



Summary SDGs event on gender equality and responsible production, March 26th, 2018



This event is the start of a series of conferences on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Cees de Jong, CEO at the Danish company **Chr Hansen** and a former medical doctor, gave a lot of insights on the negative impact of the usage of antibiotics and pesticides. Cees made a strong case of using probiotics to improve life stock farming, plant health and human health. When developing new products Chr Hansen is checking if they are in line with the SDGs.

Lisette Brackel is Strategy & Communications Manager at **Who's Good**, a Korean start-up which uses robo-analytics to assess reliable ESG data. Lisette gave a good comparison of gender equality between South Korea and the rest of the world. In South Korea many improvements are possible, even though South Korean women are the highest educated women in the world.

Huib van der Riet, Lead Portfolio Manager **NN IP** Impact Strategy, explained their thorough process of impact investing. The portfolio of NN IP is invested in about 40 companies at the moment. This concentrated strategy allows NN IP to engage with company management. Concerning gender equality the portfolio of NN IP is doing better than average, especially for women in senior positions.





Bonnie Saynay, Global Head of Responsible Investment at **Invesco** argued that human capital management is most important in company success. Invesco uses a player coach model to ensure employees are in the best position. Engagement is key for making positive changes. Invesco is active on several platforms that help implementing the SDGs.

Pietro Bertazzi, Head of Sustainable Development at **GRI** helps companies reporting on SDGs. According to Pietro 45% of companies are relating somehow their activities to the SDGs. GRI is also helping smaller companies to establish their position. GRI identifies the impact of the ambitious SDGs on the way business is done.

Marie-Bénédicte Beaudoin, Senior Advisor Responsible Investment at **ISS-oekom** told us that ISS-oekom has established a new evaluation process to analyse the products and services of companies in order to indicate how they obstruct or contribute to the individual SDGs. Also they provide an overall score per company.

Jan Raes, Sustainability Advisor at **ABN AMRO**, spoke about the improved focus on sustainability at ABN AMRO. Tobacco has been excluded from their investments since the new CEO started. Jan also told us that if companies need to restructure ABN AMRO helps them to change their strategy to a more sustainable model.

