Theme: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world

Concept note and tentative programme

INTRODUCTION

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the United Nations’ central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will be convened on 10-19 July 2017, under the theme: “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. The session will review, in depth, the following SDGs:

GOAL 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
GOAL 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
GOAL 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
GOAL 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
GOAL 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
GOAL 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, will also be reviewed in the session.

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are an integral aspect of the High-level Political Forum and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. They provide a broad platform for partnerships, enabling the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders and the exchange of experiences—including successes, challenges, and lessons learned, with the objective of accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In support of the work of the High-level Political Forum and the Voluntary National Reviews, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), is organizing for the second time a Partnership Exchange special event, to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development. The event, organized on the occasion of the 2017 HLPF, will be open to all HLPF participants, with a special focus on reviewing the work of multi-stakeholder partnerships and other voluntary initiatives in driving implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17.

GUIDING CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERHIPS AND VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES FOR REVIEW
SMART – does the initiative/partnership fulfil the SMART criteria?
- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Resource-based, with
- Time-based deliverables

Relevance for 2017 Partnership Exchange
- Thematic focus – addressing one or more of the SDGs under in-depth review at the 2017 High-level Political Forum
- Lessons learned – are there any lessons learned that are relevant for other initiatives?

Effectiveness and long-term transformative impact
- Is the initiative/partnership adding concrete value to the implementation of the SDGs? If so, how?
- Does the initiative/partnership transfer technology or build capacities in developing countries? (where relevant)
- How well-established and recognized is the initiative/partnership? (e.g. years in operation, references in the press/academic papers)
- Is the initiative/partnership based on predictable and sustained resources for its implementation?
- Does the initiative/partnership have a potential for significant impact, and can it be scaled?

Approach and internal governance
- **Mission** – Does the initiative/partnership have specific and clearly defined, measurable, achievable and accepted, relevant and realistic, and time-bound objectives?
- **Integration** – is the initiative/partnership bearing in mind the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its design and implementation?
- **Local ownership and inclusiveness** – does the initiative/partnership involve local governments and other relevant stakeholders during the planning and implementation process? If relevant, does it have sectoral and geographic balance? Does it also aim to support the most vulnerable and marginal communities?
- **Governance structure** – does the initiative/partnership apply a transparent, accountable, efficient, participatory, qualitative and equitable multi-stakeholder approach?
- **Transparency and accountability** – is the initiative/partnership designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner? Are there robust and transparent monitoring mechanisms and performance measures to ensure accountability? Is the initiative/partnership registered in an open registry, such as the Partnership for SDGs online platform?

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL REPORT - SUBMIT A PROGRESS REPORT**

All stakeholders with registered multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in the **Partnerships for SDGs online platform** are encouraged to submit a short progress report of their initiatives through the online platform. These short progress reports will appear on the HLPF Inputs Database, and form the basis of an annual report by the Secretariat on how partnerships and other voluntary initiatives are driving the implementation of the SDGs. More information is available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/reports/](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/reports/)

**VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS & PARTNERSHIPS**

The Partnership Exchange presenters will aim to show how their multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments can address challenges and needs encountered by countries taking part in the Voluntary National Reviews, by sharing their expertise and lessons learned.
## PROGRAMME

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<td><strong>OPENING PANEL</strong></td>
<td><strong>Keynote address</strong> – H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st session of the General Assembly</td>
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<td>10.15 AM – 10.30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Opening remarks</strong> – Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)</td>
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**PARTNERSHIP EXCHANGE DIALOGUE**

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<td>10.30 AM – 10.40 AM</td>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong> - Partnership Data for SDGs Framework – Mr. Ola Goransson, Partnerships Coordinator, Outreach and Communication, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA</td>
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<td>10.40 AM – 12 noon</td>
<td><strong>Partnership Exchange</strong> – Goals 1 and 2 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere &amp; End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture)</td>
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**Moderator:** Ms. Nicole Carta, Senior Partnership Officer, International Fund for Agricultural Development

**Introductory statements:** Peru

**Special address:** Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO), Social Protection Systems and Floors Multi-stakeholder Partnership (#SDGAction16346),

**Partnership panelists:**

*The Partnership Exchange presenters will aim to show how their multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments can address challenges and needs encountered by countries taking part in the Voluntary National Reviews, by sharing their expertise and lessons learned.*

1. **Growing Together** (#SDGAction21784), Juan Gonzalez-Valero, Head of Sustainability and Policy, Syngenta
2. **Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARAM)** (#SDGAction21879), Jesús ANTÓN, Senior Programme Manager, Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARAM), Policy and Technical Advisory Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
3. **SDG 2 Advocacy Hub Peru**, Carmen Burbano, WFP Country Director in Peru
4. **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)** (#SDGAction7483), Katherine Richards, Head of Hunger and Nutrition, Save the Children UK and Vice-chair of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Network (CSN)

**Guiding questions:**

- How does your partnership help to sustainably strengthen the livelihoods and incomes of those in extreme poverty or otherwise at risk of being left behind?
- Social protection systems are seen as key to addressing issues of persistent poverty. What does your partnership do to address this issue, and what do you see as the advantage of your coordinated action on this topic?
- As we face a warming climate, sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices will be essential to combating hunger. What gaps do you see your partnership filling to help promote more sustainable and resilient agricultural practices?
- Several countries taking part in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) this year have mentioned, in their reports submitted to the HLPF Secretariat, the challenge of developing a coordinated SDG strategy at multiple levels of government. What sorts of challenges have you encountered in aligning local, regional, and national strategies on SDGs 1 and 2, and how have you overcome these challenges?
- What kind of guidance and resources are required to strengthen your partnership to deliver on actions for the implementation of SDGs 1 and 2?
### Partnership Exchange – Goals 9 and 17 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation & Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development)

**Moderator:** Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

**Partnership panelists**

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1. **Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) (#SDGAction22414),** Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
2. **SDG Alliance Portugal (#SDGAction21236),** Mr. Mario Parra da Silva, Network Representative of UN Global Compact Network Portugal
3. **Sustainable Stock Exchanges (#SDGAction21312),** Ms. Chantal line Carpentier, Head of New York Office, UNCTAD
4. **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (#SDGAction9691),** Dr. Claire Melamed, Executive Director of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
5. **International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) (#SDGAction17842),** Mr. Colin Allen, Chair of International Disability Alliance
6. **Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development (AP - SD) – Mr. Henry Gourdji, Head, Strategic Planning, Coordination and Partnership Office, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
7. **Global Water Partnership (GWP) (#SDGAction10121),** Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Chair at Global Water Partnership

**Guiding questions:**

- What methodology and tools does your partnership use to monitor and evaluate its impact and contribution to the achievement of the SDGs? Does your partnership engage with national or local authorities to build capacity to better monitor and evaluate progress on the SDGs?
- One of the most common challenges mentioned in this year’s voluntary national reviews is the difficulty in developing a coordinated national and local SDG monitoring strategy, and lack of access to disaggregated data. What are some ways that your partnership is helping to address these challenges?
- In what ways has your partnership been particularly innovative?
- Which tools and platforms have you found most effective to share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- How do you address trade-offs in achieving implementation of SDGs in your partnership?
- How do you measure success in your partnership?

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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

03.00 PM – 03.10 PM  **Keynote address – Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of United Nations (video message)**

**PARTNERSHIP EXCHANGE DIALOGUE**

03.10 PM – 04.20 PM  **Partnership Exchange – Goal 3 and 5 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages & Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)**

**Moderator:** Mr. Will Kennedy, Officer in Charge and Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)

**Introductory statements:** Czech Republic, Denmark
Partnership panelists:

The Partnership Exchange presenters will aim to show how their multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments can address challenges and needs encountered by countries taking part in the Voluntary National Reviews, by sharing their expertise and lessons learned.

1. **EQUALS: The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age** (#SDGAction22186), Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Chief Strategic Planning and Membership Department, ITU
2. **Every Woman Every Child** (#SDGAction12387), Ms “Nana” Kuo, Senior Manager, Every Woman Every Child Health Team, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General
3. **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Europe** (#SDGAction18763), Mr. Ton Coenen, Chair of EuroNGOs and Executive Director of Rutgers
4. **The PACT for Social Transformation in the AIDS Response** (#SDGAction22393), Ms Hayley Gleeson - ACT2030 Project Coordinator (IPPF/The PACT)
5. **Using Data to Support Women’s Rights: Property Markets and Housing Rights through a GenderEquity Lens** (#SDGAction21644), Ms. Judith A. Hermanson, PhD, President and CEO, IHC Global
6. **Working for Health: A Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth (2017 - 2021)** (#SDGAction16325), Dr. Shambhu ACHARYA, Director, Department of Country Cooperation with the UN System, Office of the Director-General, World Health Organization

Guiding questions:

- How does your partnership help connect to those who may be harder to reach and therefore realize the aspiration of 'leave no one behind'?
- What originally motivated the formation of your partnership, and how has the 2030 Agenda catalyzed your work in the themes of ensuring healthy lives and achieving empowerment of women and girls and gender equality?
- Several countries taking part in the VNRs this year have mentioned, in their reports submitted to the HLPF Secretariat, empowerment of women and girls and gender inequality as a major national challenge. How has your partnership been innovative in addressing issues of gender inequality?
- What are some of the challenges you have faced in working with different sectors, and how have you overcome any communication barriers?
- In which ways has your partnership strengthened the work of all organizations involved?

04.20 PM – 04.40 PM

**Fire side chat - Accountability and monitoring of partnerships**

The session will feature an informal conversation between a moderator and a guest, with the objective of creating an informal and frank dialogue.

- **Interviewer:** Ms. Mariarosa Cutillo, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- **Guest:** Ms. Helga Fogstad, Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)

**Interview questions:**

- What monitoring mechanisms and performance measures does your partnership use to ensure accountability?
- What are your major challenges in ensuring accountability in partnerships, and how do you work to address these challenges?
- What are some best practices for engaging various stakeholders in monitoring and accountability?
- What is your governance structure? How do you think it could be improved?

04.40 PM – 05.50 PM

**Partnership Exchange – Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development)**
This session will focus on partnerships and voluntary commitments that aim to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. In the recent held The Ocean Conference, 1,380 voluntary commitments for Goal 14 were announced by all stakeholders.

**Moderator:** Mr. Andrew Hudson, Head, Water & Ocean Governance Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Presentation:** An overview of SDG 14 Partnerships and Ocean Conference Voluntary Commitments, Ms. Marjo Vierros, Director, Coastal Policy and Humanities Research and Senior Associate, Global Ocean Forum

**Draft consultation paper:** Follow-up to The Ocean Conference Voluntary Commitments for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

**Announcement:** Winner of Voluntary Commitments Data Visualization Competition

In the lead up to the Partnership Exchange, the Secretariat of HLPF and The Ocean Conference launched a competition, offering a unique opportunity to data visualizations specialists to showcase their skills to the by analyzing and visualizing data from all the voluntary commitments that were announced in the lead-up, and during, The Ocean Conference.

**Panel discussion:** Best practices for effective follow-up and review of voluntary commitments

1. Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Island Partnership, New Zealand
2. Ms. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum, Professor of Marine Policy, University of Delaware

**Respondents:** Sweden, Maldives (tbc)

**Guiding questions:**

- How can we ensure voluntary commitments are delivering as committed?
- How can The Ocean Conference Commitment Registry of Voluntary Commitments be further developed to support the implementation of SDG 14?
- How can we facilitate a network of practitioners working on similar issues?
- How can we ensure coordination with commitment stemming from other processes, such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development?
- How can we help match available funding with those who need it?
- What actions and mechanisms can we use to keep the VCs 'flowing' to the platform to maintain the momentum generated by the June Ocean Conference? How can we better engage stakeholder groups that have to date shown relatively low participation?
- Based on the initial review of the VCs, where do you see gaps and challenges, as well as opportunities, in catalyzing SDG14 implementation?
- Could the VC platform serve as an example/template which other SDGs might adopt to further catalyze progress on their respective goal?

05.50 PM – 6.00 PM  **Wrap up and closing**

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