Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for the 2030 Agenda
How to improve and review their contributions

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Structure

The UN and multi-stakeholder partnerships:

• history and mandate
• UN fit for purpose – lessons learned?
• role of HLPF Partnership Exchange and other fora
• build integrated architecture and coherent process plus
• evidence from national-level platforms

→ multi-level platforms to improve & review partnerships
Definition: “voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits”

Mandate for UN:

• “discuss best practices and ways to improve (...) transparency, accountability and the sharing of experiences (...) the review and monitoring of those partnerships”

• “develop (...) a common and systemic approach”
- 2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg
- 2012: **CSD Partnership Database** listed 349 partnerships
- Effectiveness: mixed record > Legitimacy: controversial

- **2030 Agenda/SDG 17** on means of implementation: “complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs ...”

  >> lessons learned and how to proceed?
UN & Partnerships for Sustainable Development

1. **Building** multi-stakeholder partnerships

2. **Reviewing** partnerships’ contributions

3. **Learning**, improving, up-scaling (review = means)

>> UN fit for purpose?
Multi-stakeholder Partnerships - UN fit for purpose?
Resolution 67/290, July 2013, para 8c, and A2030, Sept. 2015, para 84:

• central role of overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes
• [Reviews] shall provide a platform for partnerships

Purpose:

➢ review partnership contributions (analyze success conditions) to
  • share knowledge among partnerships, inspire new ones
  • secure lessons learned for UN and inform HLPF’s “political guidance” for future partnerships

➢ establish evolving “learning” framework on partnerships
Reporting = evidence base for reviews

SDG-relevant partnerships and voluntary initiatives

- **Voluntary registration & self-reporting** through annual progress reports to “Partnerships for SDGs” online platform
  - SMART criteria; validity, reliability and analytical quality of information?
  - proposal for voluntary common reporting guidelines for major groups and other stakeholders to report to the HLPF on their implementation efforts
- **HLPF Partnership Exchange** discusses reports, success and failure cases (mapping *plus* analytical evaluation – how & why)
Reporting = evidence base for reviews

UN-led partnerships

- **Mandatory reporting** to UNGA/ECOSOC/HLPF
- **ECOSOC Partnership Forum** could discuss lessons learned and evaluate the effectiveness of guidelines and policy frameworks

- **Add:** *Synthesis report* by UNDESA or independent expert (panel) as comprehensive and digestible input for HLPF
Also mainstream → other review fora and templates

- National Voluntary Reviews
- Thematic Reviews
- FfD Forum
- STI Forum (Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation)
- SIDS Partnership Framework
- Business, civil society, independent third-party reports

→ HLPF political guidance:

evaluate reports and other input and reflect in ministerial declaration on future tasks in terms of criteria or guidelines for transformative partnerships for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs
UN integrated architecture and coherent process
Add evidence on partnerships’ national and local level impact ... leaving no one behind

Local capacity development in urban informal settlements
Research: *Success factors* of partnership projects

**Local project management:**

- participatory bottom-up approach
- continuous monitoring
- adaptive best-fit design and flexible customizing of services
- capacity development measures and building sustainable long-term business case for local actors

→ Partnerships need to be *learning institutions* to fit the task

→ *National-level platforms* can support this
Multi-level Platforms to review & improve partnerships

• *multi-level and multi-stakeholder* effectively interact, include those often left behind

• *tasks:*
  - registration and mapping
  - convening and facilitating, enhancing partnering capacities, knowledge sharing and coordinating
  - (templates for) reporting, evaluations and (peer) reviews
  - support members to improve performance

• *challenges:* secure funding and stay relevant
Thank you!

- Ola Göransson: UN online platform „Partnerships for SDGs“
- Mike Wisheart: National platforms