



# Reimagining Collaboration and Co-Creation:

Embracing Regenerative  
Models and Digital Innovation  
to Advance Systemic Change  
for Sustainability and Equity

February 5, 2025 | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm (EST, NY Time)

## 2024 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”.



## Event Summary

The 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum brings together changemakers, innovators, and visionaries to explore how collaboration and co-creation can drive systemic change. This year's Hecho Por Nosotros' side event, titled "Reimagining Collaboration and Co-Creation: Embracing Regenerative Models and Digital Innovation to Advance Systemic Change", underscores the urgency of transforming economic and production systems to address rising inequality, environmental degradation, and social injustices.

At Hecho Por Nosotros and animaná, we have long been committed to reshaping industries through sustainable, ethical, and regenerative models. From working with artisanal communities to engaging with the global fashion supply chain, we have seen firsthand the power of collective action in challenging the status quo and building solutions that benefit both people and the planet.

This report captures the key discussions of the forum, highlighting the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with digital innovation to empower individuals as agents of sustainability. It explores how industries, particularly textiles and fashion, must transition toward ethical supply chains, circular economies, and regenerative practices that respect both people and ecosystems. Additionally, it emphasizes the need for cross-sector collaboration, recognizing that meaningful change requires governments, businesses, academia, and civil society to work together in scaling solutions and accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

By embracing regenerative models and leveraging digital innovation, we can move beyond extractive systems and toward ones that restore ecosystems, empower communities, and create long-term economic and social value. This report serves as a call to action, urging leaders across sectors to break down silos, co-create holistic solutions, and build a future where people, culture, and nature are valued equally.

## Event Focus

### **1. The Role of Science in Sustainable Textiles (SDGs 8, 9, 12 & 13):**

- a. How can scientific innovation transform the textile industry?
- b. Integrating science and traditional knowledge to design sustainable textile solutions.
- c. Research and evidence-based strategies for ensuring the long-term viability of textile sustainable practices.

### **2. Empowering Marginalized Communities through the Textile Industry (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10):**

- a. The importance of empowering indigenous artisans, workers, and entrepreneurs (AWEs) to participate in global markets.
- b. How textiles can serve as a tool for social inclusion and economic resilience, particularly for marginalized groups.
- c. Bridging the gap between local knowledge and global demand for ethical, sustainable products.
- d. The importance of a science-based approach to leaving no one behind.

### **3. The Role of Education in Collaboration and Co-Creation (SDGs 4, 10, 17):**

- a. The importance of education and capacity-building programs for marginalized communities to participate in sustainable textile markets.
- b. Bridging knowledge gaps through training in sustainable production techniques, business management, and digital skills to enhance economic opportunities for vulnerable populations.
- c. Preserving traditional knowledge while integrating innovative, science-based approaches to address modern challenges in the textile industry.

## Co-converted by:



**Adriana Marina**  
Founder of HxN  
and animaná



**Radhika Shah**  
CoPresident at Stanford  
Angels & Entrepreneurs

The event began with opening remarks from Adriana Marina, who warmly welcomed the participants and speakers to the ECOSOC Partnership Forum side event, co-hosted with Stanford A&E. Adriana emphasized that the event focused on systemic change and collaboration, underscoring humility as a fundamental human value that fosters co-creation and meaningful connections. She provided a brief history of Animaná and HxN, explaining that they were born in Patagonia—a region renowned for its stunning landscapes but also facing significant challenges for local communities, indigenous groups, and small to medium-sized enterprises.

Following the opening remarks, the event featured an insightful keynote address by Radhika Shah, Co-President of Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs and co-host of the event.

Radhika began by explaining how Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs fosters catalytic dialogues in entrepreneurship, sustainability, and social impact, connecting students, entrepreneurs, and investors to drive meaningful change. She emphasized their belief in the power of innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital business models to accelerate sustainable solutions while creating economic opportunities.

She shared examples of collaborative initiatives developed at Stanford, including an online decision-making platform that allows stakeholders, regardless of size or location, to participate remotely and provide input on decisions impacting their lives.

Radhika then highlighted two major collaborative initiatives:

- A partnership between the United Nations and the "TG Fund," aimed at addressing the climate crisis by connecting private investors, corporate leaders, academics, and policymakers.
- The SDG Digital Transformation and Sustainability Solutions Lab, which seeks to catalyze inclusive digital innovation and data science approaches to reimagine the SDGs.

She stressed the importance of engaging with local communities to ensure that solutions are contextually relevant and empower some of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions. Radhika emphasized that rural and indigenous communities must not only be seen as beneficiaries but also as leaders and co-designers of systemic change.

Next, Camilla Tettoni, serving as the moderator and ambassador for Hecho por Nosotros, provided an overview of the event's agenda and introduced the distinguished speakers, setting the stage for a thought-provoking discussion on the event's key themes and objectives.

She highlighted that this gathering was more than just a forum—it was a space for collective vision, meaningful dialogue, and the creation of partnerships aimed at shaping a more sustainable and equitable global economy. Camilla emphasized that collaboration and co-creation have the power to drive transformative change and that the event's core focus was on reimagining collaboration and embracing new models that prioritize sustainability and equity.

At HxN, sustainability is understood as more than simply reducing carbon emissions; it is about actively regenerating systems—whether in nature, communities, or economies. A fair transition to a sustainable future must be built with and for local communities, ensuring that they are not only involved but also lead in shaping solutions that directly impact them.

In closing, Camilla invited all participants to engage in a conversation about rethinking economic models, reimagining supply chains, and building ethical and inclusive partnerships that contribute to a more sustainable future.



## Introduction by Trisha Langman

Trisha Langman introduced herself and her work within HxN, emphasizing her dedication to creating collaborative frameworks that drive meaningful change. She explained that HxN was founded in response to the challenges posed by unsustainable mass consumption, recognizing the urgent need for new approaches to education.

She highlighted that achieving systemic change requires collaboration from diverse perspectives, integrating knowledge across cultures and industries to develop innovative and sustainable solutions. The power of collaboration propels progress forward, and at HxN, embracing collaborative frameworks is at the heart of their mission to create impactful change.

Trisha emphasized that HxN's initiatives are built on strong partnerships, designed to amplify voices and foster deep connections with nature. She outlined key frameworks that shape HxN's approach, including:

- Multi-stakeholder engagement—Bringing together artisans, policymakers, and global brands to develop solutions that are inclusive and sustainable.
- Community lab innovation—Learning from grassroots experiences and indigenous knowledge to design regenerative models that benefit people and the planet.
- Education and capacity-building programs—Equipping small businesses and artisans with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in the global economy.



## Main speakers



**Jeff Cole**

Director at the Center  
for the Digital Future



**Andrew Eil**

Consultant on climate-  
themed investing and  
climate risks



**Pranav Khanna**

Leverage Crypto  
for Impact



**Luis Alberto**

**Camargo**

Representative of  
Catalyst Now



**Eduard Müller**

President and Rector at  
the University for  
International  
Cooperation



**Camilla**

**Tettoni**

Journalist  
and HxN  
ambassador



## Jeff Cole

Jeff Cole highlighted the growing decline in the credibility of online information, attributing it to the expansion of the internet and a cultural shift where truth has become increasingly irrelevant. He pointed out that the shift in media consumption - where 60% of advertising revenue moved from traditional media to digital giants like Facebook and Google - has led to the rapid disappearance of newspapers, weakening alternative sources of information. Trust in online content has dropped significantly, falling from 56% to 24% since the early 2000s, while complete distrust has more than doubled to 22%. Cole emphasized that truth and credibility are essential for collaboration and informed decision-making in the digital space.

## Andrew Eil

Camilla Tettoni, the moderator, opened the discussion by asking Andrew Eil how financial markets and climate finance can be optimized to scale regenerative models and drive digital innovation for systemic change in sustainability and equity. Eil emphasized the need for interdisciplinary collaboration and the critical yet underutilized role of the private sector and financial markets in sustainable development and climate change management.

He explained that he works with investors and entrepreneurs in early-stage tech companies developing business models for climate solutions, including the circular economy and ecosystem protection. He highlighted the importance of enabling technologies, like mobile phones, which, while not always seen as sustainable, are essential for economic and social progress - arguing that many climate solutions are more financially viable than assumed.

Eil focuses on climate change adaptation and resilience, distinguishing between mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (helping society cope with climate impacts). While both are vital, he stressed that adaptation has been underfunded due to an underestimation of its urgency, despite increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

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## Pranav Khanna

Camilla Tettoni asked Khanna how financial markets and climate finance can be optimized to scale regenerative models and digital innovation for systemic change in sustainability and equity.

Khanna emphasized blockchain's unique ability to decentralize financial control, offering a disruptive alternative to traditional systems. He pointed out that billions of people remain unbanked due to the failures of the current economic system, and blockchain, along with cryptocurrency, provides cheaper and faster financial solutions to address this gap.

He encouraged exploring the intersection of blockchain, AI, and impact-driven initiatives to uncover emerging opportunities. Highlighting crypto's role in financial inclusion, he noted its ability to facilitate low-cost international transfers and enhance climate resilience by reducing reliance on traditional funding gatekeepers. Blockchain-based digital MRV systems, he explained, can certify and verify real impact more transparently.

Khanna also advocated for contract-based funding and blockchain mechanisms to increase participation and ownership in sustainability projects. He cited initiatives like clean water projects, solar power fintechs, and unified payment interfaces as examples of blockchain's potential to drive meaningful impact.



## Luis Alberto Camargo

In response to how bioregional approaches can support systemic regeneration while balancing local practices with global collaboration, Camargo cautioned against relying on globalized methods, which often lead to homogenization and ignore the diversity essential for ecosystems and societies. While global challenges require scalable solutions, he emphasized the importance of preserving local contexts and avoiding one-size-fits-all approaches.

Camargo advocated for bioregional and localized thinking, drawing inspiration from natural ecosystems, particularly fungal mycelium networks. He explained that mycelium connects and supports ecosystems invisibly beneath the surface, and bioregional approaches can similarly create resilient, interconnected systems that foster regeneration. He contrasted this with modern economies, which are based on scarcity, and suggested that the abundance principle of mycelium—distributing resources throughout ecosystems—offers a valuable model for addressing global issues.

He described bioregions as self-sustaining landscapes where resources circulate naturally, promoting coexistence rather than extraction. Camargo argued that shifting from globalized to localized, bioregional solutions is key to systemic change. The concept of "bioregioning" urges societies to build local economies based on not only monetary capital but also natural, social, cultural, and spiritual capital to enhance vitality.

Reflecting on current systems, Camargo noted that modern economies and national boundaries were not designed in harmony with the planet's natural flows. He called for a shift in perspective, advocating for regenerative cultures that allow life to flourish, and a deeper understanding of how humans can act in resonance with nature.



## Eduard Müller

Eduard Müller argued that sustainability, as originally conceived, is no longer a viable goal, and we must shift toward regeneration to reverse environmental and social damage. He questioned whether universities are adequately preparing students for future challenges, critiquing the focus on metrics like tenured professors and publications rather than real-world impact. He emphasized the need for universities to go beyond diagnosing problems and start implementing solutions.

Müller identified several key challenges: the separation between humans and nature, reductionist thinking in education, the dismissal of spirituality, linear thinking in the face of exponential global challenges, and the difficulty of unlearning outdated systems. He critiqued the focus on CO2 emissions, arguing that carbon should be seen as a resource for regeneration.

To drive systemic change, Müller proposed a shift toward an Eco-centered society, applying nature's wisdom and embracing a bioregional approach. He called for universities to redesign curricula to serve life, measuring success through happiness, hope, and the flourishing of ecosystems, rather than outdated economic indicators like GDP.



## Camila Tettoni

Camila Tettoni emphasized that collaboration and co-creation are essential for transforming research into impactful narratives. She cited an academic publication on fair trade that critiques certifications for prioritizing commercial interests over human values like dignity and equity and highlights how Indigenous communities are excluded from global value chains due to economic barriers.

The chapter aimed to showcase the power of bottom-up approaches, with the NGO developing a blockchain-based toolkit to help indigenous artisans integrate into local and global markets while preserving their cultural identity. This initiative amplifies the voices of those most affected by exclusion and inequality, emphasizing that fair and ethical trade should be shaped collectively, with local communities at the core.

Camilla stressed that technological tools should serve as enablers of economic innovation, ensuring that everyone has a voice in shaping the system.



## Adriana's Final Remarks

Adriana closed the event by emphasizing the need to reconnect with nature, reminding participants that we are a part of nature, not separate from it. She reflected on how, despite the rapid evolution of technology, it is often developed within isolated systems that risk deepening disconnection. She raised a crucial question: How can we ensure that technology enhances our connection with nature rather than intensifying isolation?

She stressed that the path forward must be rooted in collaboration, as only through collective action can true transformation take place. Adriana expressed her gratitude to all participants for their valuable insights and experiences, acknowledging the importance of these exchanges in shaping the next stages of action.

In her closing message, she called for a renewed commitment to eco-values and timeless principles, encouraging everyone to move beyond passive observation and actively participate toward a more sustainable and inclusive world.



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