

National Task Force for Impact Investing

Plenary

16 March 2020

Attendees

Tracey Austin	Independent
Basil Maseko	National Treasury
Pat Pillai	LifeCo
Tine Henriksen	UCT GSB Bertha Centre
Jonathan First	DBSA
Sizwe Nxasana	Sifiso Learning Group
Elias Masilela (Chair)	DNA Economics
Barry Panulo	UCT GSB Bertha Centre
Susan de Witt	UCT GSB Bertha Centre
Natasha Dinham	UCT GSB Bertha Centre
Heather Jackson	Ashburton
Frank Aswani	AVPA
Tanya van Lill	SAVCA

Apologies

Isaac Ramputa	Financial Sector Charter Council
Jon Duncan	Old Mutual
Monique Mathys-Graaf	IMP
Khulekhani Mathe	BASA
Paul Currie	DBSA
Jonathan First	DBSA
Tshediso Matona	NPC
Martie Janse van Rensberg	Independent
Wendy Lucas-Bull	ABSA
Olano Makhubela	FSCA
Ismail Momoniat	National Treasury
Krivani Pillay	United Nations

Actions

- Anyone interested in supporting the various market mobilisation engagements e.g. AU/UN is welcome to connect with the Secretariat.
- Governance sub-committee to share updates on structure and policies, including succession planning, at the next Plenary sitting.

- Members are encouraged to suggest any relevant fundraising leads/opportunities for financing the Secretariat work.
- Basil has been tasked with assembling a paper (by the 27th of March) on using pension funds to support ESKOM and welcomes comments and other inputs around the matter.

Minutes

Welcome & Introduction

- The Coronavirus emergency is high on the national agenda and presents increased risk of work and event delays – including implications for the GSG Summit 2020.
- Impact Capital in Frugal Times, the evening event that had originally been intended to follow this plenary session, has been postponed and will be a virtual event. However, it would have certainly been topical and useful given the virus is likely to further highlight the social and fiscal constraints facing society today.

GSG Summit 2020

- The heads of the various organizing committees (e.g. content, logistics, fundraising) for the GSG Summit and Elias form the Summit Steering Committee. This structure will convene tomorrow (17 March 2020) to decide how the IISA responds to the COVID-19 crisis in scheduling. The Secretariat has already noted challenges with fundraising, securing speakers and sluggish ticket sales due to the Coronavirus situation and hence the committee is likely to recommend postponement to Q1 next year or September 2021.
- The availability of Sandton Convention Centre is a key constraint and securing leave to host the Summit there in Q1 is currently challenging with many events are also being shifted to the same time. The GSG prefers rescheduling to Q1 and is agnostic about its location within South Africa, so it is conceivable to explore options in Cape Town and Durban as alternatives. A shift outside of South Africa is unlikely as there are no other formal members of the GSG in other African nations and there is preparatory work and resources expended in SA that can't be readily transferred elsewhere.
- Members commented that a wholesale shift of events to Q1 2021 will make it a very competitive period for attracting attention and attendance to the event. A September 2021 shift would be preferable and could be paired with a virtual event this year, held at the original time scheduled for the 2020 conference, to help preserve momentum.
- Members thus recommend September 2021 and are hopeful that secured sponsorships can be rolled over in accordance. The work of the GSG Summit organizing committees will continue, albeit at a lesser pace, and the Secretariat will also continue to further fund-raising conversations. Fundraising is especially material as it was also intended to secure resources for the IISA's ongoing work.
- Expenses related to booking the Sandton Convention Centre and logistics have not yet been incurred and can be shifted in line with a postponement to next year.
- The IISA's legal agreement with the GSG commits the latter to funding any costs not covered by IISA fundraising for the Summit. To date, funds raised by the GSG have been relatively limited but the IISA Secretariat expects that this contribution will materialise, especially as they now have a lengthened timeframe for fundraising and can use ticket sales to help meet their fundraising target.
- R1.8m from the Summit fundraising process was earmarked to cover secretariat expenses. In light of the postponement, and if the GSG permits, some funds raised to date can be availed for Secretariat processes. Members also recommend exploring if any interest on fundraising proceeds (e.g. Old Mutual's sponsorship contribution which has now been secured and paid) or exchange rate gains can be leveraged for this purpose.
- A Content Draft document covering title, theme, speakers and sessions was recently shared with Members by the Secretariat. Members suggested a detailed content discussion is not necessary at this stage but rather that it is important to discuss the theme, as this will have planning and marketing implications. These may be relevant to the momentum-preserving virtual event to be done this year as well.
- The current title, as per the Content document, is Catalysing a Decade of Impact and is aligned with the fact there is a decade left to the SDG 2030 target. Members would like it to be clearer that it takes a forward perspective with planning for the *next* decade (as opposed to reporting on the preceding) although including a retrospective reflection of lessons learned from efforts to date is useful and informative.

- The theme selected should align with three principles: demonstrating SDG alignment, reducing inequality and Africa-focused.

Mobilising Market Momentum

- The Secretariat commonly encounters individuals and organisations looking to get involved in the work and is assessing how to best meet the demand for engagement. Where possible, Members recommend the Secretariat refers people to relevant organizations for the area of interest e.g. SAVCA. It would also be useful to maintain a list of ways people can get involved and get them to indicate their desired areas of contribution. This information can be consolidated into a database that facilitates follow up should the IISA need to call upon these contributions.
- The UN is interested in engaging on matters relating to impact investing in the run-up to the Summit and its aftermath. They initially wished to develop an impact fund before realising they were not best placed to do so. The organisation has since requested to be included in Plenary discussions and have a view of the IISA's ongoing work with the Education Outcomes Fund and the Impact Wholesaler workstreams.
- The Presidency is enthusiastic on Summit involvement. The President mentioned Impact Investing and the Summit in a recent speech and the finance minister has also mentioned the role of impact investing in supporting national objectives.
- Susan de Witt recently met with Ismail Momoniat who is interested in driving private sector interest in impact investing – especially around the current energy challenges facing SA. Interest lies in innovative financing approaches in areas including energy transition (especially with regards labour) and leveraging retirement assets for the Green Economy. Following this conversation, Basil has since been tasked with assembling a paper on using pension funds to support ESKOM and welcomes comments and other inputs around the matter.
- Anyone interested in supporting the various market mobilisation engagement e.g. with AU/UN is welcome to connect with the Secretariat.

House-keeping

- The recent Member survey showed a preference for leaning towards more strategic conversation in Plenary. Accordingly, the Plenary format has changed to more closely focus on strategic discussions and less on operational considerations and debriefing on activities of the various working groups.
- The IISA Budget has been provided to members in Excel format in alignment with the Secretariat's commitment to funding and governance transparency.
- The Bertha Centre has been covering the IISA budget since the Ford Foundation's contribution was exhausted last year. These funds were to be replenished through the GSG Summit Fundraising process, but the pace of fundraising has been challenged and its increasingly important to identify a means of alleviating the demands on the Bertha Centres own resources. Members are encouraged to suggest any relevant fundraising leads/opportunities to the Secretariat.
- A new organogram has been shared. Natasha Dinham will be the overall contact point for the Secretariat going forward. Tine will hold overall project responsibility, while Tine and Susan will continue to co-chair the Secretariat. Tine and Susan will also continue to fulfil their working group lead functions. The Bertha Centre will also avail analyst support to the working groups.
- Members commented that seeing if new capacity can also grow the IISA's ability to perform stakeholder engagements with respect to labour and civil society may be a useful further effort.
- The IISA Governance sub-committee's work has been delayed during the early part of this year. However, the committee will increase its deliberations in the time running up to the next plenary. These will include recommendations around the Taskforce structure and policies to support it – including membership succession provisions (current Members are appointed through to September 2020.)

Working Group Updates

- Working group updates are captured in the Plenary and, as time permitted on this occasion, a brief discussion of these was provided:
 - Demand-side group is working on UNDP Mapping Project and this will soon progress to engaging stakeholders on the emerging framework and opportunities.
 - Foundation Group work continues with a focus on creating an opportunity map for foundations and engaging SARS on the policy framework for impact investing activity by the sector.



- The Impact Measurement and Management group has half of its market overview report drafted and is supporting the IFC's Green Taxonomy process.
- The Impact Wholesaler work is navigating the final round of the DFID application process which it is hoped will provide funding for design and set up costs.
- The Education Outcomes Fund Inception Report was submitted and confirmed a focus on foundation phase literacy. The Scoping report is almost complete, and conversations are ongoing with the DBE and National Treasury to secure their support to perform a feasibility study.

Conclusion

- The current COVID-19 public health crisis underlines the need to embed impact and sustainability considerations in our financial system and economy and help foster societal resilience to such crises. The Taskforce should continue to assess its contribution here and to matters of National interest in the lead-in to the Summit.