SDGs Leaders Luncheon (first edition)

Note on the outcomes

The first SDGs Leaders Luncheon, sponsored by the Global Compact Network Italy Foundation, was held on 13th September 2016 in Rome at Villa Lazzaroni. The meeting was attended by the CEOs and top managers of firms with a structured profile of sustainability: Acque, Acea, Enel, Edison, Saipem e Terna.

The meeting was further enhanced by the presence of certain stakeholder organizations working on issues of sustainable development: Confindustria, FEEM – Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, and Sodalitas Foundation.

The main purpose of the round table was to create a space for a discussion on sustainability among the highest executive and managerial levels and to then share innovative ideas and practices on the integration of SDGs into business strategies. The occasion also created the opportunity for initiating new partnerships for sustainable development.

Above all what emerged from the meeting was a general consensus of those present on the need to define an action plan for achieving the SDGs characterized by a broad participation, to be managed by a close cooperation between the parties, making the implementation of these global goals as effective as possible.

In addition, the discussion showed a widespread recognition by those present of the important role played by consumers and by institutions in terms of private sector incentives to commit themselves to sustainable development.

Finally, from sharing various business experiences, it was evident how all the firms attending are trying to make a connection between innovation and sustainability, in order to make the SDGs placed in various operating contexts in Italy effective. The next step will require the business world, institutions and citizens to identify specific joint actions, in order to create a critical mass that is qualitative rather than quantitative.