



Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in the Post-2015 Development Era:

**Sharing knowledge and expertise
to support the achievement of the
Sustainable Development Goals**

Presentation on Background Paper (prepared by Alan AtKisson)
for the UNDESA-DSD Expert Group Meeting
16 June 2015

Summary of the Background Paper

- Provides a historical orientation
- Analyzes current knowledge-sharing practices *within* and *among* partnerships
- Assesses knowledge-sharing needs in light of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs
- Introduces two frameworks for working with knowledge sharing, *within* and *among* partnerships
- Provides recommendations to partnerships and the institutions that support them

Multi-stakeholder partnerships ...

- Have become “standard practice” in sustainable development
- Are expected to play a major role in the realization of the SDGs
- Come in an extremely wide variety of shapes, sizes, and constellations, at every scale, from global to local



**SD in Action
Registry**

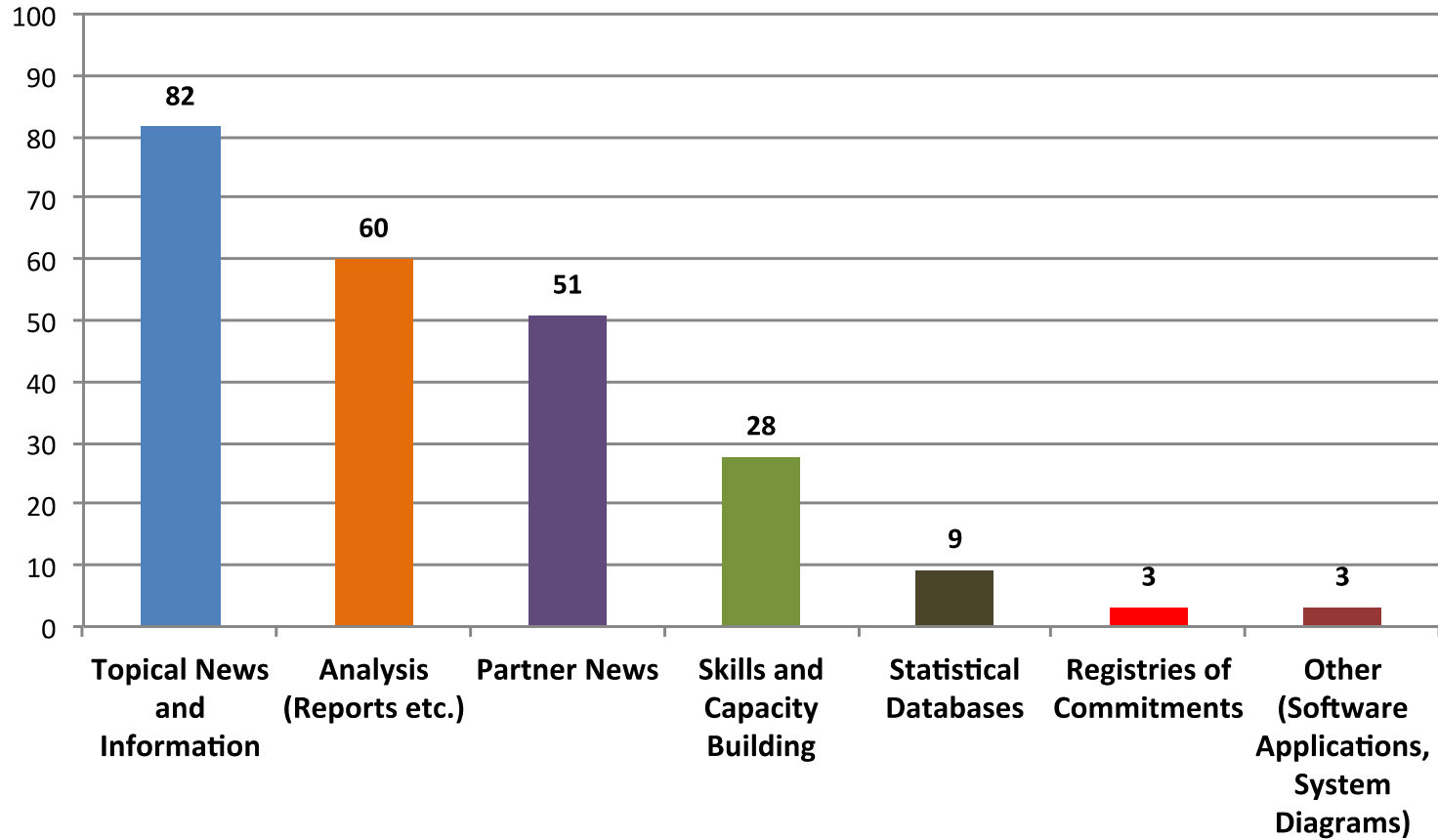
Welcoming registrations of
multi-stakeholder partnerships, commitments and actions
that promote sustainable development and poverty eradication

Register now

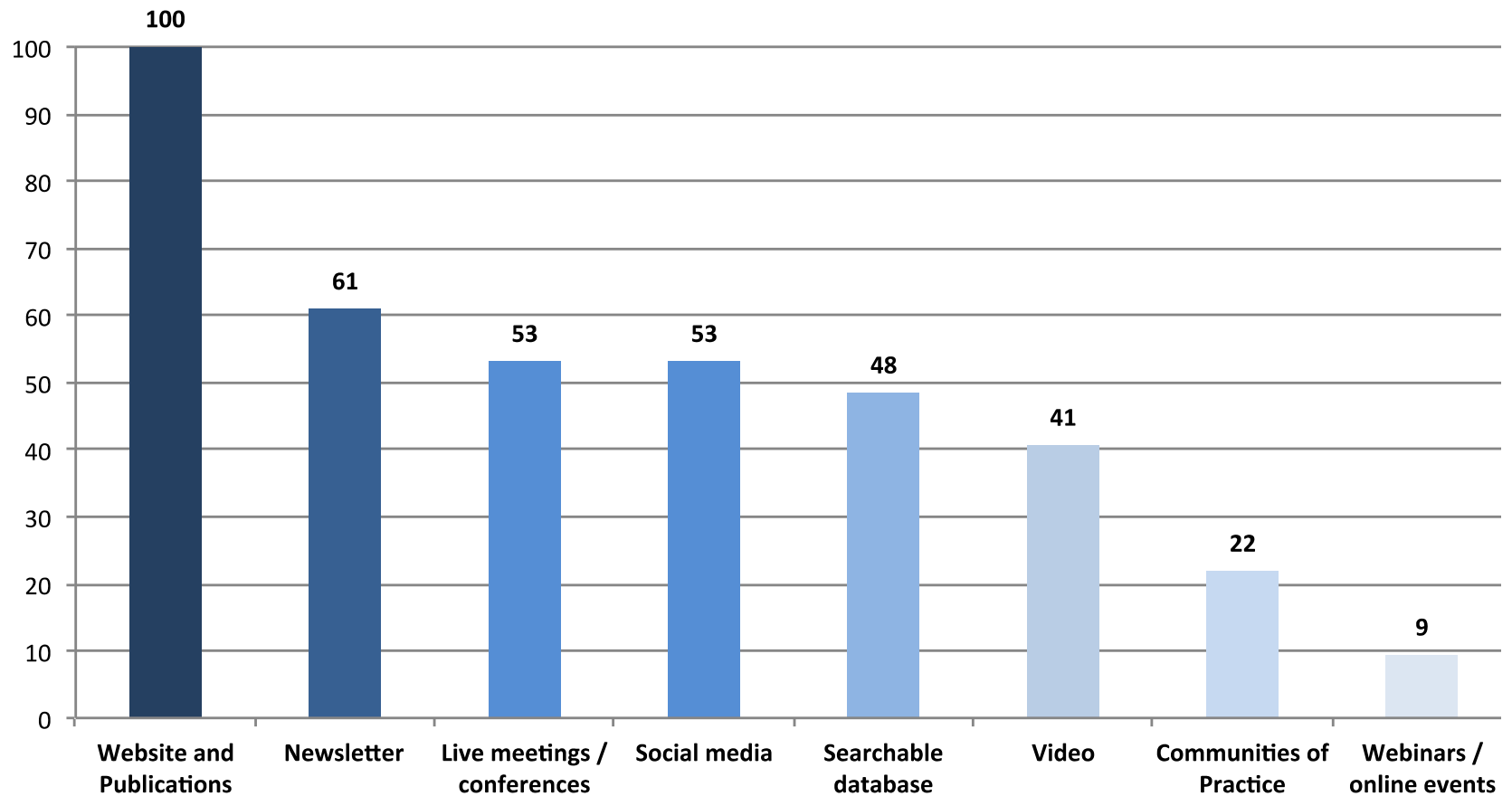
Sign in to your account and
add documents & pictures
to your partnership/commitment

1 4 4 3 Multi-stakeholder partnerships &
voluntary commitments registered

Types of knowledge shared by partnerships



Knowledge channels used by partnerships



But how do partnerships *use* knowledge?

- Although multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development are increasingly an object of critical study, there have not been any systematic reviews of how they share —and especially how they *use* — knowledge to effect change.
- This is an area ripe for further research — especially in the area of knowledge sharing *among* partnerships, which appears not to have been looked at yet, at all

Emerging trends and best practices

- ✓ **Databases of Tools**
- ✓ **Document Comparison**
- ✓ **Visualization Platforms Knowledge Maps**
- ✓ **Open Data / Linked Open Data**
- ✓ **Open Modeling Platforms**
- ✓ **Automated Tagging**
- ✓ **Virtual Collaboration Platforms**

The post-2015 agenda presents new knowledge challenges... and increases the necessity to work across disciplines

- 1: End **poverty** in all its forms everywhere
 - 2: End **hunger**, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
 - 3: Ensure **healthy lives** and promote **well-being** for all at all ages
 - 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality **education** and promote **life-long learning** opportunities for all
 - 5: Achieve **gender** equality and empower all women and girls
 - 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of **water and sanitation** for all
 - 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern **energy** for all
 - 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable **economic growth**, full and productive **employment** and decent work for all
 - 9: Build resilient **infrastructure**, promote inclusive and sustainable **industrialization** and foster **innovation**
 - 10: Reduce **inequality** within and among countries
 - 11: Make **cities** and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 - 12: Ensure sustainable **consumption and production** patterns
 - 13: Take urgent action to combat **climate change** and its impacts
 - 14: Conserve and sustainably use the **oceans**, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 - 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial **ecosystems**, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
 - 16: Promote **peaceful and inclusive** societies for sustainable development, provide access to **justice** for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
 - 17: Strengthen the **means of implementation** and revitalize the global **partnership** for sustainable development
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Introducing Two Frameworks

To support partnerships in developing their knowledge sharing for the post-2015 era, so that they can better **empower stakeholders and improve implementation:**

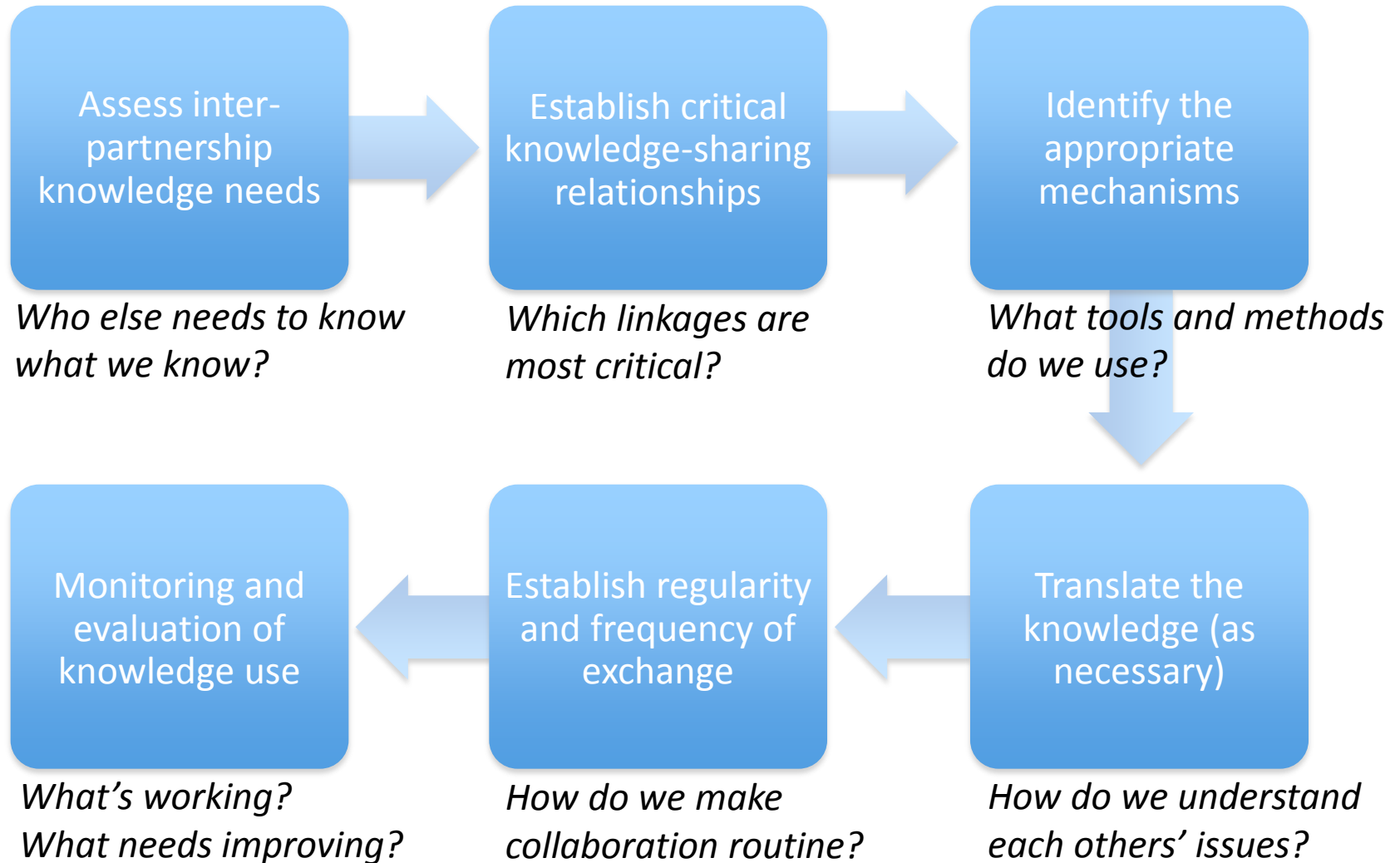
- Framework 1, for improving knowledge sharing within partnerships (the “TOLKA” model)
- Framework 2, for establishing knowledge sharing *among* partnerships working with different topic areas

Framework 1, for improving knowledge sharing *within* partnerships: the “TOLKA” model*

- **“T”:** *Type the Partnership*. Determine its critical characteristics, such as the geographic scope, breadth of goals, type of governance, etc.
- **“O”:** *Develop the Ontology*, the set of commonly used concepts, terms, phrases, data definitions, etc.
- **“L”:** *Identifying the critical Learning Loops* (accelerated feedback processes) that need to be established in the partnership
- **“K”:** *Set up the Knowledge-Sharing Processes* that best meet that partnership’s objectives, given the above
- **“A”:** *Activate the institutions and individuals involved* (including funders), so the processes actually work

* Details and examples are provided in the background paper

Framework 2, for establishing knowledge sharing *among* partnerships working with different topic areas



Recommendations:

How partnerships can optimize knowledge sharing for the SDG era

- **Conduct reviews of their knowledge sharing programs,**
- **Consider whether the partnership needs to invest a bit of up-front time to clarify terms and develop common ontologies**
- **Reallocate resources to a new mix of knowledge processes** that can speed learning and action among partnership members as well as public users of knowledge resources.

Recommendations:

How institutions that support partnerships can help them improve and accelerate knowledge sharing

- **Prioritize knowledge sharing more highly** in their research, knowledge development, and related activity
- **Participate in the aforementioned Conference on Partnerships and network of knowledge managers**, and generally contribute to the development of frameworks, tools, and methodologies

Recommendations:

How the UN can facilitate further development and accelerated improvement in this field

- **Convene a “Conference of Partnerships”** with the express purpose fostering inter-partnership relationships and developing a culture of knowledge sharing *among* partnerships
- **Develop a network of knowledge managers** working in partnerships and facilitate their ongoing learning and exchange
- **Continue to encourage studies in the field of partnership**, and collaborate with institutions that have placed themselves at the forefront of this small-but-growing area of research



Thank You