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# Collaborate to deliver on the SDGs



The Star, Malaysia

I RECENTLY had the chance to talk to 30 undergraduate business students from Switzerland about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, which are interlinked goals forming a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future").

While we do not yet know just how things will unfold, one thing is for sure: the scale, scope and complexity of the economic and social transformations required to achieve these goals are such that no one sector – government, business, civil society or academia – will be able to manage alone.

We're going to need some hitherto unthought of alliances to

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bring different sectors together if we are to overcome obstacles.

Civil society organisations, with their capacity for increasing accountability and promoting participation, can play a critical partnership role with both governments and businesses. By sharing information, resources, activities and capabilities, we can achieve things together that we could never achieve alone.

Through innovative partnerships we can also tap into difficult to access resources. Building the right partnership models will be key. Already, we see traditional

boundaries between sectors blurring, with a less direct role for governments and a wider governance role for business and civil society.

In efforts to achieve the SDGs, the world has not seen the kind of collaboration articulated in the many climate agreements signed by countries. The commitment to share climate mitigation and adaptation technologies has not fully materialised. The promised climate financing only just scratches the surface.

Instead of forging partnerships to tackle the SDGs, we see unilat-

eral actions on trade. And instead of dealing with the main culprit, global warming gas emissions from using fossil fuels, we shift the blame to deforestation and livestock farming. This has to change if we are to deliver on the SDGs. We must forge more collaborations if we are serious about this.

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