



Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Terms of Reference for Consultant for an Analytical report on effective practice of partnerships in response to COVID-19

Background / Rationale

The United Nations Sustainable Development Group has recently launched a coherent framework for UN's urgent socio-economic support to countries and societies in the face of COVID-19, putting in practice Secretary-General's report on "*Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*". The report underlines the importance of mobilizing partnerships from all stakeholders to accelerate the global response to COVID-19 and recovery from its impact, including from local and regional authorities, researchers and innovators, civil society and community-based organizations, private sector and philanthropies.

In 2019, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Office for Partnerships, United Nations Development Coordination Office, Global Compact, and The Partnering Initiative launched the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator - a project aimed at significantly accelerating effective partnerships in support of the 2030 Agenda.

One of the key objectives of the Partnership Accelerator is to bolster effective country driven partnerships and partnership platforms in support of SDG implementation, including through national partnership workshops. Organized in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinators in select countries and informed by in-depth needs analysis used to define their scope and content, these workshops offer training on the development of effective partnerships, and enhanced understanding of relationships across participants from different sectors, in order to launch new partnerships for supporting SDG implementation.

The Partnership Accelerator is currently planning national workshops in Samoa, Maldives, Thailand, Mexico, and Sri Lanka. The Resident Coordinators have expressed the need to wait with holding the workshops until the countries are ready to build back up after COVID-19. In the interim, virtual meetings with stakeholders are being explored leading up to the in-person workshops.

The 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), "*The Future is now – Science for achieving sustainable development*", identifies six entry points that offer the most promise for achieving the 2030 Agenda. These entry points present prime opportunities for governments and other stakeholders to collaborate and through which partnerships and innovation can potentially have the greatest positive impacts on SDG progress, while alleviating or avoiding negative ones.

In order to advise the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, ensuring its work is impactful in the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to work closer with the scientific community in

spurring partnerships across the GSDR entry points, a multi-stakeholder group on effective partnerships for COVID-19 was gathered by Division for SDGs of UN DESA in May 2020. The group comprises of relevant UN entities and other stakeholders with the purpose of discussing how partnerships can help assist in particular developing countries to address the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath and promote synergies between key sectors, including the scientific and technological community and the private sector.

The purpose of the consultancy is to develop an analytical report on effective practice of partnerships in response to COVID-19. The exact outline of the report will be co-developed with UN DESA, but is expected to include:

- A typology of the range of multi-stakeholder partnerships, what impact are they having and how they are delivering against different phases of COVID-19 (e.g. crisis response, living with COVID-19, building back better from COVID-19).
- How multi-stakeholder partnerships came about during the pandemic – who were the initiators? Government? Business? UN? Platforms for partnership? Donors? How were the partnerships supported?
- What were the conditions that allowed multi-stakeholders partnerships to develop?
- What were the challenges and possibly success factors of multi-stakeholder partnerships during COVID-19?
- What are the lessons-learned for the development community around enabling future multi-stakeholder partnerships' response to crises?

The report will be available to practitioners from developing countries and thereby demonstrate the potential of partnerships for overcoming the challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda posed by COVID-19. It will also serve as an important input to the national partnership accelerator workshops. The report will also serve as an informal input to preparations of relevant United Nations meeting held in 2021, including the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum), the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, the UN Ocean Conference and the Second UN Global Transport Conference.

Work assignment

- Develop an analytical report on effective practices of partnerships in response to COVID-19 (through interviews, desk research, self-organized meetings)

Deliverables/Expected Outputs

- Draft outline of report, including methodology, for discussion
- Analytical report on effective practices of partnerships in response to COVID-19 (20-30 pages, English)



- Executive Summary; 1-2 pages, English
- Key initial findings with 5-15 slides (PowerPoint presentation)
- Delivery of presentation of findings and assessment to the Multi-stakeholder group on effective partnerships for COVID-19
- 4 short (one page each) illustrative case studies of multi-stakeholder partnerships against COVID-19
- 2-5 short video interviews of key stakeholders explaining how their partnership was developed during COVID-19, why partnerships are key to in addressing COVID-19, or highlighting challenges in fostering partnerships during the COVID-19 pandemic

Performance Indicators

- Positive feedback by the multi-stakeholder group on effective partnerships for COVID-19;
- Increase understanding, engagement and commitment by key stakeholders in their partnership approach to tackling COVID-19, including through its recovery and build back better phase;
- Timeliness and accuracy of deliverables.

Expected qualifications

- Knowledge about partnerships and means of implementation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Education

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent degree) in sustainable development, economics, public policy, public administration, finance, natural resources management, engineering, law, social sciences or related field is required. A first-level university degree in combination two (2) additional years of qualifying work experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Work Experience

- A minimum of seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience on sustainable development issues, including experience on partnerships. Experience in policy-oriented work in sustainable development issues is required. Experience in preparing written outputs on sustainable development issues is required.

Language

Fluent in English is a requirement.

Proposals for consultancy

The consultant should send a proposal of the general contents (outline of the final product), including the methodology for the assessment to goranssono@un.org. Potential candidates will be contacted to explain their proposal.

Candidates are also required to fill out their professional profile in Inspira (inspira.un.org) in order to be considered for the consultancy.

Deadline for applying is 6 November 2020.

Duration of Contract

The contract will be for a total of 30 days during the period of November 2020 – December 2020.

Duty Station and Travel

The work will be done remotely.

Fee and Payment Schedule

The fee will be determined by the United Nations upon review of the credentials of the candidate.

Supervisor/Project Manager

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of Mr. Ola Goransson, Sustainable Development Officer and Project Coordinator of the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, Outreach and Partnership Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.