



In a very busy world, time is a resource. There are only so many minutes in a day, so many days in a lifetime. Because of how power is distributed, those who have access to systematic power (due to race, class, gender, ability, age etc.) often are accorded more time. This shows up in who speaks longer and more often, who is expected to only speak when allowed, who is invited to speak, who isn't. It shows up in obvious and subtle ways. We ask you to pay attention to this dynamic in your time with us.

At Opportunity Collaboration, no one's voice or story is more (or less) valuable, necessary or important than anyone else's. This is why we don't have keynotes or "panels of experts." We know that in order to eradicate poverty we will need everyone, and no single one of us (or group of us) has the key. In our week together, you will have many opportunities to bring your story and thinking to the table, and to hear from many others. We hope that you will leave enriched by the conversations you will have with a multiplicity of leaders from all over the world.

In support of your learning and contributing, here are some readings and videos to spark your thinking and begin your experience at Opportunity Collaboration. They are intended to inform the conversations you will have while attending – perhaps in your Colloquium, your Conversations for Change, your Capacity Building Clinics or as you simply walk on the beach with fellow Delegates. They are offered in alphabetical order, in that they are all valuable, but none is more or less important than any of the others. We hope that they stimulate your thinking and open your heart.

[Back to the future: 5 lenses on the future of global development](#)

by Homi Kharas and Andrew Rogerson

[A completely different perspective about the future which is also "common"](#)

by MSAFROPOLITAN

[Does \\$60,000 make you middle class or wealthy on Planet Earth?](#)

by Heather Long and Leslie Shapiro

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[Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#)

by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[Most of us are wrong about how the world has changed \(especially those who are pessimistic about the future\)](#)

by Max Roser

[Richest 1% Owns Half the World's Wealth](#)

by The Guardian

[Think Positive, Climb Out of Poverty? It Just Might Work](#)

by Seema Jayachandran

[Winners Take All](#)

Anand Giriharadas (book review by Joseph E. Stiglitz)

Quotes

“When men and women, boys and girls, are denied the right to education, the right to own land, the access to basic services like healthcare and clean water, a fair price for the crops they grow, a fair wage for the work they do, or the right to be part of making decisions that affect them, the result is poverty.”

~ *Winnie Byanyima*

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.”

~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.”

~ *Ban Ki-moon*

“Something is wrong that we have to feed so many. Why should there be poverty with all of our science and technology? There is no deficit in human resources - it is a deficit in human will.”

~ *Coretta Scott King*

“Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the action of human beings.”

~ *Nelson Mandela*