The value of compassion is exemplified in SDG17. Spreading awareness of our global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies. Finance, fair and equitable trade, technology, capacities, partnerships, and data are among the primary tools for achieving all other dimensions of sustainable development. Partnerships hindered by postcolonial legacies and inequitable power dynamics need compassion to realize the global-level action necessary to achieve all SDGs.

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SDG17 is about more than coordinating policies to help developing countries achieve sustainable growth and development. We must nurture and sustain strong human relationships for successful partnerships. Compassion-driven partnerships provide the strongest and most equitable and inclusive systems, services, and communities for humanity. We must make space to facilitate courageous conversations about both suffering and flourishing, and embrace—not avoid—complexity and conflict. Such a social architecture is the engine to achieve all other goals.

“Compassion is the glue that holds the sustainable goals together.”

– Professor Liz Grant
Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh