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## **Entrepreneurial Energy and Innovation are Necessary to Meet the Global Goals**

*Ben Powell Speaks on Entrepreneurs and the Sustainable Development Goals at Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) 2016 Annual Conference*

September 27, 2016- Today during the ANDE Annual Conference, Agora Partnerships' founder and CEO, Ben Powell, spoke on a breakout discussion entitled "SGBs and SDGs: The Role of Entrepreneurship in Attaining the Goals." Joining Powell as lead discussants were Emilie Debled of Investisseurs & Partenaires, Alexis Geaneotes of the International Finance Corporation, and moderator Jon Shepard of EY.

During the session participants discussed the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework to address global challenges, build consensus, and establish a common language of impact. In particular the discussants considered how entrepreneurs, with their nimble business models and local solutions ripe for global scaling, are uniquely equipped to lead in achieving the SDGs.

"There's no way we will reach the global goals without engaging entrepreneurs," said Powell during the discussion, "These goals present an exciting opportunity to galvanize a whole new generation of entrepreneurs serving as a common framework and a narrative to address impact. We want to make it easy for entrepreneurs to talk about how their businesses are creating impact."

During the discussion Powell shared the trailer for a short film recently released by Agora Partnerships, The Disruptors, and lifted up the two feature companies, Suyo and Agruppa, as emblematic of entrepreneurs' ability to chart the path to a more sustainable future envisioned by the SDGs.

"As the ANDE community, we have an opportunity -- and responsibility -- to figure out how entrepreneurs fit into the global goals framework and how they get credit for contributions they are making to achieve the goals," Powell added.

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*Agora Partnerships strives to accelerate the shift to a more sustainable, equitable, and abundant world that supports entrepreneurs intentionally working to create social impact. To learn more visit: [AgoraPartnerships.org](http://AgoraPartnerships.org)*