

## **LONG BIOGRAPHY**

**Dr Simon Zadek** is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Centre for Government and Business of Harvard University's Kennedy School. He founded, and was until recently Chief Executive of AccountAbility, where he established the organisation's global leadership in sustainability standards, collaborative governance and responsible competitiveness, extending its impact from bases in Beijing, Sao Paulo, London and Washington, and through activities in South Africa and across the Middle East.

Simon sits on the International Advisory Board of the Brazilian business network, Instituto Ethos, the Advisory Board of the sustainability fund manager, Generation Investment Management, and the Boards of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Employers' Forum on Disability. In 2003 he was named a World Economic Forum 'Global Leader for Tomorrow'.

Simon's work with businesses, governments and international organisations over the last decade has contributed to establishing responsible business on the global map as a core business strategy and public policy issue and practice. His work has included:

- ✦ *Redesigning business*: supporting leading companies such as Alcoa, AngloGold Ashanti, Bank Itau, Dow, IntelChina, Maersk, Nestle, Shell, and Nike in the alignment of sustainability practices and business strategies, supported through top-team mentoring, performance-based stakeholder engagement and co-design, and research and analysis.
- ✦ *Mediating sustainability*: facilitating, mediating and convening to drive collaboration between business, civil society and governments, including being the founding Chair of the Ethical Trading Initiative, the founding Convenor of the apparel focused MFA Forum, and company-specific engagements such as with The Coca Cola Company and General Electric.
- ✦ *Progressive policy*: working with governments from China to Saudi Arabia to South Africa to deepened their knowledge and attention to responsible competitiveness in policies catalyzing national competitiveness, including most recently work with China's Development Research Council of the State Council on Chinese investments in Africa.
- ✦ *International initiatives*: supporting international institutions and initiatives through advice and expert panel contributions to the UN Global Compact, the State of the World's Commission for Globalisation, the ILO's World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalisation, and the UN Commission for Social Development.
- ✦ *Collaborative climate management*: contributing to the on-going global climate negotiations with policy research focused on business and adaptation, institutional design and low carbon growth planning, engaged most recently through including international climate policy platform, Project Catalyst, involving McKinsey and the ClimateWorks Foundation.
- ✦ *Shaping narrative*: contributing in shaping thinking and practice of responsible business, including Harvard Business Review article, *Paths to Corporate Responsibility*, Harvard International Review article, *Responsible Competitiveness*, and *The Civil Corporation*, acknowledged as a classic in the field with a prestigious Award from the Academy of Management. Some of his work is summarised in, *Tomorrow's History*.
- ✦ *Academic contributions* through his academic writings and his current roles at Harvard University and the University of South Africa and previous roles as Visiting Professor at the Copenhagen Business School and as Visiting Fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex, as well as contributing to numerous student initiatives and events including through Net Impact and AISEC. His Phd, entitled "The Economics of Utopia: the Democratisation of Scarcity", was published in 1992.
- ✦ *Media communications*, including the Financial Times and other leading international journals, and recently on climate change with Brazilian media giant, Globo, and China's leading English-speaking television station, CCTV9 on Chinese investments in Africa.

**RECENT ADVISORY ASSIGNMENTS (CORPORATE) INCLUDE:**

- ✚ *Alcoa*: On-going leadership of engagement in developing sustainability strategy, public reporting, building and chairing high-level expert review panel, and most recently working with senior leadership team of Alcoa Latin America in shaping continent wide and site-specific sustainability strategies and practices.
- ✚ *AngloGold Ashanti*: Leadership in engagement with corporate leadership team in driving sustainability strategy, alignment of public sustainability reporting with internal risk management and corporate governance and stock exchange listing requirements, and related development of internal systems and competencies.
- ✚ *Dow Latin America*: Leadership in developing a co-design approach to driving forward product development and market access in the areas of water purification, building materials, and plastics recycling through the development of collaborative arrangements with community and environmental organisations, and public institutions.
- ✚ *General Electric*: On-going leadership of a five year engagement with GE's corporate citizenship team that has covered strategic alignment and design of sustainability approach, development of associated public reporting and stakeholder-based assurance, policy development in complex areas such as human rights based on stakeholder engagement, building and chairing high-level external panel of experts to advise on policy and strategy.
- ✚ *IntelChina*: On-going leadership in providing strategic advise on developing credible and acknowledged leadership in sustainability actions in China, with focus on the role of ICT in supporting the realisation of China's low carbon intensity targets.
- ✚ *Maersk*: Led in catalyzing the company's first integrated sustainability initiative under its then new Chief Executive, mapping practice, building a corporate and core-divisional case, and leading senior executive leadership sessions.
- ✚ *Nike*: On-going advise to senior leadership team now in its second decade, beginning during the company's most difficult period in the late 1990s, and extending to its current leadership role in addressing labour standards and in taking sustainability into the business innovation space.

**RECENT ADVISORY ASSIGNMENTS (PUBLIC) INCLUDE:**

- ✚ *China-Africa Trade and Investment*: Leading on-going engagement with the Development Research Centre of the State Council in exploring senior Chinese business leaders perspectives on their company's activities in China, both now and into the future. Launch of initial work at key events in Beijing, Washington (World Bank) and Harvard with unique coverage on China's CCTV9 TV channel.
- ✚ *South Africa's Low Carbon Economic Policy*: Leading on a multi-phase research initiative with the South Africa Ministry of Trade and Industry into how best to align South Africa's climate policy with its industrial and economic policies. Focus on the merits and options for establishing international co-operation to support South Africa's renewable feed-in tariff, linked to a renewables obligation for high-carbon intensity export industries facing potential trade constraints.
- ✚ *China's Sustainable Trade*: Contributed to a Chinese-led, multi-agency policy initiative to establish the basis for a long-term, sustainable trade strategy for China. Contribution focused on the place of sustainability practices in the competitiveness of Chinese businesses in global markets, and in particular strategic options for business and public policy.
- ✚ *Saudi Arabia's Competitiveness*: Led in establishing with the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority the Saudi Arabian Responsible Competitiveness Initiative with the aim of enhancing the nation's competitiveness through improved corporate sustainability practices and outcomes, involving the development of a unique company-level assessment tool linked to high-profile recognition at the annual Global Competitiveness Forum.

## **AUTHORED AND CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS**

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- Zadek, Simon (2009) *Global Governance: Clues from the Front Line*, Paper presented as Keynote to European Academy of Business in Society (EABIS) Annual Symposium, Barcelona, Spain.
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- Guoqiang, L, Simon Zadek and Joshua Wickerham, J (2009) *Advancing Sustainable Competitiveness of China's Transnational Corporations*, Development Research Centre of the State Council with AccountAbility, London
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- Zadek, Simon and Alex McGillivray (2008) *Responsible Competitiveness: Making Sustainability Count in Global Markets*, *Harvard International Review*, Summer 2008: 72-77
- Cramer, Aron, Jane Nelson, and Simon Zadek (2008) *Partnering to Strengthen Public Governance: the Leadership Challenge for CEOs and Boards*, World Economic Forum, Geneva
- Rochlin, Steve, Simon Zadek and Maya Forstater (2008) *Governing Collaboration: Making Partnership Accountable for Delivering Development*, AccountAbility, London
- Zadek, Simon (2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) *The Civil Corporation*, Earthscan, London
- Zadek, Simon (2007), *China's Opportunity to Embrace Responsible Competitiveness*, [ChinaDialogue.Net](http://www.chinadialogue.net),  
<http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/1407-China-s-opportunity-to-embrace-responsible-competitiveness>

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- Litovsky, Alejandro, Steven Rochlin, Simon Zadek and Brian Levy (2007) *Investing in Standards for Sustainable Development: The Role of International Development Agencies in Supporting Collaborative*, AccountAbility, London
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