NGO Major Group Unitive Cluster

https://sdgthoughtleaderscircle.org/the-unitive-cluster-at-the-un/

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Chapeau

While the need for concrete solutions is clear, the current requirement for deep, systemic and lasting transformation is unlikely to be met without factoring intangible elements, including mindset and the inherent oneness of humanity, into planning for the future. The impulse to ignore intangible factors promotes superficial, disparate responses incapable of supporting the unified, systemic changes required at this critical inflection point because focus on concrete factors alone cannot accommodate the deeper drivers of change.

Mindset predetermines motivations, plans and actions as recognized by UNESCO's mission to "Create peace in the minds of men and women." Emergent science is congruent with all major religions and with indigenous wisdom in its demonstration of the fundamental unity of all beings with one another and with the earth itself. Yet, separation-based ideology is so endemic in our global mindset that it forms the basis for policies and practices that preclude both living in accordance with the reality of our oneness and the establishment of new norms that are suited to the purpose of underpinning a peaceful world.

Consciousness is fundamentally causal. Therefore, ignoring the mindset that creates current problems and obfuscates transformational solutions puts the planet at risk of continuing to prioritize tangible, fragmented, project by project strategies that are incongruent with the necessity for deep, systemic transformation. Therefore, mindset must be established as a distinct domain of work and addressed on its own terms throughout all areas of global development.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." Einstein. Switching from development work that is founded on competitive norms to work based in mutual wellbeing requires recognizing mindset as a distinct field within development work.

Finance and development initiatives that ignore the deeper drivers of human behavior, like mindset and values, risk prioritization of superficial fixes that result in gratification in the short run but, in the long run, undermine transformative change. Current metrics prioritize short term gratification and so must be expanded to address intangible factors that fundamentally drive long term results. The distinction between change in circumstances and systemic transformation must be made at every level of development.

Given the number of excellent, concrete development projects already occurring throughout the world, but which are moored in separation-based mindsets that are incongruent with a peaceful planet, the evidence is clear that focusing on the concrete alone is a grossly insufficient strategy for development. Although more challenging to address, development strategies must be evolved in such a way as to encompass the full circle of consequences, including intangible ramifications, from any course of action.

The emergent call for not just change but for transformation cannot be heeded on a concrete-only, fragmented, project-by-project basis. The current endemic mindset that proliferates developmental and financial paradigmatic norms must be addressed as the basis it actually is for determining the catastrophic outcomes we currently face. While prevailing mythology dictates that action is the only way to change and so addressing intangibles is inefficient and unrealistic, the reality is that mindset not only precedes and propels action, it ultimately determines the quality and outcomes of development projects. Therefore, time and attention must be built into processes to allow for the slowness it takes to address fundamentals that can fast track actual transformation.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Including mindset as an element of peace building and security is a critical means of evolving from pervasive unconscious win/lose assumptions, which underpin propensity toward violent and inequitable solutions, to win/win foundational global norms.

Addressing the mindset that anchors norms requires expanding security metrics to include tracking of intangibles including values and the consciousness of leaders and populations. Well-proven indices that account for intangibles like mindset and values already exist but must be more robustly deployed while new, more subtle and sophisticated metrics that more accurately account for inner and outer conditions of peace need to be developed.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The results of scientific, technological and innovative solutions are dependent on the mindsets behind their development and that of the people who take them forward. While science and technology are revealing the reality of planetary oneness, most scientific and technological norms are still based in a global competition-based narrative that underpins determination of priorities.

While addressing such intangibles as narrative and mindset is often misconstrued as inconsequential, establishing those factors as domains of work within the science/technology sector is key to shifting away from using science and technology as means of competition and domination and toward establishing a digital commons as a key to making the best of the extraordinary human capacity to innovate. Establishing a viable digital commons requires simultaneously developing commons consciousness.

The endemic algorithmic proliferation of militarism, competition and "othering" to the point of deadly divisiveness and planetary destruction must be addressed by more accurately accounting for the algorithmic perpetuation of norms that undermine not only digital cooperation, but also species survival. To that end, the impact of algorithms on mindset, and vice versa, must be addressed on its own terms and then factored into digital development policies and practices.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Ignoring the mindset and spiritual wellbeing of youth and future generations supports a superficial, project-oriented approach to personal development, which is ill-suited to affecting the level of changes necessary to ensure their survival. While spirituality and consciousness are challenging to address, especially given our paradigmatic pre-disposition to discounting such elements, youth is a process of searching for meaning and of developing the intelligence and wisdom for making life affirming decisions. Therefore, work for future generations must include accountability for such fundamentals.

Along with educational advancement that includes greater SDG literacy, it is imperative that educational systems and methodologies recognize the seminal impact of inner development on personal and social outcomes.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Global governance reflects collective mindset and so innovation must also be addressed at that level by including recognition of the Rights of Earth, the sanctity of all life and that the path to peace is reliant on intangibles like love, dignity and compassion. UN entities and mechanisms need revision to more accurately reflect the reality of how unified the world fundamentally is, despite the divisiveness that prevails in global governance and in individual and collective mindsets.

Current unconscious assumptions that proliferate outdated and inaccurate mechanistic models must be made evident and then evolved toward holistic living systems models of governance. Doing so will allow our basic understanding of governance as a means of control to evolve toward understanding it as a means of ensuring mutual thriving, social coherence and new perceptions of possibilities. Win-win strategies that are better suited to addressing global concerns must replace zero sum politics. Governmental accountability needs to be expanded to reflect impact on all stakeholders, recognizing that, in a world that we now unequivocally know is interdependently co-arising, we are all stakeholders.