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CLIMATE "HOW":

HOW TO ENGAGE SOCIETY AND DEPLOY DECARBONIZATION

5th International Symposium on Sustainability

San Servolo Island, Venice, Italy - February 7-8, 2019

Venice, 8 February 2019 – **"Climate "How": How to Engage Society and Deploy Decarbonization"** is the topic that has been discussed during the fifth edition of the International Symposium on Sustainability (San Servolo Island, 7-8 February), organized by Alcantara together with the **Venice International University** and with the support of the **World Bank Group's Connect4Climate global partnership program**.

The two-day program involved about thirty world-class representatives of corporations, finance, international organizations, scientists, entrepreneurs, economists, communication experts and policy makers who debated on **"how to"** generate engagement in addressing actions at different levels of the society (policy makers, citizens, corporations and consumers) to mitigate climate change and to build a low-carbon future.

Greetings and opening remarks came from **Ambassador Umberto Vattani** – President of Venice International University (VIU), and Alcantara Chairman and CEO **Andrea Boragno**.

Ambassador Umberto Vattani opened the Symposium welcoming all the attendees and focusing the attention on the unique characteristics of this occasion, grouping several experts with very different backgrounds – academics, business people, finance operators, communication experts, policy makers – engaged on the same issues of sustainability and climate change.

Andrea Boragno added: "The general subject of this edition is the same of the 2018 International Symposium on Sustainability, titled *Coping with Change: Global Warming and Decarbonization*, but the focus shifts from "what is going on" to "how to do" to mitigate climate change, lead decarbonization, and engage society at the different levels. We felt necessary this shift due to the fact that, although there are overwhelming scientific evidences of facts and on the possible role of the different segments of society – policy makers, corporation and finance, technology and citizens -, still engagement and effective actions are missing".

The first day was devoted to host several speeches focused on sharing emerging trends, opportunities driven by technology, corporation' cases, opinions of financial operators and policy makers.

Some speakers pointed out the mandatory link between the topic of the Symposium and its impact on different dimensions such as social and political ones.

Daniel Klingefeld - Head of the Directors' Staff at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) declared: "The recent IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C highlights the sense of urgency and the need for transformational changes in order to keep within this temperature limit and to avoid significant further damages. At the same time, feasible pathways for climate stabilization exist which can also help achieve other societal goals: policy

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makers should feel encouraged to implement ambitious policies, such as meaningful carbon pricing, while the risk of not acting keeps on increasing. Companies and citizens have a crucial role to play in taking action themselves, thereby signalling that the time to act is now.”

Georg Kell – Chairman of Arabesque, Founder and Former Director of the United Nations Global Compact highlighted the importance of the collaboration, saying: “The collaboration among public and private sector is the key issues to lead decarbonization, and to recover the time lost in implementing solutions. Policy makers and corporations have to work together in defining regulations and implementing actions, with the support of the emerging opportunities driven by technology and digitalization. Digitalization of sustainability information about corporate is now allowing investors to relocate capital towards sustainable companies. This is a breakthrough and we will greatly accelerate decarbonization across markets.”

Onorevole Giovanna Melandri – Founder and Chairman of the Human Foundation Do&Think Tank per l'Innovazione Sociale, Chairman of the MAXXI Foundation - National Museum of XXI Century Arts, Former Minister for Culture, and Youth and Sport of the Italian Republic commented “This Symposium represents a unique moment of its kind to build a sustainable future. A low carbon economy must necessarily be oriented towards social justice: this is the nowadays challenge. It is of extreme importance that the finance and investments with social impact meet the decarbonization”.

Several multinational companies’ representatives reported their experience and presented their vision, investments and technological programs devoted to face the issues related to decarbonization.

Hermann Pengg – Head of Project Management e-fuels at Audi AG highlighted that to address change in GHG abatement process is required a systemic approach in the evaluation of costs and benefits. In particular he underlined: “The policy makers have to integrate the cradle-to-grave lifecycle in legislation to allow for rapid and technology-neutral decarbonization.”

Bjørn Otto Sverdrup – Senior Vice President Sustainability at Equinor ASA presented the Equinor’s engagement on decarbonization, underlining the sense of urgency in fighting the increase of CO₂ within the atmosphere. In particular, he stated: “Equinor is engaged in a very strong investment program regarding decarbonization, and in the next years between 15 and 20% of total amount of the Company’s investments will be devoted to new energy solutions in addition to our overall efforts to improve our carbon footprint”.

Yin Bo – Deputy Director of Europe Office, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) stated: “Our Global Energy Interconnection -GEI- program aims at improving the electrification, and to build a global backbone that will interconnect all the continental areas of the globe, thanks to the UHV technology combining the smart grid technologies and clean energy production”.

Ralf Pfitzner – Vice President/ Global Head of Sustainability at Volkswagen talked about the Company’s decarbonization approach: “Our goal is to scale up e-mobility. The Company will introduce 50 new e-Models by 2025 and invest €30 billion in e-mobility within the next five years. And we are addressing an entire ecosystem, going beyond the vehicle itself. So, we are supporting the energy transition by converting own power plants, raising energy efficiency in manufacturing, promoting the

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built up of charging infrastructures and providing services such as the MOIA ride hailing to increase sustainable mobility”.

Herman Bril – Director of Office of Investment Management at United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund declared. “The pension funds are playing a huge role within the financial environment. The core elements of a recommended climate-related financial disclosures are: governance, strategy, risk management, metrics and targets”.

Some important suggestions and facts were shared by the international experts in communication.

Timothy Nixon – Managing Editor of Thomson Reuters Sustainability, presented a very recent research where it states that approximately half of the 250 companies (G-250) responsible for approximately 1/3 of annual GHG anthropogenic emissions, are now measuring and reporting relatively complete emissions data and are demonstrating at least a ‘readiness’ to manage the decarbonization of their businesses in line with the Paris Accords. Approximately 20% of the G250 are pursuing transformational goals to decarbonize their businesses. Moreover, he stated that among the G-250 firms analysed, those exhibiting higher levels of transparency than their sector competitors have tended to outperform their peers on total shareholder return.

Giulia C. Braga – Program Manager of The World Bank Groups' Connect4Climate (C4C) Program focused the attention on the importance of the communication role: “It is for today’s youth and for the future generations that we must raise ambition, decarbonize economies and build resilience. Arts and storytelling can create profound empathy and that is a very powerful tool, especially for groups like Connect4Climate, working to deliver messages that will connect with people and inspire positive change”.

The second day was dedicated to three break- out sessions, moderated by the English journalist and climate change expert **Gabrielle Walker**, aimed at exploring how to concretely move forwards to a sustainable future, focusing the attention on how policy makers, finance and corporations can make the change in our daily life.

Among the conclusions of the sessions, the following ones were underlined:

- policy makers, businesses, the finance sector and citizens should be all fully engaged;
- it is necessary to create a strict collaboration between policy makers and corporations and to do this effectively we need to think both globally and locally, to refresh the global vision with new general principles for what needs to be done;
- international institutions and cross sectoral initiatives need to be energized to address more ambitious issues;

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- we need a strong and fresh narrative that can help to break down traditional high-carbon attitude in business, finance and policy-making. This narrative requires to take also social matters such as job creation and wealth distribution.

Andrea Boragno concluded the intensive two-day workshop commenting: “We need and want to continue on the pathway of “how”, catalyzing many different cultural and professional backgrounds in pursuing tangible and measurable goals in the field of climate change mitigation and decarbonization. To make that things happen and to increase engagement on those issues we have – in particular – to give continuity to action, evaluating the option of creating a permanent organization devoted to promoting concrete actions in the field of sustainability and decarbonization”.

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Alcantara S.p.A.

Founded in 1972, Alcantara represents one of the leading Made in Italy brands. Registered trademark of Alcantara S.p.A and the result of unique and proprietary technology, Alcantara® is a highly innovative material offering an unparalleled combination of sensory, aesthetic, and functional qualities. Thanks to its extraordinary versatility, Alcantara is the chosen material for leading brands in numerous specialist fields: fashion and accessories, the automotive industry, interior design, home décor and consumer-electronics. These characteristics, together with a serious and proven commitment to the use of sustainable materials, allow Alcantara to express and define contemporary lifestyle: the lifestyles of those who love to enjoy everyday products to the full whilst respecting the environment.

Having analysed, reduced and offset all CO₂ emissions linked to the company, in 2009 Alcantara was certified “Carbon Neutral”. In 2011 this report was extended to include the entire life cycles of Alcantara products in a “cradle to grave” analysis including use and disposal. To document the company’s journey in this field, Alcantara conducts and publishes an annual Sustainability Report, certified by BDO and available for consultation on the company website.

Headquartered in Milan, Alcantara also have production facilities and a research department in Nera Montoro in the heart of Italy’s Umbria region (Terni).

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