

# Summary analysis of the Co-Willing Economic Development Conference

Kenya 25-30 Jan 2019

Rommel Roberts (some additions Susi Gubler)

## General Comments

### Goal of the Conference

The organisers' intention that interested delegates could return home with clarity about their next steps and with a wide network of new connections with experts, organisations and international delegates was fulfilled.

### Presentations

The cutting-edge topics and the quality of the presentations by high-level experts were highly appreciated by the delegates and already showed impacts like follow-up discussions and action plans during the conference.

### Conference System

The system of having presentations and panels in the morning and in-depth discussions and workshops in the afternoons plus during days four and five was welcomed and enabled concrete action plans being worked out on the spot and in after-conference meetings in Nairobi.

### Commitment

The willingness of all presenters and delegates to contribute with knowledge, expertise, connections, finances, etc. shows their commitment to see Africa at its best. A special thank you goes to Rommel Roberts for the moderation of the conference and for his valuable inputs for projects and follow-up discussions and collaboration.

### Donors

Co-Willing highly appreciates the substantial donations by WiLearn4Life, the Swiss Embassy, Buhler Group and all presenters who offered their expertise for free and the delegates who sponsored youth participation.

### Organisation

Co-Willers from Africa, Europe and the US contributed a great deal of time and finances to make this conference happen – under the lead of Rommel Roberts and Susi Gubler.

### Youth

For the first time we had an onsite team of young people in Kenya, who not only prepared the ground for the conference, but also initiated projects - like a waste management system - that helped raise the interest of Government and international organisations for the work of Co-Willing.

### Delegates

Highly motivated and very interested and interesting delegates from a wide range of countries were represented: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Lesotho, Somaliland, Germany, USA, Mali and Switzerland

We welcomed representatives of various Institutions, organisations and some government officials. Some Government officials and the Swiss Ambassador had to cancel their participation at the Co-Willing conference due to an anti-corruption conference taking place in Nairobi at the same time, which of course was also in the sense of Co-Willing with Good Governance as one of its key foci.

## Outcomes of the Co-Willing Economic Development Conference 2019

Key outcomes arising out of all the presentations and discussion can be tabulated as follows:

### - The iSDG Model of the Millennium Institute

presented by Hans Herren and Steve Arquitt

The iSDG Model is a systemic tool for strategic planning and investment, which highlights the interlinked impacts of decisions and the benefits of its use for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

The iSDG Model workshops had a great practical impact with hands-on support and follow-ups.

This tool is gaining in popularity after each conference and will now see its further expansion through CEMASTEAs and other delegates from various African countries.

### - IT security, Blockchain Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Marc Minar and Bitange Ndemo introduced into the current situation as well as future challenges and opportunities and offered practical approaches for individuals, organisations and institutions.

-> exploration of possibilities of taking this further in the development of pilot projects by members and/or partners of Co-Willing

-> planned follow-up in SA for a special training programme, with institutional support of a special curriculum at TVET and community levels in terms of skills and awareness raising

### - Agri-perspectives

-> a great deal of synergies experienced and collaboration efforts in follow-up discussions either at workshop level or inter-personal sharing that took place

-> in general great enthusiasm for exploring co-operation and intelligence sharing

Co-Willing offers facilitation as follow-up, also in collaboration with Biovision Africa Trust and CEMASTEAs.

### - Waste management

From local waste management systems – waste collection, separation, recycling, etc - to the bigger scale solutions for cities and countries.

Awareness raising, action plans, multi-level discussions are happening.

Swiss partners offer interesting options of knowledge and skills transfer.

### - E-learning

Co-Willing members are running such projects in South Africa and Kenya as a practical intervention in the field of educational methodologies to improve impact in schools.

Currently a school in Kibra pilots the WiLearn4Life e-learning system that is based on solar power supply and a vast interactive offline library and learning programmes.

An outreach to all counties in Kenya and 35 other African countries is planned.

### - Skills Training

The request of the youth for training and continued exposure was heard and CEMASTEAs (training institute for high-school teachers of all Africa in science) and Biovision Africa Trust are willing to collaborate.

### - Solar Power

Though the foreseen presenter wasn't able to participate, Co-Willing and other experts were able to initiate collaboration in this sector, especially with the e-learning and the agri-sectors.

Co-Willing is following up concepts and projects in the renewable energy sector to for reliable power supply in rural areas.

## Outlook 2021

Co-Willing member Yeah Samake proposes **the next conference/consultation to be in Mali 8 – 12 February 2021** to broaden Co-Willing beyond Kenya, SA ...