

Rio de Janeiro, 18th October, 2018

To
His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
Clarence House
London SW1A 1BA
United Kingdom

Sir,

My name is Vania Borgerth and I am an accountant at the Brazilian Development Bank – BNDES. Since 2006 I have been involved in international regulation regarding corporate reporting – first in connection to IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards), then audit standards and corporate governance.

Lately, in the eve of Rio+20, I got to know A4S, which made me realize that when a company does not report its performance beyond the financial/economical result, that company will be disregarding the potential impact of its business on the so called “non-financial aspects” such as environment and/or human rights. As a result, it would be putting its going concern under risk in the name of short term results.

At the same time, that company will also be providing an incomplete vision of their actual situation, compromising the basis for decisions that its stakeholders have a right to rely on.

At first, I thought that this insight would imply a lower consideration of the importance of financial information and, as a consequence, of my profession of choice. That was when I first heard you speaking about how “accountants can help save the world”! I have always loved my job, but you were able to raise in me a sense of pride for the difference my humble profession can make.

I was truly impressed not only with the strong message that you were delivering, but also by the fact that you are someone who could have used the excuse of his circumstance of birth and busy agenda to justify a passive attitude, and yet you are so committed to lending your voice and personal time (not to mention resources), in the effort of calling our attention to the endangered situation of our planet. It made me realize that I could not remain in my comfortable passive position.

I am sure that I am not alone in having benefited from the work of A4S and the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) both resulted from your insight and personal involvement.

Vania Maria da Costa Borgerth

I am now a member of The Expert Panel of A4S, a council member of IIRC and, for the last six years I have been coordinating the Brazilian Network on Integrated Reporting. Additionally, I have been using my position as a professor to teach my students that the best executives of the 21st century would be those who can put the "integrated thinking" concept into work.

As a professional and as a mother who hopes that her children`s grandchildren will still have a planet to live on, I would like to offer my immense gratitude to Your Royal Highness and my felicitation on your 70th birthday.

May God keep you in good health and as motivated for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,


Vania Borgerth