

May 26, 2021

Dear Colleagues, Partners, & Friends,

The world is facing an unprecedented moment as we try to emerge from a once-in-a-century global pandemic. In 2021, the mantra has been to 'Build Back Better' yet what type of world was being built during the pandemic response when the wealth of the world's billionaires – and the benefactors of impact – grew by \$4 trillion? Why, despite all the conscientious efforts, is over 95% of the population of low-income countries still without access to vaccines?

Today our **impact sector** is being led by the very **guardians** of the global **system of inequality**. Civil society has largely become a tool of pageantry, funded by that same system. When local voices from the Global East & South are brought into the conversation, it is to speak when convenient and to be silent when inconvenient. Money is no longer the means but too frequently the end for a sector that is too often just another industry driven by inertia.

Almost **everyone knows** this. Global non-profits, development professionals, donor organizations, governments, local actors – yet the challenge has not been faced head-on to begin the process of real change. There are many platforms of 'critique' of the sector. Yet, these critiques do not take root with organizations and leaders because they often come from a place of misaligned intentions. More broadly, the **status quo is not challenged** because many organizations and leaders – our peers – fear that speaking out and speaking truth to power will lead to that next dollar of funding to dry up or that next invitation to be withdrawn and that perhaps they will fade into irrelevance.

At Globesight, we aim to advance **meaningful impact** for a - more **just**, more **decent**, more **equal**, and more **inclusive – better world**. We believe in equitably bringing together ideas and voices from the global East and South alongside the West to enable global impact. We strive for the impact community to think differently about the same challenges to drive transformative solutions.

Since 2014, Globesight has worked relentlessly to advance meaningful, scalable solutions and partnerships in global development. We have partnered with **25 of the world's leading impact-focused institutions**, to deliver over **50 projects** covering **30+ countries** across the **Global East & South** in particular. We have advised directly on the building of over **\$1 billion** in successful **partnerships**. Our work has **improved development outcomes for millions** of the most vulnerable people around the world. In a crowded sector, we lead with strategy, but ultimately, we believe in action and tangible results.

Our journey is in fact only just beginning. Amidst this time of global transition and immense challenge but also opportunity, it is important to reiterate our core purpose and principles. We believe in our power to drive the next level of impact. Yet, we are also convinced that **more of the same is no longer possible in the impact sector**. Our foremost commitment is to **do things differently** and **express ourselves** to achieve **lasting impact** in the **long-term** even if it brings forth **constructive confrontation** in the **short term**. Unfortunately, despite our stated intentions, we are not yet succeeding in this principal task.

With the pandemic, the needs have only grown and so have we. That should not change where we stand. **We cannot shirk our responsibility**. And we believe that **our partners** from past and present – and hopefully in the future – **share this view**. Ultimately, **they want a better world** as well. And we owe each other to have a more **constructive** and **inclusive conversation**.

It is in that spirit that I have written this letter not just to our global team, but also to be shared with a wider audience, to commit ourselves publicly to this path. In our projects and with our partners, and as we scale our advocacy, we will always ask these three simple questions:

- **Are we truly having an inclusive conversation – in terms of voices and ideas – when addressing a particular development challenge?**
- **Is the solution in front of us being driven by the system or is it truly about reaching the next level of impact?**
- **Have we left our perspective on the table even if it leads to momentary discomfort?**

We are not satisfied with simply existing – and chasing the spotlight. The impact sector has to be about more than all of us meeting our own bottom line and getting plaudits. We need to truly strive to face the hard truths to solve the hard challenges that are facing the world all around us.

Let this be the start of a new conversation - together.

Sincerely,



Taufiq Rahim
President & Founder