



**'THE DEFINITION OF INSANITY  
IS DOING THE SAME THING  
OVER AND OVER AGAIN BUT  
EXPECTING DIFFERENT RESULTS'**

# **WE NEED LEADERSHIP4SDGs.**

In 2015 world leaders solemnly signed up for an innovative, ambitious and inspirational agenda that took several years to prepare: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also referred to as Agenda2030. This is an all-encompassing agenda, the first applicable to all nations.

## **THIS IS WHERE THE WORLD STANDS.**

There is a disconcerting discrepancy between commitments on paper and what is happening on the ground. We see continuous, even new, conflicts ever increasing amounts of displaced people and refugees as a result. We see sustained poverty and underdevelopment; backsliding of democracy; deep rooted gender inequality and high levels of violence against women. We see billions of people unable to develop their full potential. We see insufficient action to curb climate change exacerbating all other challenges. As a consequence a large amount of ODA gets lost and worldwide efforts related to development are unsustainable.

A prerequisite for achievement of all other SDGs is the realization of SDG16, for that reason increasingly referred to as SDG16+. Governments have primary responsibility to create the enabling environment for long-term

peace, stability and strong institutions in order for inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development and growth to take place. With the current pace of progress, and with the clock ticking, it is 100% certain we will not achieve the SDGs by 2030. We have to conclude that most governments systematically underperform.

## **THIS IS WHO WE ARE.**

An expression attributed to Einstein says: *'The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results.'* The challenges the world faces deserve different approaches to get a highly needed change in outcomes.

The Netherlands based Leadership4SDGs is a non-for-profit organization. Its work seeks to help governments around the world improve the delivery of the SDGs using unique, peer led leadership development programs.

## **THIS IS THE CHALLENGE.**

Many governments are well intentioned, but government ministers often lack the knowledge, experience, skills and competences to properly fulfill their role. They are not to blame. Ministers' appointments do not take place based on a job description and a thorough assessment process. They are selected for other reasons like status, availability, perceived suitability, achievements in business, political color, and other political deliberations such as coalition interests. However, political savvy or business results do not guarantee success. On top of this many ministers function in complicated and challenging political and societal environments that do not tolerate weakness or vulnerability

support on four aspects: knowledge, experience, skills and competencies. We will use a unique, peer led 'buddy' approach. It will be structured, systematic, result-oriented, long-term and tackle shortcomings head-on. Of course, it will also be politically neutral. We want to offer a safe and trusted environment for ministers to share doubts, ask questions, show vulnerability, exchange experiences, and learn. We will pay special attention to diversity and to female and minority ministers as they often face substantial additional hurdles.

Ministers will participate on a voluntary basis, but they will commit to a personal leadership development agenda which will be put together depending on their needs and wishes.

## **THERE ARE ONLY 12 YEARS LEFT TO ACHIEVE AGENDA2030. THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.**

and are essentially learning-curve averse. Civil service is often underdeveloped and execution capacities weak.

So far there have been laudable initiatives trying to help governments dealing with complex crises and offering support to overcome specific challenges. To achieve the SDGs we require all hands on deck and much more can then be done. We need to boost government leadership systematically as it is governments' responsibility to build the enabling environment for inclusive, sustainable socioeconomic development.

The aim of Leadership4SDGs is to equip governments as a collective, and ministers individually, with the skills and competences, knowledge and experience necessary to help them be in control of their role, function and to empower them to grow their personal leadership and effectiveness with a view to lead their countries to success.

## **THIS IS WHAT WE PROPOSE TO DO ABOUT IT.**

We will develop a personal leadership empowerment programme for ministers and governments geared towards

The benchmark for success will be acceleration on the implementation of the SDGs which is being measured in the UN context on a regular basis. Also, citizens surveys will be undertaken to show if there's a palpable seachange.

## **THIS IS HOW WE START AND WHAT WE NEED.**

We will take a careful approach. In 2019 and 2020 we will elaborate the concept and look for one or two pilots. We will not duplicate efforts of other organizations, but instead we'll take them on board and make use of each others added value. 2019 will also be a year of building partnerships.

Based on the learning from our pilots we will start scaling up as of 2021, the start of the final decade of the SDGs implementation. To be able to develop a pilot programme, evaluate it and refine it we need supporters and sponsors who are willing to join us on this journey to boost Leadership4SDGs. There are only 12 years left to achieve Agenda2030. There's no time to lose.

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