Sustainable development, innovation, social enterprise and public policy

Dan Gregory, Geneva, 2nd November 2016
Think Global Trade Social

How business with a social purpose can deliver more sustainable development.
INEQUALITY

IMF, ADB, WEF, UN, World Bank, etc…
The Relative Scale of Global Financial Flows

The relative scale of global trade, investment, remittances, aid, debt, CSR activity and impact investment sheds some light on the means and mechanisms we have at our disposal for delivering more sustainable and equitable global development.
The challenges

1. This is no longer, if indeed it ever was, about developed vs. developing countries. Instead, it is about transforming the lives of the poorest people on the planet.

2. **Climate change** becomes ever more important. While there is much consensus that we cannot ignore the threat of environmental catastrophe, we urgently need more practical action, mechanisms and concrete changes.

3. While aid is important, it pales into insignificance in the context of **global trade, enterprise, investment**, private sector business activity and other global financial flows.

4. The terms of engagement in trade and investment matter. **Who benefits from wealth creation** defines patterns of equality.

5. **Co-operation** has an important role to play alongside, and sometimes instead of competition.

6. **Transparency and accountability** can protect assets and wealth, build trust and protect against corruption, fraud and capital flight.

This demands practical economic models which

1. focus on the **very poorest and most disadvantaged** and address inequality.

2. take greater responsibility for the **environment**

3. operate within and **shape markets and trading patterns**, fundamentally rebalancing our economic system to improve lives and manage our resources more responsibly.

4. reinvest wealth where it is created on more equitable terms, **sharing the proceeds of growth** more equally, recycling and adding rather than extracting value.

5. harness and enshrine **greater co-operation**.

6. embody and inspire a radical shift in **transparency and accountability**.
INNOVATION?
“The all-innovating and self-empowering jargon currently in vogue might disguise a dangerous inattention to structural inequalities”

Ferragina
“The first and most universal characteristic of the social innovator is a profound ignorance, and often a violent abhorrence, of political economy”.

Sargant’s *Social Innovators and their Schemes*, 1858
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE!
Diverse but overlapping communities and agendas
In the Netherlands and Belgium, nonprofits account for 10.9% and 13.3% of employment, respectively, higher than the café and restaurant sectors.

In France, the social economy represents 10% of GDP or more than the entire agriculture industry and in Germany around the same size as the automobile industry.

In Spain, the social economy accounts for over 30% of employment and the Mondragon cooperative alone turns over upwards of €50 billion, more than the entire fishing industry.

In the United States, social enterprises are estimated to represent 3.15% of GDP, more than the contribution of Silicon Valley.

In South Korea, the size of the social economy, including both newer and older types of social economy organisations, cooperatives and social enterprises, is estimated to be worth 3% of GDP, larger than the car industry.

In Kenya, co-operatives account for 45% of Kenya’s GDP larger than either the public or private sectors.
THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS
STATE OF THE SECTOR

• Proportion of social enterprises that are three years’ old or less is 35% – more than three times the proportion of start-ups compared with SMEs (11%).

• 31% working in the most deprived communities in the UK

• An inclusive and diverse leadership:
  • 40% of social enterprises are led by women;
  • 31% have Black Asian Minority Ethnic directors;
  • 40% have a director with a disability.

• 41% of social enterprises created jobs in the past 12 months compared to 22% of SMEs.

• Paying fair: The average pay ratio between social enterprise CEO pay and the lowest paid is just 3.6:1, compared to 150:1 for FTSE CEOs
STATE OF THE SECTOR

• Proportion of social enterprises that grew over the past 12 months stands at 52% while only 40% of SMEs reported an increase in turnover.

• Social enterprises introducing a new product or service in the last 12 months has increased to 59%. Among SMEs it has fallen to 38%.

• Proportion of social enterprises that export or licence has grown to 14%.

• 41% of social enterprises created jobs in the past 12 months compared to 22% of SMEs.
UK start-up challenges

Figure 21: Top 10 barriers experienced on start-up
PUBLIC SERVICES (SOCIAL VALUE) ACT 2012
A brief guide
NEW 30% TAX RELIEF FOR SOCIAL INVESTORS

SOCIAL INVESTMENTS offer a profitable return, but the **money** is also being **used** to make a difference.

**NEW TAX RELIEF** could generate **£480m** in social investment over 5 years.

**SOCIAL INVESTMENT** grew by **22%** to **£202m** in 2011/12 and continues to **grow**.

**SOCIAL ENTERPRISES** contribute **£55bn** to the economy and employ over 2 million people.

82% of **SOCIAL ENTERPRISES** reinvest their profits locally.
LESSONS?

- Political leadership
- Sector collaboration and expert technical support
- Architecture of government
- Overemphasis on investment?
- Cross party consensus vs. ideology
- Patience and learning!