



COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE FOR ACTION

PRODUCING INNOVATIVE ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE & BUILDING COALITIONS OF ACTION

OBJECTIVES

The work to be undertaken by the Panel follows a three-pronged strategy:

- Map forces that are inherently attached to the social progress agenda.
- Design recommendations for actors and policy initiatives that can achieve the desired transformations.
- Modify incentives to align the goals of powerful actors (such as governments, businesses and civil society) through adequate social progress coalitions.

Three principles characterize the work of the Panel:

- Adopt a holistic view cognizant of the strong interdependence between the components of societal structures and emphasize interlinkages between sectoral challenges and opportunities.
- Avoid disciplinary and thematic silos, and instead adopt a forward-looking and solutions-based approach.
- Reach a wide set of change-makers across civil society, policy-makers, civil servants, international organizations, business networks, think tanks, students and researchers.

METHOD

The Panel has opted for a work process that differs from standard research or think-tank analysis. It involves:

- a co-construction with practitioners and member-based organizations to make the work more relevant and more informed about issues of concrete implementation; marginalized voices and communities in developing and developed countries will be closely associated to this stage;
- mobilizing expertise with intersectoral and cross-disciplinary depth, in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues and avoid biases coming from specific approaches and narrow disciplinary expertise;
- strong work principles that will ensure freedom, diversity, respect, honesty and mutual learning in the collegial work.



Knowledge production

One key dimension of the work of the Panel is to **address knowledge gaps regarding the interdependence between the main components of the social progress agenda and their coordinated implementation in societies**. Such knowledge gaps are addressed via the production of IPSP Synthesis Reports on selected transversal themes (see infra).

These IPSP Synthesis Reports are written by **teams displaying a relevant mix of expertise of disciplines and sectoral experience**, *i.e.*, gathering actors and stakeholders from various organizations and bodies representative of the diversity of populations as well as leading scholars representing the relevant disciplines and regions of the world.

Each team consists of **10-15 authors** able to tackle the multi-faceted and inter-connected nature of the challenges and opportunities related to the topic and are **led by three coordinating lead authors (CLAs)** with different sectoral experience and international backgrounds. The CLAs are identified by the Advisory Board. Consultations between the designated CLAs the Coordination Council help compose the team of lead authors (LAs).

All CLAs and LAs are required to sign the IPSP Code of Ethics to ensure compliance to the highest standards of intellectual freedom, diversity, respect, integrity, and honesty. **The working language is English but language diversity is encouraged** in the use of original sources/ contents and in the drafting of contributions by LAs.

Each IPSP Synthesis Report will provide answers to the following questions:

- What is known? Where do we stand and what are the trends?
- What is desirable? What do principles of justice suggest?
- What are the major obstacles and opportunities?
- What can be done (and by whom)?

Each IPSP Synthesis Report will also:

- unmask false solutions, identify consensus and disagreements among actors
- present scientific evidence, examples of inspiring initiatives and good practices
- suggest recommendations, propose actionable knowledge, roadmaps and toolkits, taking account of the fact that solutions often depend on the local contexts.

Adequate funding for report-writing activities will be allocated. Such funding may cover fieldwork, data collection and analysis, research assistants. In-presence meetings of authors will be used with moderation, making the best use of online collaborative tools (videoconferencing, online shared repositories, writing tools).

The time horizon for completion of IPSP Synthesis Reports is 6-18 months in order to make timely contributions on high priority topics.

IPSP Synthesis Reports will be approved by the Coordination Council before being published on the International Platform for Social Progress and disseminated through the various communication formats and channels of the Panel.



The IPSP approach departs from the “policy relevant, not policy prescriptive” mantra proclaimed by the IPCC, and is meant to facilitate the use of such reports by actors. The presence of proposals and recommendations will not smuggle in value judgments and will leave the users of the reports free to disregard the conclusions that are linked to normative assumptions they do not endorse.

Nota: Each IPSP Synthesis Report will be accompanied by a wide array of background papers, journal articles or book chapters, more specific contributions or briefs, geographic narratives, prepared by IPSP authors and external contributors. Each author team will work as an editorial board for each transversal theme as they will invite, review, produce additional contents. All these publications will build up a general (but also concrete and specific) picture of the systemic nature of IPSP analysis. **All IPSP contents will be published on the global online portal of the Panel, the International Platform for Social Progress.**

Interventions in the action space

The Panel will intervene in the action space without any partisanship or political affiliation. The overarching objective will be the promotion of the social progress agenda and of its various components and dimensions while applying an intersectional lens. The Panel will engage in two major efforts:

- **Support for specific reforms, and legal, social or financial innovations,** that would be consistent with the overall social progress agenda and would tick all the boxes of positive intersectional externalities. This support could be concretized by launching (or joining) global collective actions pushing for change.

Two prerequisites will form the basis of the clear framework needed to guide the decision-making process: (a) prior and/or *ad hoc* IPSP work should provide strong theoretical justification and empirical evidence to support a specific measure or initiative, (b) the Coordination Council will have to approve any decision by a unanimous decision.

- **Innovation in coalition-building to create a global momentum for the social progress agenda and/or some of its components.** There is a shared conviction that only cross-sectoral efforts that will include benevolent leaders from government, business, philanthropy, civil society and academia, will have the potential both to impact the public arena and to lead to some concrete changes.

This will imply building partnerships with leading organizations of the various sectors to move forward collectively and demonstrate that the proposed changes/reforms are supported by prominent people from the various communities.

THEMES UNDER REVIEW

The Panel has chosen 14 transversal themes to accommodate general and specific innovative contributions. Moreover, its work will flag the possible connections between those themes to underline the interdependence of opportunities and solutions across the domains of the social progress agenda.

Overarching themes

- **Mapping the systemic conditions for transformation to better societies**
Many actors have expressed the need to articulate their topic-specific, regional or global actions through a systemic approach to societal transformations and a mapping of the prevailing power structures as well as the processes and factors of change. The clear identification of the interdependent causal relations in the current situation is key to developing a design, a sequencing, and an implementation of actions that would transform the dynamics at play.
- **Measuring What We Value: Beyond GDP, profit and anthropocentrism**
Governments pursue GDP growth and corporations maximize profit, with disastrous consequences for the quality of life, human flourishing and the natural environment. A new nexus is emerging around social well-being and cohesion, agency and stakeholder value, and ecological footprint and planetary health. It needs to be associated with new norms and indicators, policies, implementation strategies as well as more inclusive governance toward a democratic economy. Since the what in 'what we value' is subjective, it is essential to apply an intersectional lens in determining the 'we' in order to negotiate new social contracts, address inequalities, and work towards greater social cohesion.

Reforming the economic system: the way forward

- **Entrepreneurship and social purpose**
An important driving force of entrepreneurship is purpose. Free enterprise cannot be justified as just being good for business; it can be justified only as being good for society. Finding ways to foster the development of social purpose in corporations is essential to transform the dynamics of economic organization and inclusive economic participation to spur sustained social change. This work will be attentive to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as potential engines of economic transformation.
- **Living wages**
A mix of public policies and corporate human resource management practices thus determines how workers are paid, especially the least skilled workforce. How should responsibility be shared between public and private actors? The aim will be to examine how the strategies of public and private actors can be combined in order to guarantee the goal of providing living wages to all workers and how living or decent wages can be practically determined. This work will include the situation in countries with large Informal sectors where workers including women and youth do not earn regular and livable wages.

- **Steering technological change - democratically (generative AI, quantum, biomedicine)**
Societies need to ensure that technology develops as a means to support human activities (rather than replacing them, and seeking to increase profit) starting with increasing our capacities to address global priority challenges. The orientation of technological innovation has public good effects that require defining fair and inclusive mechanisms to represent different societal interests.

Unleashing the potential of social change

- **Inspirations, social progress and behavioral change**
Individual and collective behavior change is a powerful driver of change in many areas of society (health, food and nutrition, education, social inclusion, etc.). Relying on existing knowledge and studying successful examples, a better understanding of how various types of interventions can inspire behaviors promoting social progress would provide important insights for public policies as well as for interventions designed by civil society and private organizations.
- **Emancipatory Nation States**
Domestic State interventions must be reformed to make greater room for emancipation, for collaboration with non-state actors (including civil society and the private sector), and for participatory governance to address the rising challenges of identity, belonging and nativism. Exploration 1: The rise of an emancipatory State needs to accompany the development of State capacities in low-income to high income developing countries. Exploration 2: Since policy making is no longer the sole domain of traditional state actors, a more robust model must be developed for understanding and mapping the relationships between state and non-state actors and the dynamics of collaboration or competition within the realm of policy reform and implementation.
- **Cities and Social Progress**
Large cities are a unique type of community with a sufficient economic base for impactful social, environmental, and technological innovations, and a human scale enabling greater and more inclusive participation and beneficiaries, including under-represented constituents. What could be expected from greater coordination among them across the world? How will the urban-rural relation evolve? How can the benefits be accessed or allocated equitably, including among migrant and transient populations.

Governance, democracy and participation

- **Efficient barriers against backsliding on democratic institutions and norms**
Defining an ideal democracy is one thing, erecting protections against backsliding is another. What types of democratic regimes and institutions are more vulnerable, and how do various countries fare in this respect? For what reasons? What are the best ways to prevent these evolutions and counter the current trend towards more authoritarian, nationalist regimes?

- **Information as a public good in the age of social media and artificial intelligence**

The availability of reliable and digestible information is key to the quality of living, quality of public deliberation and the smooth functioning of democracy. This is a public good, but it is not treated as such in most countries, under the pressure of profit and power for the benefit of private entities and/or authoritarian governments. Likewise, internet is based on a “neutrality” principle but is in fact largely governed by profit. Developing a strategy with civil society and other relevant actors to protect and promote the informational public good and tackle the development of AI is urgent.

Rethinking our relation to nature

- **Getting out of the extractive paradigm**

The ecological transition requires reconceptualizing our attitude toward “nature” and recognizing that we are part of a community of life – and a similar change in attitudes is needed in economic relations (toward labor in particular) and in geopolitics (toward vulnerable countries). How can this vision of a “common good” and a “common fate” be promoted and implemented?

- **Ecological rule of law**

Environmental global and local public goods require innovative regulation mechanisms that are currently largely missing, or dependent on volatile national political jockeying. Moreover, existing regulations are the target of lobbying by corporations and often fail to be thoroughly implemented, and could be mobilized and extended for the defense of the environment.

Promoting human security and global solidarity

- **Global solidarity and global citizenship**

Global safety nets have the potential to foster the emergence of a global citizen, but require mechanisms that transcend or bypass nation states. Linking the creation of new global solidarity mechanisms with a global momentum around the ecological transition may be politically necessary to achieve a successful transition—and an important opportunity for social progress.

- **Peace and human security**

How do we reduce conflict, violence and human rights violations without a new world governance? Should this involve innovative solutions at the global level or initiatives at more local levels? Should this revolve around background factors (e.g., reducing inequalities and environmental disruptions) or innovative institutions (peace-building and policing agents of a new type)? This work will focus on finding effective means of interventions under the guiding principles of survival (health, peace, tolerance), daily life (quality of living which encompasses information and planetary safeguards), as well as dignity, equity, and solidarity, regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, religion, geography, gender, generation, and dis/ability.