

Driving Change and Collaboration: Insights from the Schwab Foundation and GASE Annual Summit 2023

Dr Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Shrastant Patara, CEO and Kanika Verma, Lead - Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship, attended the Schwab Foundation and Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship (GASE) Annual Summit 2023 from 14th- 16th June at the World Economic Forum in Geneva. Development Alternatives and over 200 "Schwabees" and GASE members celebrated the Foundation's 25th Anniversary, acknowledging the commendable efforts of Ms. Hilde Schwab and Prof. Klaus Schwab on building a community of social change leaders.



Snippets from the Global Alliance Summit

The Schwab Foundation is a non-profit organisation that aims to promote social entrepreneurship as a key driver of sustainable development. The "Collaboration" was a cross-cutting theme at the Summit, which triggered a healthy exchange of ideas and information among participants. There were meaningful exchanges with corporate and institutional partners of the Alliance that opened a range of possibilities for new multi-partner initiatives.

Kanika Verma was a Firestarter in an engaging workshop on 'Scaling Idea and Impact, Not Only Organisation'. During the session, she emphasised a bottom-up approach drawn from Development Alternatives' flagship programme Work4Progress, supported by "la Caixa" Foundation, which focuses on Inclusive Entrepreneurship, and explained how the ideas and solutions need to be owned by the community itself to create a more profound and larger impact.

Chairman Dr Khosla was a Firestarter in an interactive workshop on 'Shifting Narratives and Paradigms of the Global South'. He spoke on how the prevailing Western perspective on the Global South still

shapes one's understanding of global development. He ignited a call to action for social innovators to challenge the prevailing Western perspective on global development and emphasised the need to disrupt narratives for a more sustainable future for all. Dr Khosla was also a Firestarter in the 'Policy Change: G20 Engagement for Social Innovators' discussion, where he highlighted the significance of Social Innovation in global policymaking and promoting national policies that support the Social Solidarity Economy.

As part of the Summit, Schwab Foundation and GASE members also came together for a discussion on 'Intergenerational Approaches to Local Realities' with over 500 Global Shapers from the World Economic Forum. Our CEO, Shrashtant Patara pointed out that an "us and them " construct for interaction between seasoned social innovators and young changemakers can become counter-productive. He emphasised the need to place age-related perspectives in a continuum, with Development Alternatives' work demonstrating how a "circle" is much more effective in facilitating connectedness than a straight line.

The Summit emphasised the need to work together to build a new Social Economy. It highlighted the importance of adopting best practices in social innovation and social entrepreneurship to drive change at scale, with speed and inclusivity. In conclusion, the Schwab Foundation and Global Alliance Summit 2023 provided an engaging platform for stakeholders to collaborate and discuss ways to create a more just and inclusive social economy.