



**WORLD UNION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES- SAN MARINO
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY- AUSTRALIA**

***WUSME SIDE EVENT AT THE UN CLIMATE
CONFERENCE COP25 in Madrid on 5th December 2019***

In cooperation with the GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY, Australia

***Climate Goals: the contribution of SMEs and Nature Based
solutions.***

***Innovative approaches and paths that will enable SMEs to
contribute to climate goals. If Nature Based action is to provide
part of the climate solution, it must do it by reducing emissions,
integrating biodiversity, protecting the ecosystem and
supporting the livelihoods.***

FINAL REPORT

I. General impressions

Comments of participants in WUSME's Side Event on 5th December 2019 confirmed that the recommendations of WUSME regarding the implementation of CLIMATE NEUTRALITY ALLIANCES world wide have been considered as reasonable, practical and innovative to offer sustainable contributions of SMEs and crafts to reach the UN Climate Goals. Some observers who attended more Side Events congratulated our delegates to their qualified and comprehensive speeches and called our Side Event as one of the best in terms of practical measures also being in the interest of SMEs.

It is worth to note that United Nations Organizations consider climate change leading to "new big gap". The UN Development Program (UNDP) sees technological progress and climate change as a growing risk of new inequalities in the world. Wrong measures threaten a "new big gap", which has not been seen since industrialization, stated the UNDP. Access to fast Internet in highly developed countries is growing 15 times faster than in less developed countries. The proportion of people with high school qualifications is also rising more than six times faster.

As part of its initiatives, WUSME is undertaking an international survey, through a poll addressed to small and medium-sized enterprises in the world to highlight their empirical experience and enhance their specific contribution to fight or mitigate climate change.

The initiative is aimed at providing answers to the needs for a greater commitment of enterprises in tackling climate change in a world where adequate conditions for this purpose are not always present.

Likewise, WUSME plans to promote other useful initiatives to foster the development of climate-friendly and sustainable business activities in emerging countries of Africa, with particular reference to particular sectors such as agriculture, in which family-run business prevails, providing for the use of renewable energies and technologies with reduced environmental impact.

II. Considerations of the WUSME and the Griffith University Delegates

Participants in the Side Event: Approx. 100

Side Event Moderator, WUSME General Secretary Prof. Dr. Norbert Knoll von Dornhoff

presented THE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY ALLIANCES of Companies, particularly of SMEs.

Everything we do, for example how we produce, transport, build or move, causes greenhouse gases resulting in global warming and climate change.

Companies must and can counteract this by operating in a climate-neutral manner

The goal of this initiative is to join forces to reach the 1.5 ° C goal of the United Nations. Companies, including specially SMEs, and organizations shall join forces to form the Carbon Neutral Alliances to carbon neutralize their corporate footprint within a maximum of 12 years.

We recommend national institutions in charge of supporting companies, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to form, with the support and collaboration of WUSME, CLIMATE NEUTRALITY ALLIANCES.

The aim of the initiative is to make all entrepreneurial activities climate neutral by 2025 at the latest. The companies want to actively contribute to the 2-degree Celsius goal of the United Nations. This target can only be met if organizations and companies are ready to implement voluntary measures aimed at the reduction of CO2 emissions.

These Alliances shall provide advice for companies on their path to climate neutrality, at least in five steps:

01 Measure up

The first step is to determine the company's carbon footprint according to a standardized calculation method.

02 To reduce

In order to minimize the carbon footprint of the company, the primary goal is to reduce the consumption of energy and resources. In doing so, Alliances shall support the companies in the form of information events, best practice examples, advice on relevant products and funding opportunities, and strengthening the network of like-minded people.

03 Compensate

Unavoidable emissions will be compensated in a further step by supporting high-quality climate protection methodologies, offering assistance in production steps.

04 Certify

The calculation method of the Carbon Neutral Alliance 2025 is validated annually by an external accredited certification body according to ISO standard 14064-1 greenhouse gas balancing and verification. Thus, on the one hand, the members on the one hand have the best possible safety to be calculated and, on the other hand, have already completed the first hurdle with their own certification in accordance with this ISO standard.

05 Communicate

On the one hand Alliances shall support the members in communicating their activities, on the other hand they shall strengthen the network of like-minded companies from different branches. Because this initiative becomes all the more powerful the more companies participate and the more subsequently the mutual exchange can benefit.

National Climate Neutrality Alliances shall found the WORLD CLIMATE NEUTRALITY ALLIANCE under the auspices of United Nations ECOSOC.

WUSME's recommendation to establish Climate Neutrality Alliances of companies, including SMEs and crafts world wide, is the right approach for companies to effectively contribute to the UN Climate Goals.

Before the closing of the Side Event, WUSME General Secretary said:

“Every coin has two sides: Climate change will provide both risks and opportunities to business through changes in demand for existing and new products and services. The resilience of local infrastructure, including energy, transportation, but also of health care issues, waste management, recycling of plastic, metals and other valuable resources and various other areas where SMEs, Crafts and Farms are dominating, could open new business opportunities, and combine the climate goals with economic growth, less poverty, securing of employment and a better quality of life for all.”

WUSME Delegate Mr. Dogat Dogoui

presented the services of the AFRICA SMB FORUM to enhance contributions of MSMEs to reach the UN Climate Goals.

He informed participants as follows:

AFRICA SMB FORUM is a platform for connecting and financing African SMEs. It was created in 2012, first as business club by Mr Dogad Dogoui, which also held a series of B2B Meet-ings. Already for its 1st edition in March 2014 in Casablanca, 300 CEOs and bankers attended from 16

countries. Since September 2016, Africa SMB Forum had also become a business platform and a pool of advisers for consulting missions (new markets, suppliers and distributors) and research tool for financing by both debt and equity for African SMEs. Our base consists of 25 000 African SMEs and their clients and partners in 52 countries in Africa (31), Europe, South America, Middle East & Asia.

Prof. Dr. William Moomaw of the Griffith University Australia

presented a summary of the World Scientists' warning of a Climate Emergency, supported by **case studies undertaken by Mrs. Virginia Young.**

Regarding **Economy** the scientists stated:

„Excessive extraction of materials and over-exploitation of ecosystems, driven by economic growth, must be quickly curtailed to maintain long-term sustainability of the biosphere. We need a carbon-free economy that explicitly addresses human dependence on the biosphere and policies that guide economic decisions accordingly. Our goals need to shift from GDP growth and the pursuit of affluence toward sustaining ecosystems and improving human well-being by prioritizing basic needs and reducing inequality.”