



Dr Mark Cutifani CBE

Chair, Global Advisory Council and Co-Chair, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' Project Steering Committee, the Global Foundation

Context for Business

In my case, the work and interest on how business can make a difference in society was a natural consequence of needing to make a stronger case for mining than simply explaining why we are important and how we make the world work. In most cases people aren't particularly interested in the big picture justification for an industry – they are either motivated by what they can see or feel at a local level, or they process what bigger threats they perceive based on the press or other social inputs.

So, in the case of mining, we are driven by necessity to engage with local communities and build a case for our local presence. That presence has to be more than about local jobs, it must include how we make their lives better in that local context. And so, provision of local infrastructure, support for local developments and social imperatives, and helping build longer term diversification of commercial opportunities are part of our local social contract.

Beyond those points, and in the bigger picture context – they want to know if we are part of the answer, or part of the problem, in those big social issues. So, in both our local context and paying attention to the big picture discussions, I became involved in the Faith Based work as a means to communicating an industry context and story, while also understanding what expectations society had of us in helping deal with those big issues that cannot be simply left to governments and good citizens to sort.

Just for context – why the Global Faith Based approach. In Africa and in many other developing jurisdictions, there is little government or business or social infrastructure. So, if you're looking to build a mine – you're it!!! And in that case, if you're looking to engage communities, the one thing they all have is a Church, and as a centre for community engagement – no better place to talk about how we can create opportunities that resonate for real people.

In working with the Vatican, we did so as one of the global Faith-Based leadership groups that were both strategic and interested in why we thought mining was important to the future of the world. When I explained our role in providing clean water, food, energy, shelter and everything else that made life possible – we found common ground to work together. And those local conversations had a much bigger context that they could support as well.

DISCUSSION – THE POINT OF IT ALL

In terms of Climate and Nature – without the products of mining we would need 20% to 30% more land across the globe to feed and shelter 8 billion people. We provide the products that help us shrink our global human footprint and we enable the preservation of double the potential land to be dedicated to biodiverse and natural environments. And we provide the materials to help us navigate our pressing energy transformation needs.

So, I'm very clear on why I am here – and as part of the Global Foundation we see our role as facilitating discussions and actions that can enable broader and more effective global action.

I hope we can help everyone put shape and clarity around what difference they can make in these great conversations.