

NGO draft Statement on Partnerships 11th of May at CSD 18

We see great potential for transparent, non-hierarchical, effective partnerships between diverse stakeholders using the commons approach as evidenced by GLISPA. Thank you, Ambassador for your intervention.

As you may remember, in the lead-up to and at the Rio+10 Johannesburg summit, NGOs were quite skeptical of the ‘type 2’ partnerships. We were deeply concerned about the lack of clearly required criteria. We still are.

The present theory and practice of partnerships at the CSD leaves considerable room for improvement. With insufficient criteria for goals, timetables and accounting; insufficient assurance of equivalent capacity among organizational partners; and insufficient provisions for reporting to and monitoring by the CSD and other stakeholders, there is the ongoing danger that a partnership could be used to leverage power and special interest rather than serve a sustainable world for all.

We call for the following refinement of partnerships’ biennial reports to increase their effectiveness and capacity to build on one another’s efforts:

1. The Introduction to the Chairs Draft Summary Part 1, states in point 1: *Sustainable development allows humanity to protect and improve life in all its forms and expressions. It recognizes the right of all people to improve their quality of life and live in a healthy environment.* The biennial reports by partnerships should clearly demonstrate how they are in compliance with the **all-inclusive values** expressed in this statement.
2. Partnerships should respect, **the global commons**, the natural and social wealth needed for life and ensure that it is protected for future generations so that they too can prosper. Biennial reports should clearly show how partnerships have the shared goal to protect, preserve and replenish the global commons.
3. Based on the **shared values and goals** just mentioned, registered partnerships should be required to hold national and regional sessions throughout the year to address lessons learned and best practices. The **synergy between partnerships resulting from these sessions** would be taken into account in the report of the Commission during the review year, as mandated by the Criteria and Guidelines as outlined by the CSD 11, point 23 e.

We also call for further clarification of what is meant by *specific contribution by partnerships* as mentioned under 22 i.

Clear definition should be required for

- The goals, timetables and accounting on how these have, or have not been kept to;
- Specific description of the partners and their individual representatives;
- Description of sources and amounts of financing, and who has access to the partnership’s funds; and
- A revised schedule for how the partnership reports to the CSD; and
- Expanded opportunity for the CSD governments and major groups to monitor, evaluate and report their analyses of specific partnership projects.
- I look forward to an spontaneous, interactive interchange with Governments. Thank you.