Objective

The 11th BMW Foundation Global Table explored opportunities for creating equitable and fair opportunities for all, focusing on three specific issues: good governance through accountability, social housing, and capitalizing social change. SDG #10 Reduced Inequalities

Discussion

The exchange in both the discussions and break-out groups built on a deep understanding of the relevance of the issues at stake as well as on practical approaches to these issues. It was based on respect of and curiosity towards the diverse expertise and perspectives at the table. Participants agreed on the importance of rethinking fundamental paradigms and language to counter widespread cynicism and feelings of powerlessness. This should lead to a positive upswing in the public debate as well as encourage positive change through role models, storytelling, and best practice show cases. The ideas the participants developed together aimed at identifying implementable approaches with high impact on the fight against inequality.

Ideas for Action

1. To create a new culture of integrity, participants agreed to support a movement on accountability, naming and faming positive change-makers. The movement should start off in South Africa and then spread further in the region and beyond. It builds on a broad multi-stakeholder coalition involving civil society at large, the public, business, development, and finance sectors, educators, parents, academia as well as the media and cultural sector across all levels – nationally, regionally and locally.

2. For reforming the public housing sector effectively, its underlying paradigms need to change. Notions like risk, return or impact must be balanced against the tremendous hidden social cost of inaction on homelessness in terms of social cohesion, security, health and employment. To start such a deep conversation, a multi-stakeholder platform is envisioned which brings together customers, developers, policy makers, urban planners, architects, investors, social entrepreneurs and activists to arrive at a consensus on a new social compact with clearly defined
common goals. Such a platform should move from city to city to effectively inform, and at best, reform social housing policy in South Africa.

3. To provide more capital for the financing of sustainable social change, **participants agreed to establish a process honoring groundbreaking individuals from across the impact investing ecosystem** (starting in Africa) to celebrate positive examples of practice, as well as identifying disruptive innovators in impact investing – especially those that address inequality. Those selected should be **connected for peer-learning and exchange and receive funding to allow their disruptive ideas to scale**. Also, they should be offered an executive finance education and/or deep dive experience in the realities of regional inequality. This will allow insights into the mindset, logic and language of the different stakeholders in impact investing to deepen knowledge, develop a common language and help break the silos.

Testimonials

"The Global Table is a unique format that brings together stakeholders from the private and public sectors as well as from civil society. Responsible and accountable leadership links all sectors in order to address challenges of the global society. For the participants, it is an inspiring and thought-provoking event which leaves a lasting impression"

**Oliver Zipse, Member of the Board, BMW Group**

"I would like to thank you all for bringing together an amazingly inspirational group of people and providing me with the opportunity to engage with them on some of the most pressing challenges that our continent is facing. Knowing that there are so many talented and innovative minds addressing these challenges gives me a deeper confidence that we will begin to positive impact on the changes we want to see."

**Salma Seedat, CEO at Impact@Africa**

Participants included leaders from UNDP, Amman Stock Exchange, Santander Consumer Bank, the city government of Cape Town and the South African Foreign Office, as well as from think tanks, governments, civil society and business from 12 different countries. They all participated in their personal capacity.