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Organized on the occasion of the 2016 HLPF on Sustainable Development by UN DESA/DSD,
in collaboration with UN Office for Partnerships

Summary

Opening and welcoming remarks (10.30 – 10.50 AM)

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and head of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), welcomed the audience of over 500 participants to the first-ever Partnership Exchange, organized on the occasion of the 2016 HLPF on Sustainable by UN-DESA, in collaboration with the UN Office for Partnerships. Mr. Wu hoped that this year's Partnership Exchange becomes an annual feature of HLPF. He highlighted that the different actors of the partnerships on the ground are keeping the momentum on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He further indicated that during the first week of the High-level Political Forum (11-15 July 2016), multi-stakeholder partnerships had been recognized as effective means of implementation and as critical drivers for the SDGs. Mr. Wu also encouraged participants to attend and engage with the 22 national voluntary reviews in the final three days of the ministerial segment of the HLPF.

Mr. Wu concluded by asking whether we have, with the 2030 Agenda, embarked on a too ambitious journey, and at the same time responded that "Yes, we have", but as Nelson Mandela once said, Mr. Wu quoted, "*It always seems impossible, until it's done*".

The opening remarks were followed by a special video address by Dr. David Nabarro, Special Adviser to the SG? on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change. Dr. Nabarro said that the partnerships being profiled at the Partnership Exchange special event are shining examples from around the world and commended their representatives for playing a remarkable role in shifting the world and minds. To achieve the SDGs, we need to mobilise all partners, including NGOs, faith-based groups and corporations, Mr. Nabarro asserted.

Ms. Ann de la Roche, Officer-in-Charge and Chief of Operations, United Nations Office for Partnerships, facilitated this opening session. She introduced the audience to the event's theme: "*Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through multi-stakeholder partnerships – ensuring that no one is left behind*" that was presented through several panels and altogether 26 different partnerships.

Partnership Exchange morning session - Partnerships with focus on People (10.50 AM – 12.00 PM)

Ms. de la Roche presented the facilitator of the day's event, Mr. Nikhil Chandavarkar, Founder of Thersus Sustainability. At the outset, Mr. Chandavarkar launched the UN-DESA's annual report on Partnerships for Sustainable Development and encouraged the audience to read it. The report, published on the UN Sustainable Development Platform, is the fourth edition and the most thorough of the reports so far. It is based largely on UN-DESA's 'Partnerships for the SDGs Online Platform' which has over 2,100 registered initiatives, over 7,000 individual accounts, and 4 million individual visitors annually – "and counting".

He then welcomed Ms. Mariarosa Cutillo, Chief of Strategic Partnerships Branch, Division of Communication and Strategic Partnerships, UNFPA, to moderate the first panel of the day, themed 'People'.

Eight partnerships presented their stories. Dr. Claudia Morrissey Conlon, Lead Saving Mothers, Giving Life at USAID/Global Health, of "Saving Mothers, Giving Life" started the discussion. The five-year initiative aims to rapidly reduce maternal and newborn mortality by 50% and perinatal mortality by 30% in low-resource, high-burden sub-Saharan Africa countries. Then Ms. Vanessa Tarantini, Programme Analyst, UN Global Compact Network Brazil, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), presented the "Empowering Female Refugees" initiative that aims to empower a group of women that are refugees or asylum-seekers in São Paulo (Brazil) by offering guidance and access to job opportunities and networking.

Mr. Aurélien Decamps of Kedge Business School presented the "Sustainability Literacy Test", an online multiple choice question assessment that assesses, in 30 minutes, the minimum level of knowledge in economic, social and environmental responsibility, applicable all over the world, in any kind of higher education institution. 445 universities and corporations are involved and 44,416 tests have been taken. His presentation was followed by Ms. Nana Taona Kuo, Senior Manager, EWEC Health Team, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, who highlighted the "Every Woman Every Child" Initiative, launched in 2015 by the UN Secretary-General, with an objective to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents within a generation, and ensure that they thrive within a lifetime. Clear objectives, leadership, and trust building have made this initiative a success, she said.

Ms. Barbara Ammirati, Senior Advisor, Government and Partner Engagement thereafter presented the initiative "Global Partnership to End Violence against Children" that works for a world in which every child grows up free of violence, supporting in particular the SDG 16. At its core are path-finding countries that pioneer new avenues. Ms. Natalie Draisin, US Manager, FIA Foundation then presented the "Global Initiative for Child Health & Mobility" whose aim is to ensure that by 2030 every child has a safe road to school. It focuses in particular on the age group 10-19, where statistics show that road injuries are the leading cause of death.

Finally, Ms. Sofia Garcia, Post-2015 Advisor at SOS Children's Villages talked about the "GoTeach" initiative, a youth employability partnership between SOS Children's Villages and Deutsche Post DHL Group. To date, 7,000 youth and 4,000 DHL employees have been reached. Taking time, thinking out of the box and taking risks have been the key lessons learnt of this partnership, Ms. Garcia said. Ms. Alexandra Knezovich, Program Manager ended the session by presenting the business-led coalition "Toilet Board Coalition" whose goal is to catalyse a robust business sector to deliver universal access to sanitation and does this by running "Toilet accelerators".

Mr. Bernhard Mauritz Stormyr, Director, Head of Sustainability Management, Strategy and Business Development, Yara, nominated by the government of Norway, responded to the session and summarized that for successful partnerships collaboration, clarity and accountability in order to understand everyone's

role and responsibilities, and systems' leaderships are crucial. The Q&A session tackled issues such as how to work at the grassroots level and also through existing, scaled organizations in target countries; the importance of involving girls and women; the specific collaboration needs of deaf; and how to contact UN organizations and companies to initiate partnerships

Launch of the 'Partnership Data for SDGs'

Then Ms. Lise Kingo, Executive Director, UN Global Compact, took the floor to launch a new partnership between UN-DESA and UN Global Compact, with support from UNOP, that has been developed in response to UN Member States highlighting the need to develop ways to improve transparency, accountability and the sharing of experiences of multi-stakeholder partnerships and on the review and monitoring of these partnerships. Ms. Kingo stressed it is imperative that UN efforts across organizations are designed in a coordinated manner and a common language on partnerships is embraced. The initiative aims to link partnerships better into the SDGs and their targets as well as the HLPF process, adheres to the 'SMART' standard, and relies on publicly shared, open format.

Partnership Exchange morning session continued - Partnerships with focus on Planet & Prosperity (12.10 AM – 1.15 PM)

Ms. Rachel Kyte, Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, moderated the second panel of the day, themed 'Planet & Prosperity'.

Again, eight partnerships presented their stories. Ms. Natalie Draisin, US Manager, FIA Foundation started the panel discussion by talking about the "Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI)" that promotes fuel efficiency in cars and light duty vans, through the adoption of cost effective fuel efficiency technologies. Potential savings to be achieved in this area by 2025 are USD 2 trillion. Mr. Ramón Cruz, International Policy Program Manager, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, then presented the "Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport", a capacity-building partnership on sustainable urban transport.

Mr. Patrick Ho Chi Ping, Deputy Chairman and Secretary General, China Energy Fund Committee, spoke about the "Powering the Future We Want" initiative whose objective is captured in one word: "sharing". The initiative offers a grant of USD 1 Million to fund future capacity development activities in energy for sustainable development. He was followed by Ms. Chikako Takase, Director, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) / IPLA Coordinating Secretariat, who presented the "International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA)" whose goal is to increase the capacity of local authorities for sustainable waste management towards a resource efficient and zero waste society, achieving livable and sustainable cities.

Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch Chief of Staff & Head of 2020 Vision Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) then described the "Compact2025" partnership whose objective is to end hunger, by, for example, holding roundtable discussions and convening stakeholders to accelerate progress. Ms. Karen Newman, Senior Consultant of SDG FUND followed by presenting their Fund as well as the "Food Africa Project" launched just a week before this meeting. The project promotes replicable, integrated solutions to agro-food value chain development, food security and nutrition, youth and so contributes to SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 8.

The panel's final words were given by Ms. Seriena Bal, OOC Project Leader of "Our Oceans Challenge", a network of influential companies committed to generating innovative business models that promote clean and healthy oceans; and Dr. Lily Kak, Senior Advisor for Global Partnerships and Newborn Health, US Agency for International Development, of the "Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance" that aims to achieve significant reduction in maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality in low-resource settings.

The Q&A session focused on issues such as how to connect civil society and academic network, and how governments can better partner with the private sector.

Lunch break (1.15 – 2.15 PM)

Special Announcement: Online platforms for partnership engagement (2.15 – 2.20 PM)

Mr. Ola Göransson, Division for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA showcased the "Partnerships for SDGs" online platform of UN-DESA, a central repository of partnerships advancing the SDGs and invited everyone to submit their partnerships online. He showed a graphic indicating that while partnerships are advancing all of the SDGs, the Goal 17 is most represented and Goal 14 is currently the least represented. Mr. Angus Rennie, Senior Manager, Partnerships, UN Global Compact, followed by showcasing the "UN-Business Action Hub" online platform that was developed as a system-wide UN entry point for business partnerships. It currently has over 450 commitments and 35 active UN entities, and is fully aligned with the SDGs. In the future, the platform will be developed to keep scale and visibility in mind, to ensure online-offline synergy of partnerships.

Partnership Exchange afternoon session - Partnerships with focus on Data, media and innovative tools for the SDGs (2.20 AM – 3.30 PM)

Mr. Mitchell Toomey, Director, SDG Action Campaign, moderated the third panel of the day, themed 'Data, media and innovative tools'. He said that data is not just about numbers but it represents people's aspirations and needs.

Seven partnerships were presented in this panel.

Ms. Heather Grady, Vice President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, of the "SDG Philanthropy Platform" kick-started the discussion by presenting this path breaking initiative. She said that if government and UN-led processes are made more understandable to the philanthropy sector, their engagement will increase. Their website sdgfunders.org captures philanthropic data per SDG to, *inter alia*, increases the transparency of the sector.

Then, the "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Enhancing Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development" was showcased by Ms. Ebba Dohlman, Senior Advisor and Head of the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Unit, OECD. The initiative focuses on SDG target 17.14, and one of its key elements is a virtual discussion to be launched in September.

These presentations were followed by that of Mr. Charles Brigham, Account Manager, Nonprofits & Global Organizations, ESRI, who presented "Open SDG Engagement Platform" that allows governments, civil society, and private sector actors to use, make and share data globally. Mr. Brigham stressed that the SDGs provide a great framework for all of us to rally around, and invited everyone to use and contribute to their platform. He was followed by Ms. Joan Franca, Specialist for International Relations and Sustainability,

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), who talked about “RegionsAdapt”, an initiative connected directly to the SDG 13 and indirectly to many others. He said this is the first global initiative on climate change for regional governments and has so far reached 53 regions.

Ms. Katie Kulik, Global Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, CBS Interactive then presented “CBS Interactive Media Outreach Partnership”. She stressed how the media channel CBS can, together with the UN, raise awareness to reach millions of users, and promised that the CBSI will create editorial content on the SDGs. Mr. Rob Worthington then talked about the “Everyone Counts: Using citizen-generated data to monitor progress against the SDGs” initiative that strives to ensure data is used to monitor the SDGs and includes marginalized communities’ voices.

The afternoon session was concluded by a presentation by Mr. Sanjeev Khagram, Coordinator, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data who showcased the “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data” that harnesses the data revolution for sustainable development. The initiative has already 150 member companies as data champions, who believe that “data is the oil of the 21st century”

Ms. Riikka Laatu, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, responded to this session by stressing the importance of involving sub-national levels in the national level sustainable development strategy work. She mentioned Finland’s innovative approach to tackle sustainable development with the “Society’s Commitment to Sustainability” that invites all to commit to sustainable actions.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Framework session (3.30 – 6PM)

H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, co-chair of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, opened the second afternoon session highlighting the importance of the SIDS partnership framework as the first of its kind within the UN. He was pleased that 300 partnerships are already registered on the “SIDS action online partnership platform”, and said that the focus of this session is on monitoring and ensuring the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS, and that the dialogue is organized in collaboration with the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS.

The moderator of the session, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations, co-chair of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, then took the floor and stressed how partnerships, and open and sincere partners in particular, are needed, even “when the going gets tough”. He said the three partnerships that were going to be presented at this session talk about their biggest achievements, challenges, and replicable lessons learnt.

Firstly, Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) presented the “Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)” established at Rio+20, whose major objective is to protect human health and the environment by the reduction and management of marine litter. The project involves webinars, creation of regional nodes, and scaling up of initiatives. Second, “ICT4SIDS Partnership” was presented by Dr. John Kenerson, MD, Director, World Hypertension Action Group. The initiative focuses on communication and health, and use of technology for education. As a concrete example Mr. Kenerson talked about hypertension, which, according to WHO will affect 1.5 billion people worldwide by 2025 and accounts for 8 million premature deaths. Finally, the “Small Island States Resilience Initiative” of the World Bank Group was presented by Ms. Habiba Gitay, Senior Environmental Specialist. She said the WB Group has a dedicated team working on SIDS issues. It had, *inter*

alia, conducted analysis and developed a framework with three building blocks to tackle resilience in SIDS. Their analysis revealed a USD 800 million? funding need, and how this is fragmented.

Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa, responded to the presentations stressing that the involvement at all levels is crucial and partnerships must be consistent with national laws, as well as aligned with priorities of host countries and regions. She reminded that the Samoa Pathway initiated many partnerships that need to be followed-up on.

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and the 2030 Agenda – How to improve and review their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs (5:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

The final panel of the full-day event focused on how to improve and review multi-stakeholder partnerships' contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. The dialogue was organized in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and moderated by Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN-DESA.

The first panellist, Dr. Marianne Beisheim, SWP, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Senior Associate, said this session would be about reflection after the full day of “speed dating with partnerships”. Ms. Beisheim guided the audience through the history of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the UN context, and questioned whether the UN is fit for the purpose of reviewing such partnerships. She stressed the need for improved analytical information about partnerships in order to tackle more of the “how and what”. To conclude, she presented a proposal of architecture of work for the UN around partnerships. Then Mr. Ola Göransson, Division for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA further presented the UN-DESA online platform for partnerships for SDGs. He stressed that the platform should not just be a place to showcase partnerships but also a place for partnerships to engage with the UN and potential partners, and presented the new function of the platform, the possibility for partnerships to upload “Progress Reports”. Finally, Mr. Mike Wisheart, World Vision international, Senior advisor, advocacy & External Engagement, talked about the general role of partnership platforms and how meaningful participation of the most vulnerable is crucial.

Three responses from member States were heard. Dr. Ingolf Dietrich, Deputy Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, responded stressing the importance of promotion of partnerships. He highlighted a concrete German example, the “Partnerships for Sustainable textiles”, launched by his Ministry, which was a success because it was given a brand, the roles and responsibilities were clear for all partners, and also because there was political will and leadership. Mr. Morten Jespersen, Under-Secretary for Global Development and Cooperation, Denmark, then responded saying that the country has an open door for partnerships. He echoed Mr. Dietrich’s view that partnerships are crucial for the implementation of the SDGs. He did, however, warn that traditional “cooperation” should not be replaced with “partnerships”, and that partnerships should offer something additional to traditional cooperation. Finally, Ms. Midhfa Naeem, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the UN, responded by sharing three lessons they have learnt from the SIDS Partnership: 1) the need for asking for specifics while keeping flexibility; 2) Importance of voluntary reporting; 3) a need for dialogue.

Closing remarks (6.00 – 6.15 PM)

Mr. Thomas Gass closed the session and the whole day of the 'Partnership Exchange' by reminding the audience that partnerships are nothing new. He urged that the discussion continues, and focuses further on the lessons learnt. Mr. Gass reminded that partnerships are necessarily not a magic solution, and proposed that a system of incentives that allow partners to be seen and policy-dialogue to happen would be created. Finally, he thanked all the participants and organisers of the event.
