

ICSB GAZETTE

THE GLOBAL LEADER SUPPORTING MICRO-, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

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MESSAGE FROM ICSB PRESIDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR PEACE & DEVELOPMENT

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"The main purpose of innovative entrepreneurship and peace building approaches is to make a powerful contribution to the ecosystem of peace and to strengthen the "balance of principal" not just a balance of power"

I am honored and privileged to serve as the first Arab, Middle Eastern and Muslim President of ICSB. ICSB is a 64 year old movement, a catalyst of positive change and it is our duty to make sure that we promote social justice and economic empowerment to all sectors of society. In the Middle East, we have suffered for years from political and social instability. The region went through a series of wars dating to as early as World War I. Most recently, social inequalities, lack of education and high youth unemployment lead to a wave of social unrest, branded "The Arab Spring".



My country Egypt, under the leadership of President Sadat, made an unprecedented move towards peace in 1977 in a historic move. This has led to my generation living in Peace and experiencing a more fortunate livelihood than our parents. However, recently terrorism became a global phenomenon due to religious extremism. In simple terms, I can state that terrorism is present when a vacuum exists due to lack of education and ignorance. Moreover, unemployment is also a main reason for terrorism becoming a source of living.

Entrepreneurship and SME Development can play a major role in maintaining peace and can serve as a dynamic tool that can help shape the future and provide a platform for people to express their underlying will for international harmony, collective security, and world order.

Complex emergencies such as armed conflict, wars, revolutions, atrocities, and genocide mean that vulnerable populations are at an increased risk of poverty, unemployment, economic deprivation, marginalization, inequitable distribution of resources and social exclusion, particularly among the young population.

According to Joseph E. Stiglitz, “Development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming economies.” Real development can only be effective if employment opportunities in conflict-affected areas promote development, inclusive growth, and sustainable peace. “There is a common view that unemployment is a critical factor leading to conflict; that employment is a casualty of conflict; therefore the creation of jobs should be a priority in post-conflict situations. This is in order to make the recurrence of conflict less likely as well as to generate and spread incomes and production. Consequently, many post-conflict settlements include provisions to promote employment.” (Francis Stewart).

Entrepreneurship and education are two exceptional opportunities that can be leveraged and combined in order to build societies that are richer, socially adept, and technologically advanced. Entrepreneurship, when efficiently deployed, can become a means for the creation of decent jobs for all members and sectors of the society, boost economic recovery, improve the productivity and status of youth working in the informal sector, reduce inequalities in employment opportunities between groups and sustain peace after years of war, violence and poverty.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, serves as “a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity.” Entrepreneurship, as referenced in the 2030 Agenda, is not only critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth but can also catalyze progress toward the twin goals of prosperity and peace. (International Peace Institute “IPI)

The most fundamental human right is that we are all “created equal” and entitled to the same rights and freedoms, regardless of our race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, or socioeconomic status. The goal of inclusive development is to achieve an inclusive society able to accommodate differences, value diversity and to ensure that everyone is included in the peace building process and development efforts.



Weaving the Social Fabric: “Entrepreneurs as Peace Brokers”

“Entrepreneurship for Peace” is a global call for action which should be led by countries, states, governments, private institutions, and the civil population. The main purpose of innovative entrepreneurship and peace building approaches is to make a powerful contribution to the ecosystem of peace and to strengthen the “ balance of principal” not just a balance of power, in order to build an international system of organized common peace, so that “no one is left behind.

Micro businesses are a necessity in many countries, the source of livelihood for communities. With more emphasis on capacity building for entrepreneurship, decent jobs can be created and sustainable economic growth can be achieved.



About ICSB Gazette:

The ICSB Gazette is a weekly edition of a key topic that ICSB will showcase. The content is varied from research, practice, policy, and education. The editor of the ICSB Gazette is Ms. Jordyn Murphy, ICSB Operational Manager. She will be soliciting ideas and articles from ICSB members world-wide.

ICSB Executive Director Comment:

This Gazette issue is part of the newly released 2019 MSME Global Report.

Dr. Ayman El Tarabishy



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Contribute:

Have a topic you would like to see or an article to share? Please submit for consideration to jordyn@icsb.org