

POLINA VASILENKO

Founder and CEO of HelioRec

Patrick NICOLET

That leads me to our last presentation from Polina, who is the founder and CEO of HelioRec, and she will present her fight with a lot of passion.

Polina VASILENKO

Hello, ladies and gentlemen. I am very happy to be here and to talk to you about what I think about this world that we are going to show you. I am founder and CEO of HelioRec, which builds floating solar power plants, an innovative and cost-effective solution for electricity production. Let me share with you a short video and you can see what I care about, about three global problems and how our solution can mitigate them.

[video]

Save the planet, save the future. As you understood, we want to mitigate three global problems: land scarcity, passive pollution and global warming. In the frame of this conference I would like to highlight the problem of global warming and some of the mitigation that has to be put into place.

If we do not do anything temperatures will rise 3.4 degrees higher than pre-industrial levels; this is what Mr. Patrick Pouyanné from Total said, so it will be something like that. If we implement indices, so temperatures will be around three degrees, which is also not very good, oceans will rise, and I have heard that every city will be under water and just some parts of Siberia will survive. If you have extra money, come to Siberia to buy some land.

If we do something, like if we do a lot from all sectors, I think we still have some time to keep temperatures up to 1.5 degrees, but also every individual should put an effort into this and there are some steps we need to take. I hope that a carbon pricing mechanism is another option, maybe it will happen. I really believe that we have to subsidise and invest more in renewable energy. We need to remove or reduce subsidies first of all from the fossil fuels industry, which as you know is subsidised five times more than in renewable energy, which is really strange. We need to reduce consumption at all levels. If you have an iPhone, do not buy a new one because it is the latest model. If you already have a car, share it with your husband or your wife, do not buy a new one. Also, negative emission technologies have to be implemented. The easiest way is to grow trees, so do not waste your time, grow trees at least. All these measures should be all put together.

If we look at the carbon budget, what we are using now, we only have eight years if we want to keep the temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius. It is quite short. You do not believe me. If we want to keep temperatures up to 2 degrees, we still have around 26 years, but let us not take more risks.

I was invited here as a young leader and I wanted to talk about my story. All my life, for more than 14 years I worked in the oil and gas industry. At some point I decided that it was not normal to contribute my effort and brain to this industry if it is not really sustainable, so I decided to change my life and career path and I moved to the renewable energy sector. I went to Germany to study and I got my second master's degree in renewable and ocean energy. I opened my company because I wanted to do things in a better way, it is not about business, I want to really contribute my life to something that I really believe in. I received a Women in GreenTech award the previous year and I know that what I am doing may be a drop in the ocean, but what is the ocean if not a lot of drops from all of us. I give my positive drop, what about you?

If you do not know how to do it or if it is difficult –it is really difficult. You are like politicians; you are in the system. It is so difficult to be different and behave differently if the system is corrupt, if many laws are there. My personal opinion or proposal to you if you cannot do your work well, the politicians, because we the citizens give you an opportunity to manage our lives, if it does not work maybe you should do something not as a politician but as a human. Use less plastic, eat less meat, use less of everything. If you have mining invested in sustainable business, as my colleague mentioned, it can be really profitable. If you do not know what to do, ask me, I have a lot of advice. Thank you very much and good luck with our lives.

Patrick NICOLET

Thank you, Polina. What we wanted with Song-Nim, and I think you get the message – First, as you have seen, we have talent on the scene, in different areas and sectors and this new generation, which I see in my day-to-day life and you witness it as well, needs a purpose. You can read it and experience it yourself. I think they are part of the solution; I hope we have been able to show you that. It is also part of the solution for us not only to explain all the rational aspects, but also to put more emphasis on the purpose.