressing complex problems. So how do you see the connections?

Prof Mueleman: Multilevel government is part of policy career for sustain development. It one of the eight dimensions variation between national and sub national level but multi-level governance is broader than that and then you can see I have described this in articles that are three different ways of doing multi-level governance between the highest and the lowest level and all the steps in between. One is the Hierarchal style you get instructions from above and local authorities have to implement it. One is the bottom of thinking where you have to do things as much as possible at the lowest level where you can still do it. Those things should be done at the local level because it can be done. But the relation upstream is also slow and there is a third style which no so often existing already and that is what I called Real time multi-level governance or collaborative multi-level governance. This is where you don't discuss primarily who is in charge of what which level of governance is in charge of a topic but you sit together at one moment or series of meetings to discuss what problem, whose problem is it, what is the shape of the problem, How can it be solve and at then at the end who can do what to solve part of the problem. Instead of starting with who's the boss and who's in charge that work very well and launch faster than waiting for things to trickle down or trickle up. That's a way of looking at meta governance in multi-level governance

Dr Obani: Thank you very much and that raises important issues when you talked about having all the stake holders there will always be issue in the power dynamics. I mean in law we don't talk