



## Highlights from the 6th AACOSE



### **A new world: Aligning All Key Players Towards an 'Everyone a Changemaker' World**

Welcome to the Future-Ready Revolution! Our recent session unfolded like a compass guiding us through the currents of our rapidly transforming world. Welcome to a community where ideas collide, innovation thrives, and challenges are met with solutions that redefine the game. The world is changing, and so are we. Together, let's write the narrative of a future that surpasses all expectations. Welcome to the forefront of change—where we don't just adapt to the future; we design it.



## Introduction

This session delves into the ever-accelerating shifts of our world, tackling current realities and their implications head-on. The spotlight is on the urgent need for collaborative efforts and cross-sectoral co-creation to navigate the challenges posed by this evolving landscape. The dynamic discussion featured John Karanja, the Head of School at Nairobi Academy, leading the discourse with an insightful perspective. Joining him were trailblazers from various domains, including Dr. Wamuyu Mahinda, Co-Chair of Catalyst 2030 Africa Chapter, Ashoka Fellow, and Collaborative Value Partners Africa representative; Hannah Munayao, the Fundraising Coordinator for Child Sponsorship and Local Fundraising at Action Aid; Charles Kimathi, the Head of Corporate Affairs at The Standard Group PLC; and Benjamin Makai, a Senior Product Manager at Safaricom PLC. This powerhouse of voices brought diverse insights, creating a riveting dialogue that explored the intersection of education, social impact, media, and technology. Together, they illuminated pathways toward a future of innovation, collaboration, and positive change.

## Key Takeaways

Ecosystem-wide international collaboration and co-creation are crucial for fostering a changemaker world.

Initiators of collaboration should be proactive within their ecosystems, as others may not fully grasp the benefits initially.

Bringing partners together for collaboration leads to unlearning, learning, negotiating, and setting joint goals.

Building consortia consolidates impact, expands and strengthens ecosystems, and brings about positive directional changes.

Synergies from collaboration reduce wastage from duplicated efforts, offering the potential for deeper and wider impact.

Business corporations collaborate based on their interests and the “shared value concept.”

Vigilance is crucial for social enterprises entering partnerships with commercial entities.

Leveraging partner strengths fosters innovative co-creation and collaboration.

A credible measure of success in collaboration is the positive transformation of lives.

Addressing barriers, including funding policies and legal frameworks, is crucial for enabling collaboration, co-creation, and co-leadership.

The media plays a key role in advocating and catalyzing social change towards a changemaker world.

Internal shifts in corporate mindsets and structures contribute to creating a changemaker culture.

## Partner Showcase



Ashoka East Africa strives to shape a regional, entrepreneurial, and competitive citizen sector, one that allows entrepreneurs to thrive and enables the region's citizens to think and act as Changemakers since 2000.

### Emmanuel Letun - Ashoka East Africa

Emmanuel Letun, part of Ashoka East Africa, spearheads a groundbreaking initiative called the Community of Collaborators, revolutionizing the approach to community change. Recognizing that complex problems demand systemic thinking, this model prioritizes diverse community participation, acknowledging the intricate nature of many issues.

The initiative addresses the common pitfall of faulty solutions by emphasizing the importance of involving those most affected by the problems in the design phase. In a world marked by interdependence, the Community of Collaborators adopts a continuous learning and iteration process to tackle problems collectively. Conceived by three Ashoka fellows in conjunction with the Ashoka organization, the project instills a shared responsibility for problem-solving. Teams of social entrepreneurs collaborate with local innovators, government leaders, and peer-to-peer communities, working through a six-month process to achieve shared vision, aligned solutions, and the ideation and prototyping of systemic change solutions.



## Partner Showcase




Collaborative Value Partners create multi-stakeholder alliances in a structured and sustainable way to boost their combined power to ensure Collaborative value.

### Wamuyu Mahinda - Collaborative Value Partners Africa (CVPA)



Wamuyu Mahinda, associated with Collaborative Value Partners Africa (CVPA), introduces a model forged through research on over 100 Ashoka fellows in Africa, delving into the intricacies of collaboration. The CVPA approach to collaboration revolves around four essential aspects: associational value, transferred resource interaction, collaboration, and synergistic value.

Associational value emphasizes the complementarity and improved image gained through collaboration with well-regarded organizations. Transferred resource involves the sharing of assets and knowledge, including human talent such as consultants and co-creators. Interaction collaboration focuses on intangible outputs such as knowledge sharing and co-creation projects among stakeholders. Synergistic value combines resources in unique ways to effect systemic and organizational transformation at micro and macro levels, echoing the African philosophy, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."



Mahinda highlights the importance of collaboration, quoting Virginia Burden, “Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there,” and Ryunosuke Akutagwa, “Individually, we are one drop, but together we are an Ocean.” The CVPA model not only emphasizes collaboration’s intrinsic value but also employs three key impact measurements: individual wellness, organizational conditions for systems change, and community impact through the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Call to Action

1

Collaboration and co-creation lead to synergies that reduce wastage from duplicated efforts, enhancing potential impacts.

2

The government and private sector should actively seek out social enterprises, which offer innovative solutions ready for scaling up.

3

Utilize social entrepreneurs as valuable resources, engaging in co-creation to address societal gaps effectively.

4

Co-creation, co-leadership, and collaboration involve continuous learning, unlearning, and relearning.

5

Leverage media platforms to raise awareness about social entrepreneurship and highlight the critical role of social enterprises in solving complex problems.

## Call to Action

6

Collaboration should begin within organizations and extend to external partnerships.

7

Technology enables collaboration from anywhere in the world, eliminating geographical limitations.

8

Collaborative partnerships with other countries can amplify the narrative of social entrepreneurship.

9

Social entrepreneurs should have the courage to share their stories and experiences.



## Quotes

*“Movements challenge and hold systems accountable- they are key to achieving social change. they act as drivers for social change”*

*“Social entrepreneurship has no tribe” in reference to regional integration and social movements in Africa*

*“Funding partnerships should be less transactional and more transformational”*

*“If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go together”*

*“Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there”*

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