

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

SPECIAL REPORT ON  
VOLUNTARY MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND  
COMMITMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM  
[SUSTAINABLEDEVELOPMENT.UN.ORG](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org)

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# INTRODUCTION

The United Nations (UN) is at a turning point. With the Millennium Development Goals reaching the finishing line this year, the global development community is looking for a new sustainability agenda to guide development efforts beyond 2015. Member states have agreed that the UN General Assembly Open Working Group proposal for 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be the main component of this new post-2015 development agenda, to be launched at a UN Summit in September 2015.

The importance of engaging stakeholders at all levels has been repeatedly recognized at past international conferences, and throughout global conversations on the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda. The Rio+20 Conference, as one example, showed enhanced inclusiveness in the deliberation at the United Nations with the presence of hundreds of thousands of participants from governments, the United Nations System, business, civil society groups, universities, as well as those virtually following the conference from a far.

In the post-2015 development era, multi-stakeholder partnerships are expected to play an increasingly important role in the implementation of sustainable development. The proposed Sustainable Development Goal 17, which reads “*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*”, recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries.

The effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships, while dependent on many factors, will increasingly be tied to their ability to manage and share knowledge and expertise about the issues, processes, and solutions that they are promoting. The Sustainable Development Goals will be truly universal in nature – they will apply to all countries, and all sectors. This universality will require, inter alia, that the knowledge and expertise managed and possessed by multi-stakeholder partnerships need to be shared as widely as possible in order for it to reach beyond immediate constituencies and communities and to have an impact on a global scale.

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which was established following a mandate from the Rio+20 Conference, is the United Nations main platform on sustainable development - and with its full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies - the most inclusive forum at the UN. The Forum provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, and follows up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, and - as of 2016 - the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. As HLPF transitions into the post-2015 development era, it is expected to also review the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships and how they can most effectively support the achievement of the SDGs, as well be a place for sharing knowledge and expertise of all stakeholders.

This 2015 edition of the SD in Action Report reviews a numbers of action networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships with a particular focus on how knowledge and expertise is aggregated, managed and ultimately shared, in order to identify trends and challenges in this area, and to inform and prepare all stakeholders and partners as the world transitions into the post-2015 development era.



# ACTION NETWORKS, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

## HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (HESI)

A little over two years ago an unprecedented number of higher education institutions (HEI) from all corners of the globe assembled on a single platform to collaboratively champion education, research, and actions for sustainable development through the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI).

HESI was established in the run up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD – Rio+20) by a group of UN partners, including the Executive Coordinator of Rio+20, UN-DESA, UNEP, UNESCO, UN Global Compact, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education, and UNU.

Since its inception, HESI has facilitated commitments on behalf of 273 organizations from 47 countries to take an active role in building a more sustainable society - representing 36% of all commitments made during the Rio+20 Conference.

## PROGRESS

A report was developed by the UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) secretariat in 2014, as background for the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, which took place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in November 2014

Upon review of the public commitments and corresponding developments, a promising **73% of all pledging institutions were found to have made at least partial progress on their commitments**, either directly or indirectly. While the level of progress varied significantly among the universities, this figure provides an optimistic outlook that the majority of these schools are, in some shape or form, moving sustainable development forward.

While it is difficult to pinpoint the precise role of Rio+20 for each pledging higher education institution in their sustainability efforts, we can see trends from which we can extrapolate the enabling role that Rio+20 commitments have played in advancing schools towards sustainability. This was a particularly noticeable outcome for schools, which were relatively new to the field of sustainability education. For these institutions, Rio+20 provided a platform to join this movement, notably by catalyzing or reinforcing participation in international sustainability networks from which they could learn and grow.

While the quantity and depth of sustainability initiatives varies significantly across pledging institutions, there are noteworthy patterns in the types of outcomes and the implementation methodologies used to achieve these outcomes. In regards to the outcomes, the majority of institutions actively support sustain-



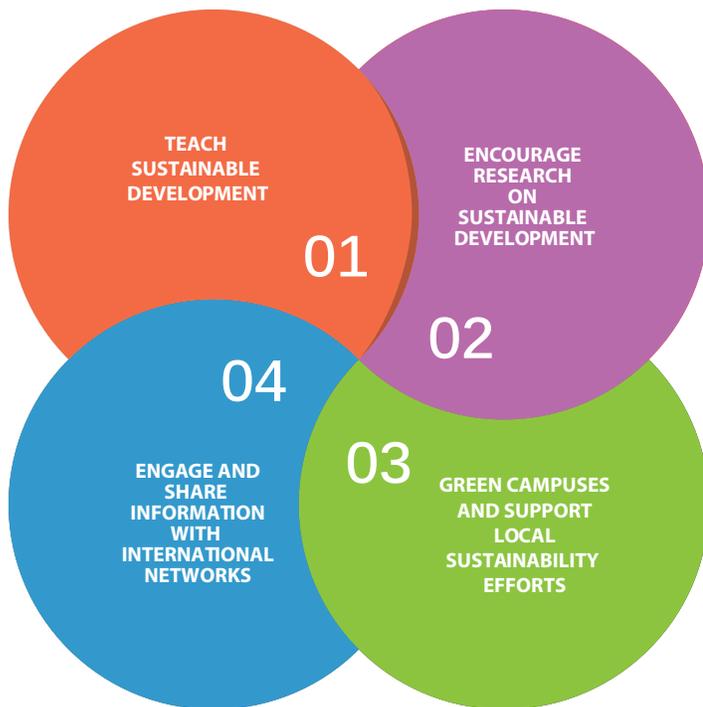
able development through education, research, operations and/or outreach programs:

**Education:** A large percentage of commitments sought to integrate sustainability into their curricula. At a minimum, most of these schools offer at least one stand-alone course with a focus on sustainability. However a small number of schools have integrated sustainability across all courses. These exemplary institutions have conducted holistic assessments of their current curricula, and from this evaluation, have worked to systematically embed sustainability into the core of all course offerings and programs.

The majority of the HESI institutions have pledged in some form to support research on sustainability. At a beginner level, most of these schools have highlighted faculty and/or student research publications on a topic relating to sustainability as accomplishments in this field, and mention sustainability as an objective of their research activities. Many maintain groups, departments, and even centres dedicated exclusively to promoting and coordinating research on sustainability.

**Operations:** Also prominent in many of the HEI commitments was a pledge to green their operations. The great majority of institutions focused on environmental sustainability in their commitments, and ambitiously pledged to lower their carbon footprint by a concrete percentage by a set date. To date, most of these schools have implemented various initiatives to green their campus and the environment at large. Initiatives range from implementing recycling programs to offering bike-share services to planting 100 trees across campus. A sizeable number has developed and published environmental management plans and regularly report on their progress. Among the schools that report, many have demonstrated reductions in their carbon footprint. In addition, a few institutions have engaged in independent environmental auditing schemes, such as LEED and ISO 14000.

**Outreach:** In line with their commitments, a vast amount of the pledging institutions have also engaged in innovative outreach projects to raise awareness of sustainable development. Many



have hosted conferences, forums or workshops with a focus on sustainability, from the Transnet Program in Sustainable Development conferences organized by the Gordon Institute of Business Science in South Africa to Tongji University in China's International Forum on Innovation and Sustainable Development. Some host competitions to fund student projects supporting sustainability. Even more, a few have dedicated days or weeks towards raising awareness on sustainability.

Progress made by the majority of higher education institutions following their commitments in Rio+20 HESI is substantial and deserves recognition. Through innovative, experimental and rigorous implementation methodologies, many higher education institutions have followed through on their commitments and have thus far made landmark achievements in promoting sustainability through education, research, operations and outreach. While it is difficult to comment on the exact role of the Rio+20 commitments in facilitating these achievements, we can conclude that to some degree, this conference provided an enabling role to these institutions.

### International Conference on Higher Education for Sustainable Development

The *International Conference on Higher Education for Sustainable Development: Higher Education Beyond 2014* took place on 9 November 2014 in Nagoya University, Aichi, Japan. Marking the final year of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), it celebrated achievements and reviewed initiatives that were developed throughout the DESD and, more specifically, since Rio+20.

The conference aimed to make a concrete contribution from the perspective of higher education institutions (HEIs) to the UNESCO World Conference on ESD, which took place immediately after and in the same location. It also followed up on the engagement of HEIs with the Rio+20 Conference recommendations and initiatives, including the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative

(HESI) facilitated by UN partner organizations and other partner institutions.

Organized around the goal of addressing the five priority action areas identified in the Global Action Programme on ESD, the conference had the following objectives: a) Advancing policy; b) Transforming learning and training environments; c) Building capacities of educators and trainers; d) Empowering and mobilizing youth; and e) Accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level.

The conference balanced the celebration of deserving innovations in the field of higher education with further demands for HEIs to make more profound contributions to achieving sustainable development through transformative changes in their vision, leadership, knowledge structure, and engagement with significant stakeholders. It also highlighted the major challenges HEIs face in scaling up and mainstreaming of new and innovative practices in learning and knowledge development, and in creating conducive environments for supporting the required transformative processes.

Participants adopted the ***Nagoya Declaration on Higher Education for Sustainable Development***, which reaffirms the responsibility of higher education for pursuing of sustainable development and commits their support to further advancing sustainable development through education for sustainable development.

The declaration's signatories reaffirmed their previous relevant commitments, including those made within the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014), the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative for Rio+20, Rio+20 People's Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education, and the IAU Iquitos Statement on Higher Education for Sustainable Development.

Signatories also acknowledged the responsibility that the higher education community bears on the international pursuit of sustainable development, and reaffirmed their commitments and support, beyond 2014, to pursue sustainable development through the pathway of education for sustainable development, ensuring that the higher education community continues to innovate and contribute to achieving sustainable development.

Finally, they called upon world leaders to support the transformative role of higher education towards sustainable development, and commit to work together and further promote transformative learning and research by encouraging multi-stakeholder, multi-sector partnerships, communicating examples of sustainability practices, promoting broad and strong leadership and public awareness of the values of sustainable development and education for sustainable development, and recognizing the essential role and responsibility of higher education institutions towards creating sustainable societies.

### UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The *UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)* took place on 10-12 November 2014, in Aic-

hi-Nagoya, Japan. It was co-organized by UNESCO and the Government of Japan on the occasion of the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014). The conference had the following four objectives:

1. Celebrating a Decade of Action: *“What have we achieved, what are the lessons learnt?”*

The conference carried out a stock-taking of the implementation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), and celebrated the Decade’s achievements by showcasing initiatives, actors, networks and ideas that were inspired by the DESD and reviewing their impact on the basis of data provided by stakeholders and collected by UNESCO. With a view to post-Decade activities, the conference celebrated the successes of the DESD but also analyzed obstacles encountered and lessons learned. Examples of good practices from all over the world provided insight into viable approaches to ESD and helped to identify key areas for future action.

2. Reorienting Education to Build a Better Future for All: *“How does ESD reinforce quality education?”*

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) integrates content related to sustainable development into education using teaching and learning methods that help learners acquire skills such as critical thinking and motivating themselves to act for a better future. Building on the Bonn Declaration from 2009, the conference drew out the relevance of ESD to all efforts to improve the quality of education. It highlighted the role of ESD for the transition to green economies and societies and as a catalyst for cross-sector planning and implementation of programmes in areas such as climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction. It also addressed how ESD can help move Sustainable Development policy and action forward to meet different global, regional, national, and local needs.

3. Accelerating Action for Sustainable Development: *“How are sustainability challenges addressed through ESD?”*

Technological solutions, political regulation or financial instruments alone cannot achieve sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development requires a fundamental change of mindsets that results in changes of action. ESD, which addresses the interdependence of environment, economy, and society, can help bring this change about. Thus, the conference highlighted the role of ESD for the transition to green economies and societies, and as a catalyst for cross-sector planning and implementation of programmes in areas such as climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction. It also addressed how ESD can help move Sustainable Development policy and action forward to meet different global, regional, national, and local needs.

4. Setting the Agenda for ESD beyond 2014: *“What are the strategies for our common future?”*

With the target date of the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All (EFA) objectives approaching in 2015, and two years after the Rio+20 conference, the Conference also highlighted the relevance of ESD for the next set of global education and development goals, making concrete contributions to

the post-2014 education and sustainable development agendas and helping ensure that Education for Sustainable Development continued beyond 2014.

### Global Action Programme (GAP)

In follow up to the Decade, Member States of UNESCO adopted the Global Action Programme (GAP) for Education for Sustainable Development. The GAP has two objectives: (a) to reorient education and learning so that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development – and make a difference; and (b) to strengthen education and learning in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development.

The GAP focuses on five priority action areas:

- (1) Advancing policy;
- (2) Integrating sustainability practices into education and training environments (whole-institution approaches);
- (3) Increasing the capacity of educators and trainers;
- (4) Empowering and mobilizing youth; and
- (5) Encouraging local communities and municipal authorities to develop community-based ESD programmes.

HESI has been recognized as a partnership that addresses action area (2) and was represented at a meeting of GAP Partner Networks at UNESCO Headquarters in May 2015 and is now part of the community of practice around area (2) along with some 14 other partnerships committed to transforming education and training environments through the whole of institution approach.

### SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY TEST

During the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), two major questions were raised around the efforts to set the agenda for ESD beyond 2014:

- Can universities be sure that they are producing sustainability- literate graduates?
- How can higher education institutions (HEIs) assess and report on their global performance?

For the latter question, the Platform for Sustainability Performance in Education launched during the United Nations Environment Programme’s Governing Council provides a living hub hosting sustainability assessment tools from around the world to help HEIs to implement, monitor and report their whole institution sustainability commitments and performance.

Regarding the first question, the “Sustainability Literacy Test” was created as a tool for the various initiatives on sustainability lead by HEIs to assess and verify the sustainability literacy of their students at graduation. This tool assesses the minimum lev-



reports, UN conventions, etc.); and from reports and surveys from specialized national agencies.

The test was launched in 2014, so it will take time to be recognized by institutions, employers, and recruiters as a valuable assessment tool. Nevertheless, it has already reached more than 24,500 students from 30 countries who have taken either version 0 or version 1 of the Sustainability Literacy Test, with an overall score of over 50%.

The 200 volunteers from all over the world who have worked hard to create the pilot version know that the test can be even better. The versions which will follow will have more systems-based questions; will focus not only on issues but also on solutions; and there are currently plans about a version that will offer students a certificate and yet another version that has the answers, sources, videos, PDFs or even links to MOOCs to go further, broader and deeper in their learning.

el knowledge in economic, social, and environmental responsibility for higher education students, applicable all over the world, in any kind of HEI, in any country, studying any kind of tertiary-level course (Bachelors, Masters, MBAs, PhD, etc.).

All of the questions in the assessment ensure that future graduates have basic knowledge on sustainable development, and both individual and organisational sustainability and responsibility. To achieve this, the scope of this assessment covers two types of question:

Questions on **challenges facing society and the planet**, i.e., general knowledge on social, environmental and economic issues, basic understanding of the earth (e.g. water and carbon cycles, greenhouse effect, etc.)

Questions on the **organisation's responsibility** in general and on corporate responsibility in particular, i.e., questions on **practices** for integrating social responsibility throughout an organisation, and questions on the responsibility of individuals as employees and citizens.

Questions were suggested by the regional and national expert committee members, in most cases after consulting the broader community of educators. The questions were reviewed and revised by a reviewing committee, and then, after a series of revisions, members of the Senior Advisory Board posted questions on a secure platform for comments and validation.

In order to be easy to use worldwide, the test was given a multiple-choice format, with 50 questions randomly selected out of among a wide range of multiple-choice questions. Two thirds of the questions are related to supra/international level topics (e.g., global warming) and the remaining one-third are linked to national/regional level topics (e.g., local regulations and laws, culture and practices).

To be relevant around the world, questions are based on sources that are subject to a broad consensus in the community of researchers and practitioners. They are based on the founding principles of sustainable development including basic definitions (e.g., sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, socially responsible investment, social entrepreneurship, etc.); trends and key figures of global issues covering environmental, social and economic dimensions. (e.g., demographic, biodiversity extinction, etc.); sources in international texts (e.g. international



## PARTNERSHIPS FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) was held in Apia, Samoa, on 1-4 September 2014. Its overarching theme was *“the sustainable development of small island developing states through genuine and durable partnerships”*.

The SIDS Conference included six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues that provided an opportunity for recognizing and launching successful and innovative partnerships and initiatives to advance the sustainable development of small Island developing states (SIDS). It also provided a venue for interactive and focused discussions on key priorities related to SIDS. Representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, experts and academics, and major groups and other civil society stakeholders participated broadly in the six dialogues.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway—a blueprint for the sustainable development of SIDS—and the recognition of over 300 partnerships that advance the sustainable development of SIDS.

The SAMOA Pathway requested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, *“present recommendations, including through the use of existing intergovernmental mechanisms, for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small Island developing states”* (paragraph 101).

In addition, the Samoa Pathway requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the SIDS, and to continue to maintain a partnerships platform focused on the small island developing states (paragraph 124).

The General Assembly reaffirmed paragraph 101 in its resolution

A/RES/69/217, emphasizing that the partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing states should be open and adaptable to the priorities and realities of SIDS, and consistent with other relevant processes and mechanisms in order to promote efficient and effective follow-up to the existing partnerships, in particular the new ones launched in Samoa, and to encourage new, genuine, and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing states based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability and focused on concrete action oriented programmes addressing their priorities.

## PROGRESS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

On 1 October 2014, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held an informal stock-taking meeting on the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, where Member States reflected on the conference and its outcome document, the Samoa Pathway, and the role of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) to ensure the follow-up to the partnerships that stemmed from the SIDS Conference.

Coordination of UN system actions for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway takes place through the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA Plus). Its over fifty members developed a matrix for the follow up to SAMOA Pathway, focusing on mandates specifically directed at the United Nations system as well as on areas where the UN system is already engaged through its programmatic work. The *UN Implementation Matrix* – available at [www.sids2014.org/unmatrix](http://www.sids2014.org/unmatrix) - is being continuously updated, and serves as an accountability framework and as a working tool to promote and monitor progress.

In response to paragraph 101 of the Samoa Pathway, the United Nations Secretariat sought the views of Member States and prepared an informal note containing a set of draft recommendations based on those consultations. The note, available at [www.](http://www.)

[sids2014.org/partnershipframework](http://sids2014.org/partnershipframework), aims at spurring further dialogue and internal consultations among Member States.

In response to paragraph 124 (b), the Secretariat developed and launched the web-based “SIDS Action Platform” ([www.sids2014.org](http://www.sids2014.org)), which includes the 300 partnerships stemming from the SIDS Conference. This platform, containing both the UN implementation matrix and the SIDS partnerships database, will be a crucial tool for following up and tracking progress of SIDS partnerships, as well for the purpose of sharing of knowledge and expertise among partners. The SIDS partnership framework, once established by Member States, will play a key role in keeping SIDS partnerships high on the political agenda.



*On 25 June 2015, an informal SIDS Partnership Dialogue will be held in conjunction with the 2015 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Organized by Maldives and the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. More information at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/meetings/sidspartnershipdialogue>*



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive. Yet 1.2 billion people— nearly one in five globally— lack electricity to light their homes or conduct business. Forty percent of the world’s population — 2.8 billion people — still rely on wood, charcoal, animal, crop waste or other solid fuels to cook their food and heat their homes — breathing in toxic smoke that causes lung disease and kills nearly four million people a year, most of them women and children. Where modern energy services are plentiful, the challenge is different with emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuels contributing to changes in the Earth’s climate.

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. In 2011, the Secretary-General launched his global Sustainable Energy for All initiative (SE4All) to catalyze and mobilise all stakeholders to take concrete action towards three critical objectives to be achieved by 2030:

1. Ensuring universal access to modern energy services;
2. Doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and
3. Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Sustainable Energy for All aims to change the game by introducing new public-private partnerships built from constructive dialogue on policy, investment and market development by governments, business, civil society and international organizations. By bringing together the global convening power of the United Nations and the World Bank, SE4All has the ability to leverage large-scale investments and mobilize bold commitments, with a rapidly expanding knowledge network.<sup>1</sup>

2015 will be a year packed with decisive milestones, including the UN Summit on the post-2015 development agenda and the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP21). The time is now to show how SE4All can concretely contribute to the twin aims of achieving the future global Sustainable Development Goals and stabilizing global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. SE4All is already front and centre by providing forward-looking solutions. Together with the French COP21 Presidency and the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Change Support Team, SE4All is leading in mobilizing actions on energy for COP21. As other examples, the

<sup>1</sup> For more information, please refer to the SE4All 2014 Annual Report: [http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SE4ALL\\_2014\\_annual\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SE4ALL_2014_annual_report_final.pdf)

SE4All Advisory Board’s Finance Committee provides solutions that support the Financing for Development (FfD) process, and the Turkish G20 presidency has requested SE4All to present concrete options for expanding energy access in Africa.

## PROGRESS

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, voluntary commitments towards sustainable energy for all amounted to some \$300 billion, including more than \$50 billion from the private sector and investors. This was the largest amount committed across all thematic areas. Preliminary reporting from partners suggests that more than \$70 billion of the commitments at Rio+20 have already been invested, with at least 90 million beneficiaries around the world to date.

In addition, highlights include:

- 102 countries, including 85 developing countries, have so far joined SE4All as partners. In 2014, SE4All country action efforts focused especially on 30 countries in the first phase. Concrete progress has already been made in many more countries, where partners support the development of SE4All Action Agendas, Investment Prospectuses, energy policies, rural electrification plans and strategies for scaling up clean cooking solutions.
- Commitments put forward to date can halve energy poverty. The European Commission and individual European countries are committed, in support of SE4All, to support developing countries in their efforts to reduce energy poverty by more than half a billion people within two decades. SE4All has signed an Aide Memoire for



Cooperation with Power Africa, a US initiative that aims to provide energy access to some 300 million people, to forge stronger cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa. New commitments continue to be made, while others are being scaled up.

- 43 SE4All Rapid Assessments or Gap Analyses have been carried out with the support of development partners, principally the regional development banks, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These analyses describe the energy profile of the partner country, the state of development in relation to energy access, renewables and energy efficiency and any current priority subsectors or policy initiatives under development.
- SE4All has launched a new Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform, a unique public private platform for energy efficiency in appliances, buildings, district energy, industry, lighting and transportation, with more sectors being considered. Targeted energy efficiency measures have the potential to save many gigatons of carbon emissions and hundreds of billions of dollars. The platform was launched at the Climate Summit in September 2014. The aim is to grow the platform to become the largest global platform on energy efficiency by the time of the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in Paris.
- SE4All has established a unique partnership between private banks, multilateral and national development banks and institutional investors to mobilize an additional \$120 billion a year in sustainable energy investments across four themes.<sup>4</sup> At the first annual SE4All Forum in June 2014, the Brazilian Development Bank, the Bank of America and the World Bank launched a draft report describing this potential on behalf of all partners.
- The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has launched the SIDS Lighthouse initiative and the African Clean Energy Corridor, which will provide significant assistance for investments in renewable energy in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African countries. IRENA, as the SE4All Renewable Energy Hub, has also launched the REmap 2030 report, a roadmap to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. The SE4All partner REN21 reports that over 140 countries now have some form of renewables targets.
- 50 High-Impact Opportunities (HIOs) have been identified to date. Six of these HIOs are currently being operationalized: Clean Energy Mini-Grids, Phase-out of Gas Flaring, Energy and Women's Health, Universal Adoption of Clean Cooking Solutions, Sustainable Bioenergy

and the Water-Energy-Food Nexus. A framework has been developed for formalizing the scope, relationships, roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and monitoring and evaluation of the HIOs.

- Civil society is stepping up to the challenge. Led by the UN Foundation, the SE4All Energy Access Practitioner Network has more than 2,000 members from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector groups and social enterprises, delivering energy services in 170 countries. The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union in India, is another example of a close SE4All partner with a broad reach to many people at the heart of the challenges and opportunities of providing sustainable energy for all.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The World Bank hosts the SE4All Knowledge Hub in order to ensure progress on tracking, reporting and data management. With its wealth of experience in promoting and tracking impact of energy initiatives, the World Bank's insight is a key to the accountability, transparency and tracking of Sustainable Energy for All's global progress. Doing so clarifies where the initiative stands, how various actions are contributing to SE4All's three objectives, how much remains to be accomplished and where more action is needed to achieve sustainable energy for all by 2030.

Concretely, SE4All has developed a Global Tracking Framework. The second edition, to be launched in 2015, will include groundbreaking work to define a multi-tier definition of energy access and other innovative monitoring tools. The World Bank, ESMAP and the International Energy Agency (IEA) lead the work, supported by more than 20 other organizations. The Global Tracking Framework can also aid in measuring progress towards the proposed energy Sustainable Development Goal.

In addition, SE4All has built a strong network of regional and thematic hubs to support implementation. There are now ten thematic and regional hubs established within existing institutions around the world, including for Africa in the AfDB with AU, NEPAD and UNDP; for Europe-Central Asia-Mediterranean in the EBRD; for Latin America and the Caribbean in IDB with ECLAC and UNDP; and for Asia-Pacific in ADB with ESCAP and UNDP. Thematic hubs include Energy Efficiency (Denmark/DTU/UNEP), Renewable Energy (IRENA), Knowledge Management (World Bank), Capacity Building (TERI), Energy Efficiency Facilitation (ECCJ/Japan) and a Bottom-of-the-Pyramid hub (UNDP). Combined, these hubs cover the SE4All objectives on energy access, efficiency and renewable energy, as well as crosscutting approaches to addressing them.

## PLANNING FOR POST-2015 - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS IN PROMOTING AND ACHIEVING THE SDGS

The United Nations General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals concluded its 18-month deliberations on 19 July 2014. Energy is centrally placed amongst the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed for the post-2015 development agenda. The energy goal, SDG 7, was put forward to the UN General Assembly in 2014 as part of the 17 proposed SDGs. The proposed goal and targets are consistent with SE4All's objectives on energy access, efficiency and renewable energy.

Thus, 2015 provides an historic opportunity for SE4All and its partners to show how it can be a driver for change and a provider of solutions for how to achieve future Sustainable Development Goals and Climate change agreements. SE4All is already heavily engaged with all relevant processes, including the post-2015 deliberations, the Financing for Development (FfD) process, the G20 and the preparations for the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21). Joining the United Nations Member States and the UN system in supporting the post-2015 development agenda and climate change mitigation efforts is a global force of thousands of SE4All partners from the private and financial sector, civil society and international organizations, including national and regional development banks. This massive global network of actors from all sectors and regions is geared towards acting on the vision as set out by world leaders at Rio+20: "We are all determined to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality and, through this, help to eradicate poverty and lead to sustainable development and global prosperity".



### EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD

A pivotal moment occurred in 2010, when the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon launched the *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health* and challenged diverse stakeholders to unite around a common agenda to improve women's and children's health in the world's 49 poorest countries. Since then, more than 400 concrete commitments have been made through the platform provided by the *Global Strategy*, by over 300 governments, civil society organizations, UN agencies and the private sector, and about \$34 billion has disbursed.

Under the umbrella of *Every Woman Every Child*, the *Global Strategy* sought to ensure unity of purpose and synergistic

action among the diverse initiatives and organizations involved in the broader reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health agenda

### PROGRESS

A breakthrough characteristic of the *Global Strategy* was its explicit recognition that stakeholders beyond the usual global health and development actors have an essential role to play in supporting and promoting the health and wellbeing of women and children. The *Global Strategy* and the *Every Woman Every Child* movement brought together and mobilized a broad array of partners from all sectors to join this global effort. As a result of this visible, welcoming platform, a diverse spectrum of partners stepped forward to make firm commitments to address key components of the broader women's and children's health agenda.

The UN Secretary-General's call to action led to the establishment of several outcome-focused initiatives to accelerate action on key aspects of the *Global Strategy*:

- A Promise Renewed: Hundreds of partners committed to collaborate on focused action to reduce mortality among children under-five.
- Family Planning 2020: This global partnership aims to enable 120 million more women and girls to have access to contraceptives by 2020.
- Every Newborn Action Plan: Diverse partners joined together to develop and carry forward an action plan to reduce newborn deaths and stillbirths.
- United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities: This body identified 13 overlooked life-saving commodities that, if brought to scale and used properly, could save the lives of more than 6 million women and children.
- Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality: Partners joined together to set targets towards the ultimate aim of ending preventable maternal deaths.

One of the signal achievements of the *Global Strategy* has been its success in mobilizing the private sector to join in the global push to prevent deaths among women and children - sixty-five private companies have made commitments in support of the *Global Strategy*. Civil society has also answered the UN Secretary-General's call to make firm commitments in support of women's and children's health and also leveraged the visibility of *Every Woman Every Child* to strengthen advocacy and resource mobilization.

The *Global Strategy* has also been notably successful in engaging the philanthropic community, and has encouraged international donors to intensify their support for women's and children's health initiatives in priority countries. The multilateral sector has used the platform of the *Global Strategy* to strengthen its

support for national programmes for women and children.

Some of the world's leading academic institutions have also responded to the UN Secretary-General's call to action, including institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. Research institutions that have made commitments are actively investigating new diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic technologies; undertaking implementation science studies to enhance the reach, impact and efficiency of programmatic efforts; and conducting social and behavioural science studies to better understand and respond to the many structural factors that increase the vulnerability of women and children.

### Progress in Reducing Maternal and Child Mortality and Morbidity

In the 49 focus countries of the *Global Strategy*, 2.4 million deaths have been averted since 2010, 40% of the total that would have been saved if the MDGs had been reached by 2015. Significant progress has also been made in scaling-up coverage of the essential package of interventions and services identified in the *Global Strategy*:

- Coverage of oral rehydration therapy has increased by 49%
- Exclusive breastfeeding has increased by 44%
- 11 million additional women have given birth in a health facility
- 8.4 million more women and girls use modern contraception
- 67% of HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral medicines in 2013, up from 48%. This improves their health and prevents HIV transmission to their babies

The *Global Strategy* has helped to strengthen political commitment, mobilize resources, focus attention, consolidate efforts and bring people together to build a global movement. It has demonstrated the value of an agreed accountability framework against which all commitments have been measured. It has shown the power of innovation to develop and implement new solutions. Partnership, accountability and innovation are the three pillars of the *Global Strategy*.

The *Global Strategy* has also played an especially valuable role in bringing new attention and action to areas where progress has lagged the most, such as newborn survival, stillbirths, family planning, adolescent health and access to life-saving commodities.

Since the *Global Strategy* was launched, the world has witnessed unprecedented growth in resources for women's and children's health. Disbursements from international donors increased significantly, with more than US\$34 billion disbursed since 2010.

### Catalysing innovation to improve women's and children's health



The *Global Strategy* has worked to channel private sector investments towards potentially transformative approaches, engaging venture capitalists, private companies, philanthropic foundations, and entrepreneurs who have developed new business models that generate profit at the same time that they support advancing the health and wellbeing of women and children. Specifically, *Every Woman Every Child* has endeavoured to support what has come to be called 'integrated innovation,' linking the scientific and technological, social, business and financial communities/sectors to accelerate gains for women and children.

Following the launch of the *Global Strategy*, an Innovation Working Group (IWG) was convened to serve as a global hub for innovation in furtherance of the mission and goals of *Every Woman Every Child*. The IWG specifically focuses on ensuring that innovations are investment-ready and ultimately can be brought to scale.

The IWG estimates that over 1000 innovative technologies for reproductive, maternal and child health totalling US\$255 in investments, many of them initiated by *Every Woman Every Child* commitment makers, are currently in the research and development pipeline.

The robust product pipeline for new health tools for women's and children's health represents a sea change since 2010, when comparatively few new technologies were in development. Through the IWG, the *Global Strategy* has attempted to bridge gaps along the innovation pathway, smoothing the road from original idea to products and services that can be rolled out in resource-limited settings.

Recognizing that biomedical innovations are only effective if they are properly used at scale, the *Global Strategy* has also actively encouraged innovation in the fields of implementation science, health systems strengthening and service delivery.

The IWG has particularly worked to nurture innovations that leverage mobile communications technologies to improve health outcomes for women and children, making catalytic investments to implement 26 high-impact solutions in 16 high-burden countries. So-called 'm-health' has the potential to reduce loss to follow-up among patients who access maternal and child health services, increase return rates for remote diagnostic test results,

prompt patients to seek the care they need (such as regular antenatal care visits), and aid clinics in their efforts to track and support patients enrolled in care. To date, the *Every Woman Every Child* m-health grants programme has surpassed its original targets and in 2015 was providing access to high-quality health services to more than 1.5 million women.

## Lessons learned

Experience under the *Global Strategy* points towards several key lessons learned that urgently need to be taken into account as the world moves into the post-2015 era of global health and development.

1. The mobilization of strong political commitment and leadership has elevated the scale and urgency of action from partners. The efforts to mobilize the highest-level political commitment need to be sustained and strongly supported to transition into the post-2015 era.
2. The health related MDGs and the *Global Strategy* have substantially strengthened global commitment and resolve to prevent deaths among women and children. Renewed commitment will need to be coupled with an intensified focus on equity and a limited number of measureable targets and indicators to accelerate progress for women, children and adolescents in post-2105.
3. The *Global Strategy* has assembled an unprecedented global partnership for women's and children's health, which in turn has helped accelerate gains in preventing maternal and child illness and deaths. Although the private sector has already made substantial contributions under the *Global Strategy*, an even broader array of private sector partners will be required, with a particular prominence of companies from the global South, along with a commitment to ensure that the private sector can operate as a full and essential partner in the global effort to protect the health and wellbeing of women and children. To strengthen the understanding of the impact of private sector contributions under the *Global Strategy*, more systematic and rigorous reporting of results that can be shared with Member States through existing inter-governmental bodies or in countries will be needed. Further improving the transparency and reliability of reporting is an important goal in the post-2015 era.
4. The platform provided by the *Global Strategy* has improved the coordination, coherence and accountability of global efforts to protect and promote women's and children's health. The next step is to optimize communication, coordination and synergies amongst the many initiatives that have formed under *Every Woman Every Child*, constituencies and work streams, especially their engagement with countries. In their support to countries, *Global Strategy* partners must abide by the fundamental principles of aid effectiveness: alignment with a single country plan, a single country-owned and –driven coordinating mechanism and a single framework for monitoring and evaluation.
5. Additional innovation is needed to mobilize the resources that will be required to eliminate preventable deaths among women and children. Health financing instruments in the SDG era, such as the Global Financing Facility in support of *Every Woman Every Child* to be launched in July, will need to adapt to and leverage a rapidly changing financing landscape, including the progressive graduation of a growing number of countries from eligibility for donor assistance, the need to ensure predictability of funding flows, and an increasing emphasis on more 'granular' approaches to ensure the quality of investments. Efforts will be needed to reduce the fragmentation and administrative burdens associated with multiple funding streams. Maximizing the impact of country-level investments will also be essential and a broader, more flexible spectrum of financing approaches will be required.
6. *Every Woman Every Child* must transition from piloted innovations to rapid scale-up of promising innovations.
7. The accountability approach used by the *Global Strategy* provides a potentially useful model for enhancing accountability and transparency of global health and development efforts in the post-2015 era. In the post-2015 era, regular tracking of progress in meeting commitments should be accompanied by a greater focus on assessing the actual impact of these commitments.
8. Building on the successes achieved under the *Global Strategy*, efforts to accelerate gains for women and children in the post-2015 era should particularly aim to address persistent gaps and challenges, including the health and wellbeing of adolescents, prevention of stillbirths, food and nutrition and water and sanitation, addressing women's, children's and adolescents' health in conflict zones and fragile states, building and sustaining a well-deployed health workforce and strengthening national health systems.
9. Greater attention will be required with respect to social and structural factors that affect the vulnerability of women and children, including human rights violations, gender inequality, gender-based violence, early marriage and limited education and economic opportunities.
10. An intensified focus on building health systems and the capacities of communities, including on evidence-based planning and the quality of services, is needed, linked to increased investments triggered by the global movement for universal health coverage.
11. The impact of the existing *Global Strategy* on country implementation needs to be intensified, to ensure it is as influential at country level as it has been globally.

## Conclusion

The *Global Strategy* has served as a new vehicle for mobilizing historic levels of political commitment and financial support, strengthening health systems, and expanding the global partnership for women's and children's health.

The extraordinary health gains that have been achieved and

the newfound energy galvanized by the *Global Strategy* are grounds for optimism and renewed determination as we move beyond 2015. Historic progress notwithstanding, MDGs 4, 5 and 6 will remain unfinished at the end of 2015. The health advances highlighted in this report need to be maintained and accelerated to help build momentum for global efforts to make preventable deaths among women and children a thing of the past, and ensure their wellbeing throughout their lives. As such, the UN Secretary-General will launch an updated *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health*, at the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda in September. This updated *Global Strategy* will build on new evidence, including the need to focus on critical population groups such as newborns, adolescents and those living in fragile and conflict settings, build the resilience of health systems, improve the quality of health services and equity in their coverage, and work with health-enhancing sectors on issues such as women's empowerment, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene.

For further information on the progress and lessons learned of the *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health*, view the report, *Saving Lives, Protecting Futures*: [http://everywomaneverychild.org/images/March\\_17\\_EWEC\\_GSR\\_Layout\\_v08\\_LR.pdf](http://everywomaneverychild.org/images/March_17_EWEC_GSR_Layout_v08_LR.pdf)

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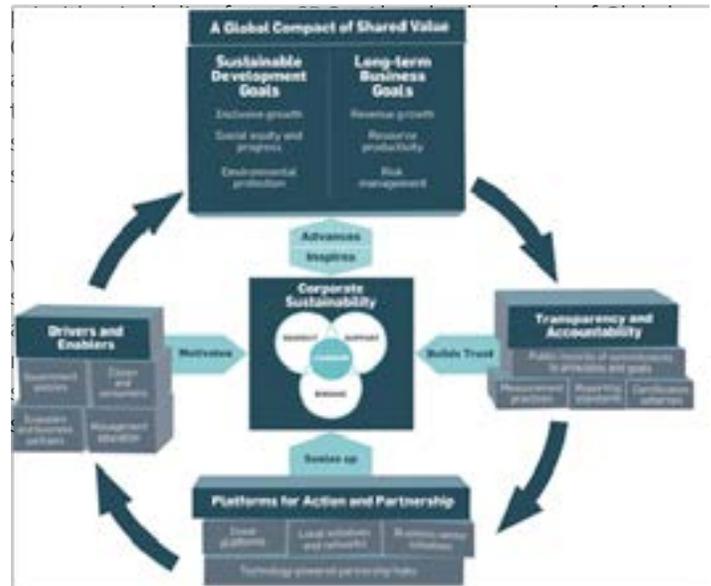
## UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

### *A Global Compact for Sustainable Development*

The UN Global Compact will during the final months of negotiations continue to inform the political processes and prepare the ground for corporate implementation of the SDGs, building on existing corporate sustainability architecture and multi-stakeholder partnership platforms. This note provides a brief overview of the global and local platforms of the Global Compact initiative that are most relevant to the design and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

The UN Global Compact is the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative, which has grown to over 8,000 corporate participants and 4,000 non-business participants based in 160 countries since its launch in 2000. In line with its UN General Assembly mandate to "promote responsible business practices and UN values among the global business community and the UN System", the UN Global Compact calls companies everywhere to voluntarily align their operations and strategies with ten universally-accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take action in support of UN goals.

Businesses are asked to respect and support these principles and goals, at a minimum, avoid causing or contributing to harm throughout their value chain. In addition, companies are encouraged to take action through their core business (i.e. products, services and business models), philanthropy, collective action and partnerships, and public policy advocacy to advance UN



### The Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture

The "Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture", which was launched by the UN Secretary-General in September 2013, provides a framework for motivating and supporting global business in realizing its full potential to advance sustainable development through action, collaboration and co-investment.

The Architecture illustrates the main building blocks necessary to enhance corporate sustainability as an effective contribution to sustainable development, creating value for both business and society. Each of these building blocks must be further strengthened and connected through a comprehensive and collective effort if they are to help take corporate sustainability to scale and turn business into a truly transformative force in the Post-2015 era. Individual companies, corporate sustainability organizations, Governments, investors, business schools, civil society, labour and consumers all have a role to play. The UN Global Compact's approach is fully aligned with the Architecture.

### Consultations and Advocacy

Since the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum in June 2012, the UN Global Compact has consistently provided input to Governments, the UN Secretary-General and the UN system at large with a view to inform discussions that will ultimately lead to the adoption of a post-2015 framework in September 2015. The input provided builds on surveys, consultations and discussions among thousands of UN Global Compact business participants and Local Networks, focusing on which global development issues responsible business considers the key priorities and how to best engage business and investors in their implementation.

In addition, the UN Global Compact actively contributes to the preparations of the Third Financing for Development Conference. Its outcome is expected to be critical in implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The UN Global Compact, in collaboration with UNCTAD, the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment and the UNEP Finance Initiative, has published the report entitled "Private Investment and Sustainable Development". The report highlights the role institutional

investors, banks, companies and foundations can play in the financing strategy for global sustainability, and it seeks promote the adoption and reporting of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors by businesses and investors, in order to achieve greater alignment of private investment with sustainable development.

### Local Networks Facilitating Business Action and Partnerships

Global Compact Local Networks exist in more than 85 countries with a view to help companies take sustainability action on the ground. They are organized and run locally – led by business but always bringing in key stakeholders. Local Networks foster learning, reporting, networking, partnerships and advocacy – all with the goal of advancing sustainability understanding and performance country by country. Local Networks can play an important role in local implementation of the SDGs and the definition of country-led bottom up accountability frameworks by facilitating corporate engagement, public-private multi-stakeholder dialogue, partnerships and collective action at the country level.

Already, there are many notable examples of how these country networks – some of which have existed for over ten years – bring local corporate champions together with other stakeholders to address global priority issues, such as anti-corruption, peace building, climate change and gender equality, among others. Companies and their subsidiaries are encouraged to engage with Local Networks in this endeavour. In addition, through capacity-building initiatives, Local Networks are improving their

abilities to broker effective multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement the SDGs, engage Global Compact participants, and contribute to enabling environments that advance multi-stakeholder, transformational partnerships.

### Global Platforms and Partnerships for SDG Implementation

The UN Global Compact has for over a decade developed a comprehensive global architecture that supports business engagement and platforms, which can provide great support for the implementation of the SDGs.

#### Issue Platforms

The UN Global Compact together with UN partners hosts a number of global “issue platforms”, including Caring for Climate, the CEO Water Mandate, the Women’s Empowerment Principles and Business for Peace, which drive individual and collective business action related to specific sustainable development challenges. Each of these issue platforms have hundreds of business participants from across all regions of the world and offer scalable platform for engagement and SDG impact – connecting global frameworks and principles with local action and delivery. Each of these platforms has built-in accountability measures.

#### Global Compact LEAD

In 2011 the UN Secretary-General launched Global Compact LEAD with a view to facilitate action and collaboration by a



group of the most engaged and committed Global Compact participants. The work taking place within Global Compact LEAD is helping to accelerate the full integration of business risk and opportunities related to sustainable development into all core corporate functions and business units, promoting such issues as strategically important for both the top management and the boards of directors. LEAD companies have played a key role in the UN Global Compact's Post-2015 consultations and many are taking steps to align their own corporate sustainability goals with the future SDGs. In addition, LEAD companies have contributed to developing resources providing guidance, good practice examples, and lessons learned to increase partnership scale and impact, which can be leveraged to help advance the SDGs.

### *UN-Business Partnerships*

In line with the UN Global Compact's General Assembly mandate and to advance the unprecedented levels of UN-business collaboration required to implement the new SDGs, the UN Global Compact continues to work to strengthen the UN System's capacity to partner with business, including through coordination of a network of UN staff from across the Organization tasked with private sector engagement. The UN Global Compact coordinates the biennial report to the General Assembly under the agenda item "Towards Global Partnerships", tracking important trends and opportunities to strengthen partnerships between the UN and business. The UN Global Compact also assists corporate participants and Local Networks navigate entry points to working with the UN through events and relationship-building initiatives. These include local projects designed to foster stronger relationships between the UN and Global Compact participants at the country level, as well as the development of tools, resources and learning opportunities to support multi-stakeholder, transformational partnerships.

### *UN Global Compact Business Partnership Hub*

A notable feature of the new-era business sustainability movement is the adoption and use of technologies to drive implementation and partnerships. For example, the UN Global Compact Business Partnership Hub is an interactive, online platform designed to connect business with potential partners, including the UN, in support of societal goals. The Hub is a critical tool for assisting companies set goals, find partners, and scale up their contribution to implementing the SDGs. Through the Hub, companies and other organizations can find partners for their own projects or join existing ones. There are currently over 200 projects posted on the Hub and 400 organizations promoting partnership opportunities on the platform in areas such as Energy and Climate, Water and Sanitation. The UN-Business Partnership Hub, a prominent component of the Hub, is designed to better connect the UN and private sector to partner on a broad range of UN priorities. The platform showcases a wide array of partnership resources, inspirational partnership stories and guidance.

### **Special SDG Projects**

On top of existing efforts and initiatives, the UN Global Compact is engaged in two projects that will help prepare individual companies for aligning their core business with the future SDGs:

### *Business Action on Sustainable Development Goals*

While responsible businesses can provide an extraordinary boost to realizing the SDGs, furthering the SDGs can bring about prosperity and opportunity for the private sector. To harness the potential of this symbiosis, the UN Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development have embarked on a new partnership project. The project will culminate in a guide that offers linkages between company management and global development priorities, and leads companies to scale up their impact assessment and goal setting practices.

### *SDG Industry Matrix*

The UN Global Compact is collaborating with KPMG to create the SDG Industry Matrix, which will put forward examples of companies that make bold decisions and take actions to advance the SDGs. The SDG Industry Matrix takes an industry-specific lens to illustrate how the comparative strengths, resources, products or technologies of an industry can make it better suited to contribute to a particular SDG or issue. It can serve as a powerful tool to help companies understand how their products and services can be used for shared value – addressing the most pressing global challenges while seeking new business opportunities.

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND SLOCAT

### PROGRESS

Over the last 12 months the SLoCaT Partnership strengthened its institutional presence and thereby its capacity to better advocate the integration of sustainable transport in global policies on sustainable development and climate change.

The SLoCaT Partnership was established in 2009 as a Type II Partnership under the United Nations, meaning that it is a non-legal and non-binding partnership. In November 2013, a group of SLoCaT Partnership Members came together in Warsaw, and discussed the need for institutionalization of the partnership, as a legal organization. While the existing partnership format had served SLoCaT well from 2009 to 2013, in order to move on to the next level and become a significant player in the global discussions on sustainable development and climate change it was important to become a legal and recognized institution.

The outcome of these discussions was that the incorporation of the [SLoCaT Foundation](#) in August 2014, with official name of "Stichting Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) Foundation. The sole objective of the Foundation is to enable, facilitate and support the SLoCaT Partnership in promoting sustainable, low carbon transport.

SLoCaT Partnership works to promote the integration of sustainable transport in global policies on sustainable development and climate change. In September 2014, [Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Climate Summit](#) was a milestone for SLoCaT's efforts to promote the integration of Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport in global policies on climate change. The SLoCaT Partnership actively contributed to the Climate Summit, first and foremost through its members, especially UIC, UITP, UN-Habitat, FIA Foundation and Clean Air Asia, who either were leading, or actively involved in one of the Transport Commitments. The SLoCaT Secretariat worked with UN-DESA in organizing the Transport Action Area in the Summit and had a lead role in the planning and facilitation of a Policy Session on Transport in the morning of 23 September with stakeholders supporting one of the transport commitments.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly is expected to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will determine the sustainable development agenda of the next 15 years. While not having a goal of its own, aided by advocacy of the SLoCaT Partnership and its members starting at Rio+20, transport is now mainstreamed under different goals in the proposed SDG structure. SLoCaT Partnership has been [tracking how transport](#) is integrated in the Post-2015 Development Framework and made an [assessment](#) of how transport is reflected in 7 of the 17 goals.

At Rio+20, SLoCaT facilitated the development of [17 Voluntary Commitments on Sustainable Transport](#), including the [Joint Commitment of the World's 8 largest Multilateral Development Banks](#) (MDBs) to invest \$175 billion over the coming decade for more sustainable transport. For the annual reporting of the commitment, SLoCaT is part of a technical working group that



is assisting the MDBs in developing and implementing a common monitoring and reporting framework. The pledge has led to unprecedented collaboration across a single sector by the MDBs, with the establishment of the MDB Working Group on Sustainable Transport. The SLoCaT Partnership has also been instrumental in developing a coordinating mechanism between the MDB Working Group and a group of bilateral development agencies coordinated by the UK Department for International Development

In February 2015, the MDBs published [their second progress report](#) on the \$ 175 billion commitment. The report shows that, MDBs are clearly on track to lend more than their target rate of \$17.5 billion per year for transport. In 2012 the banks lent \$20 billion on transport; in 2013 they lent about \$25 billion. The progress is evident, though it remains slow. While there is much

to be positive about but stakeholders should demand that MDBs keep shifting their lending in to more sustainable types of transport and ask them to speed up their efforts to establish reliable, harmonized and transparent approaches to sustainability rating and reporting.

Indicators for the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals are a major part of the discussion on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the SLoCaT Partnership is working to promote the adoption of effective and appropriate indicators for sustainable transport.

The Partnership conducted a comprehensive [review of existing and potential indicators on transport](#) that are available globally and could support the SDG Framework. The starting point for the review was the [SLoCaT Results Framework on Sustainable Transport](#), as well as other available source documents that have been prepared on transport or with transport relevance, with the specific intent to inform the [UNSC's work on indicators](#) and targets. The review presents relevant UNSC-proposed targets and indicators under consideration in the March Session of Intergovernmental Negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda, SLoCaT-recommended additions and modifications to these proposed targets and indicators, and relevant negotiation dialogue in each of the six target areas proposed in the SLoCaT Results Framework.

The SLoCaT Partnership is also initiating an updated review of sustainable transport voluntary commitments made at the Rio+20 Conference. The voluntary commitments reviewed will include both the original [17 commitments made at the Rio+20 Conference](#) in June 2012 and the [six additional commitments](#) that were declared at the first anniversary of Rio+20 in June 2013. The review will also present an overview of the five transport initiatives announced at the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Summit in September 2014 and include an overview of new emerging commitments that have come forward in preparation of COP21 in December in Paris, France.

In addition to the commitments on transport, the SLoCaT Partnership is conducting a systematic review of initiatives of cities and local governments on sustainable transport made by various groups. These include the [C40 Clean Bus Declaration](#), [Compact of Mayors](#) made at the Climate Summit and [Covenant of Mayors](#). The compilation of citywide initiatives on sustainable transport will illustrate the important role local governments can play in implementing the global policies sustainable development and climate change.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING

As a multi-stakeholder partnership of over 90 members, knowledge sharing is an important function of the Partnership Secretariat. In 2015, the SLoCaT Partnership developed two databases on climate finance for transport greenhouse gas emission methodologies and tools. For the climate finance for transport database, the SLoCaT Partnership [collected data](#) on transport-focused projects from six of the main climate finance instruments (CFIs) to assess the contribution of these instruments towards sustainable, low carbon transport. CFIs included in the assess-

ment are: the [Clean Development Mechanism \(CDM\)](#), the [Clean Technology Fund \(CTF\)](#), the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#); the [Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions \(NAMA\)](#); the [International Climate Initiative \(IKI\)](#); and the [Joint Crediting Mechanism \(JCM\)](#).

In order to take stock of available methodologies on greenhouse gas (GHG), the SLoCaT Partnership has compiled a [detailed qualitative assessment](#) of 64 transport GHG emission methodologies and tools. The methodologies and tools included in the assessment cover a range of transport subsectors and include both passenger and freight methodologies. The update and maintenance of the both databases is a continuous process and all SLoCaT members and users of the databases are encouraged to provide inputs to the databases.

In addition to the databases, the SLoCaT Partnership created various knowledge products for different SLoCaT Work Streams. For the transport and climate change work stream, the SLoCaT Partnership compiled a series of reports from SLoCaT members on transport and climate. These reports were both [posted on the SLoCaT website](#) and published as a poster and flyer with QR codes of the transport and climate change reports at COP 20 in Lima, Peru. For the rural transport work stream, a [four-page fact sheet](#) was created on rural transport and the post-2015 development agenda. Currently, the Partnership is in the process of developing a new factsheet on rural transport and agriculture. In the financing work stream, the SLoCaT Partnership is facilitating an expert group for GIZ's TRANSfer Project on promoting climate finance for sustainable transport. The expert group contributed to the development of a Draft Policy Brief ["Scaling-up Sustainable, Low-Carbon Transport – overcoming funding and financing challenges, and the role of climate finance"](#). An Executive Summary of the policy brief was published in December 2014. The Executive Summary titled, [Climate Finance as the Engine for More Low-Carbon Transport](#), provides initial recommendations to policy makers on transport and climate finance on how climate finance can accelerate the realization of sustainable, low-carbon transport.

Additionally, SLoCaT Partnership issues a [quarterly newsletter](#) presenting updates from the work of the SLoCaT Secretariat, news from SLoCaT members, recent publications on sustainable, low carbon transport. Currently, the SLoCaT Newsletter has more than 7,000 subscribers.

## PLANNING FOR POST-2015 CHALLENGES

Much of the attention in the development of the SLoCaT Partnership has been on the 2015 focused global policy processes on sustainable development and climate change. While there is resonance for the message that SLoCaT provides a much needed global voice on sustainable transport there is yet a clear discussion on what the detailed role of the SLoCaT Partnership could/should be in the post 2015 period. Based on this the SLoCaT Partnership has started a dialogue on the different possible roles for the SLoCaT Partnership in the post-2015 period.

The post-2015 development agenda and its structures present an important opportunity for the SLoCaT Partnership. As trans-

port is mainstreamed under different goals, it gives SLoCaT Partnership a role to act as a thematic facilitator and to engage with different sector and communities at the global level. This will enable the sustainable transport community to work closer with other groups such as energy, cities, agriculture and help promote sustainable transport's voice to the outside world. Also, after the adoption of the SDGs, it will be important to communicate the global post-development 2015 agenda according to the specific needs of individual member states, and therefore engaging at the national level will become a priority for SLoCaT.

## GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP



2016 marks 20 years since Global Water Partnership (GWP) began its commitment to help governments take a cross-sectoral approach to water resources management. That commitment is imbedded in UN development processes, in particular the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro which established the basis for founding GWP as a global multi-stakeholder partnership.

That cross-sectoral approach, called integrated water resources management (IWRM), was given a [conceptual framework by GWP](#) in its early years. The challenge is that water investments are spread across many institutions and at different levels of government. Decisions are often fragmented and conflicting. Different ministries – e.g., agriculture, energy, or industry, cover the use of water. But water stewardship is not their main concern, thus making sustainable decisions unlikely unless there is an *integrated* approach to water management.

## PROGRESS

Using its multi-stakeholder partnership, GWP advocated for, and facilitated the implementation of, IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans in response to government commitments at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. GWP published [Catalysing Change](#) (in addition to other tools) to provide countries with the knowledge to act on the WSSD targets.

Then GWP undertook a continent-wide program to support 13 African countries in developing and implementing IWRM plans. Of the many lessons learned (see [Water Security for Develop-](#)

[ment](#)), one was that water resources management must be incorporated into national development processes in order to effectively contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Another lesson, which became the basis for a subsequent program, was that development is threatened unless climate resilience is built through better water management.

Through the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the progress on integrated water management approach was well monitored. In 2004–2008, GWP played an active role in all CSD sessions devoted to water resources management. At the CSD-16 session in 2008, virtually all delegations emphasized the need for advancing the implementation of IWRM approaches.

At Rio+20, UN-Water released the [Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management](#) (2012). GWP was a key partner of UN-Water in collecting data from GWP Country Water Partnerships, as well as in designing the survey methodology and drafting the report. Based on an analysis of data from more than 130 countries, the report found that since 1992, 80% of countries have developed more integrated water laws and policies and 64% have developed IWRM plans as agreed at WSSD. The report infers that integrated approaches help to overcome institutional 'silos' and help to avoid inappropriate and uneconomic infrastructure projects. Significantly, the report affirmed that implementing integrated approaches should remain a key component of future development paradigms.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The knowledge gained in developing IWRM plans led in part to the birth of GWP's *Water, Climate and Development Programme*. The programme began in Africa in 2011 where it is being jointly implemented with the African Union and its African Ministers Council on Water. Eight countries, four transboundary river basins, and one shared aquifer have been identified to put in place investments for water security and climate resilience. To build climate resilience, GWP has built local capacities, helped countries develop climate sensitive policies and plans, and identified investments. Much of this work is being done through South-South knowledge sharing.

The programme has since gone global. GWP regions (13 in all) are now working with 60 countries on 30 climate resilient projects. Because climate change is linked to extreme climate events, GWP has also joined with one of its knowledge partners, WMO, to enhance drought resilience through the [Integrated Drought Management Programme \(IDMP\)](#) and to implement integrated flood management through the [Associated Programme on Flood Management \(APFM\)](#).

The GWP network has been instrumental in the development of 17 country-led policies, strategies, and plans which integrate water security and climate resilience. Examples include the Zimbabwe National Climate Change Response Strategy, the Central Africa Regional Action Plan for Integrated Water Resource Management, and the Cameroon National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan. As a result, tens of millions of people have benefited from improved water security.

GWP has linked up with country commitments to advance national adaptation plan (NAP) processes. This support is focused on least-developed countries (LDCs) and was undertaken with UNDP-GEF, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, WHO, and other partners of the UNDP-UNEP-led NAP Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP).

GWP provided technical guidance in regional workshops in Africa and Asia, as well as contributing to country-specific support for the NAP process in several countries in Africa, including Malawi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Madagascar. Based on its knowledge sharing practices, GWP developed a water supplement for the NAP technical guidelines of the UNFCCC Least-Developed Countries Expert Group.

## PLANNING POST-2015: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The biggest challenge may be the sheer cost of inaction. In 2013 GWP commissioned a task force of eminent economists led by the University of Oxford to prepare a landmark study: *Securing Water, Sustaining Growth* (2015). This provided significant new evidence that water *insecurity* costs the global economy some US\$ 500 billion annually. That figure does not take into account environmental impacts so the total drag on the world economy could be 1% or more of global GDP.

The post-2015 development agenda is the opportunity of a generation to change things. In response to the UN Secretary General's call for the voices of local stakeholders to be heard at the global level, GWP convened [country-level consultations](#) in 2013 and 2014 at which 2,200 participants from 40 countries addressed water security. There was a broad consensus that a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on water is fundamental to development. In addition, there was strong support for targets that advance integrated approaches to water management. GWP was a member of the UN-Water SDG Working Group and contributed directly to the [UN-Water Technical Advice paper](#) that was submitted to the Open Working Group in June 2014. The country consultations and Technical Advice paper have been well received by UN negotiators. The draft SDGs include SDG 6, which calls for 'ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.' The goal contains new targets for water quality, water resources management, IWRM, and ecosystems as well as building on the earlier MDGs for drinking water supply and sanitation.

The next step is critical: adoption of the SDGs, including the dedicated water goal. With 85 Country Water Partnerships and more than 3,000 institutional partners in 178 countries, GWP is a Global Action Network that can help countries implement the SDGs. Through its support for SDG 6, GWP will help countries reinforce the link between development and water resources management – an essential element of long-term sustainable growth and poverty eradication.

## A HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE SIGNATORY - INDEG-IUL ISCTE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

The mission of INDEG-IUL ISCTE Executive Education is "to contribute to a sustainable society through executive education, development of business leaders and applied research". Based on its mission, in January 2014 INDEG-IUL ISCTE Executive Education, via the Sustainability Knowledge Lab (SKL), has signed the "Commitment to Sustainable Practices of Higher Education Institutions on the Occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012".

This initiative is also associated to "The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development", which aims to promote a more sustainable world through the integration of the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into education and learning, as an opportunity for refining and promoting the vision of and transition to sustainable development through all forms of education, public awareness and training.

The table below shows the activities that INDEG-IUL implemented in 2014 as well as the first steps given towards the implementation of more activities in the coming years.

Commitments for 2014 and onwards	Achievements in 2014
<b>Teach sustainable development concepts</b>	
Offer open sustainability executive management programmes	INDEG-IUL offered two open-enrollment, short-term executive programs on sustainability.
Within the Executive MBA program, the class on “Ethics and Corporate Responsibility” was offered again.	
Within the Executive MBA program, a seminar on “Management with love” was offered.	
<p>Attending an invitation from INDEG-IUL, Prof. Edward Freeman (Darden School of Business):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gave an open seminar on the “Five challenges to stakeholder theory”;</li> <li>- Gave a seminar in our Executive MBA;</li> <li>- Was keynote speaker in our 2nd International Annual Conference</li> </ul>	
Engage with companies in order to promote specific in company training courses in the sustainability area	Based on a protocol established between ISCTE-IUL (public university where INDEG-IUL is established) and GRACE (a Portuguese association on corporate citizenship) INDEG-IUL aims to promote future courses amongst companies and encourage GRACE company members to participate with case studies in some of our classes. First steps have been taken towards further engagement with GRACE and its associates.
<b>Encourage research on sustainable development issues</b>	
Develop applied research on sustainable development	INDEG-IUL engaged in the Conduct Costs research project, led by the London School of Economics and later by the CPP Research Foundation. The project’s objective is to analyse the conduct costs of Portuguese banks in a regular basis.
Develop research using the Case Studies Approach	
<b>Green our campuses</b>	
To do an energy efficiency analysis of our building	<p>INDEG-IUL’s building was restored with positive impacts on energy consumption.</p> <p>Search for suppliers took place in order to evaluate the potential implementation of green procurement standards.</p>
Define and implement a sustainability strategy	
Implement recycling practices	
Implement a Green Procurement Policy	
Train all workers at INDEG-IUL on these policies	
<b>Support sustainability efforts in the communities in which we reside</b>	
Define a social responsibility strategy	(in progress)
Implement the social responsibility strategy	

## A VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT FROM RIO+20 - LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Inspired by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), participants of the Ukrainian Civic Leaders Forum adopted a resolution where they advanced an initiative to make voluntary commitments to achieve results in the areas of:

1. Development of local communities
2. Environmental Education and Biological Diversity
3. Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

More than 20 local non-government and civil society organizations (NGOs and CSOs) then joined forces to increase the number of civic initiatives implementing sustainable development locally, which they hoped in turn would help reduce poverty in the country, promote the establishment of social justice and ensure proper environment protection. More specifically, by the end of two years they hoped to achieve the following:

- Popularize ecological settlements and facilitate their development.
- Promote in communities the use of local fuel and energy resources as priority
- Assist communities in the creation of stable development programmes
- Facilitate economic development of small communities according to the One Community/One Product principle

### Illustrative Results:

Project provided financial and administrative support to the following activities:

International Forum "Green Mind" aimed at development of business relations among representatives of public authorities, businesses of various industries, science and the public in their united efforts for sustainable development. Over one hundred speakers from Ukraine, Russia, Europe, international intergovernmental and financial organizations, including UN agencies took part in the event. Nine plenary sessions and thematic workshops were conducted

First National Conference of State Environmental Policy with NGOs in the framework of the National Forum "Environment for Ukraine 2013" organized to consolidate efforts of the public authorities, businesses, the public, scientists, educators and ecologists, representatives of international organizations in terms of addressing environmental issues; to integrate the strategy of "the green economy" in social and political life of Ukrainians, using the principles of sustainable development

FootQuest: An adventure game dedicated to the topic "Sustainable Development: Imagine the Future You Want" was organized

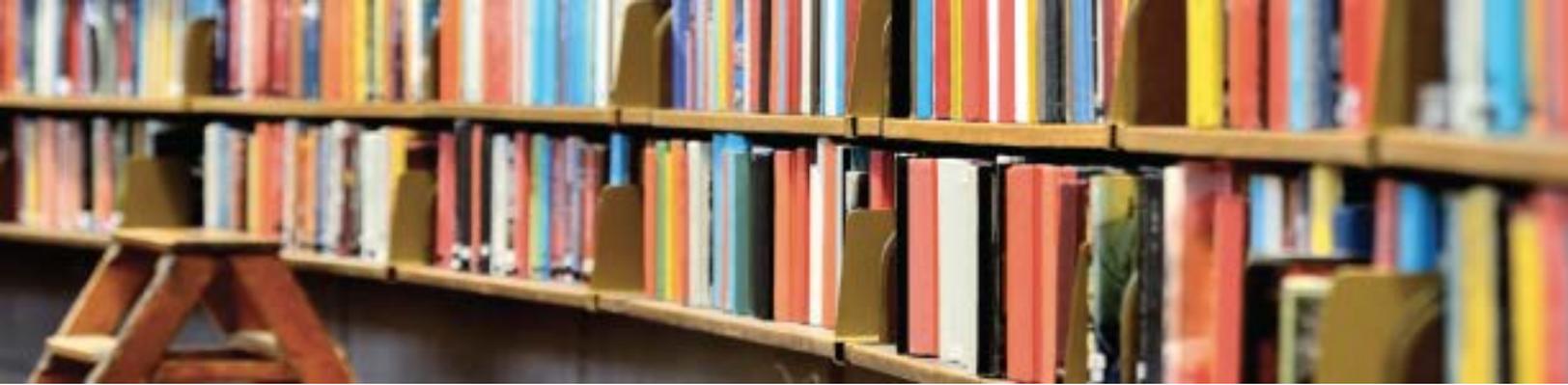
on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Sixty-seven participants took part in the quest that consisted of more than ten tasks aimed at drawing public attention to the concept of sustainable development. Check points were set in the city centre, nearby places in Kiev which could demonstrate real life examples of the concept's implementation.

A forum called "*From Local Initiatives to Global Changes*" was organized on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as Rio+20. About 70 civil society leaders from all over Ukraine, including youth activists, community leaders, local policymakers, and educators, discussed Ukraine's progress in the implementation of the UN Declaration on Sustainable Development. The participants made voluntary commitments which were put forward before the conference.

Consultative mechanisms were established for civil society organizations, and three GEF SGP grantees were given assistance in their ultimately successful efforts to become elected as members of the Civil Society Advisory Council to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

### Indicators

- Number of CBOs / NGOs participated / involved in SGP project: 40
- Number of women participated / involved in SGP project: 1000
- Number and type of support linkages established with local governments/authorities: 15
- Total additional in cash or in kind support obtained for new initiatives and opportunities through SGP project (in US dollars): 10,000
- Number of individuals who have benefited\* from project: 6,500



# EXPERT GROUP MEETING: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT ERA: SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The proposed sustainable development goal 17, “*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*”, recognize multi-stakeholder **partnerships as important vehicles for sharing knowledge and expertise to support the achievement** of sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries.

It was against this backdrop the expert group meeting (EGM) on “*Multi-stakeholder partnerships in the post-2015 development era – sharing knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals*” was organized by the Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA/DSD) in collaboration with United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD).

The meeting was held at the UN Headquarters on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, and included relevant experts from governments, UN system and major groups and other civil society stakeholders.

In preparation for the meeting, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) commissioned the creation of a background paper. The paper, titled “*Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in the Post-2015 Development Era: Sharing Knowledge and*

*Expertise to Support the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*”, covered, in brief, the following:

- A historical synopsis of how multi-stakeholder partnerships emerged, proliferated, and became established as an element of “standard practice” in the implementation of sustainable development work
- A desk review of current knowledge-sharing practice in sustainable development partnerships
- An assessment of knowledge-sharing needs within and among partnerships based on the emerging post-2015 development agenda and the proposed Sustainable Development Goals
- The introduction of two proposed knowledge-sharing frameworks for multi-stakeholder partnerships, one focused on helping to improve and advance the programs targeted to the partnership’s own stakeholders, the other on helping to collaborate on the establishment of *inter-partnership* knowledge sharing processes
- A set of key recommendations focused on what partnerships can do to make better use of relatively scarce resources; what the United Nations can do to accelerate knowledge sharing improvement and facilitate inter-partnership exchange; and what institutions that support partnerships can do to contribute to this overall process of improvement and development. Included in these recommendations is a proposal for the creation of an annual Conference of Partnerships designed to foster inter-partnership relationships and to develop a culture of learning and knowledge sharing *among* partnerships; as well as the establishment of a network of partnership knowledge managers to facilitate the inter-partnership relationships that effective, inter-disciplinary knowledge sharing requires.

The meeting had three distinct, but inter-related, sessions:

1. Existing knowledge-sharing mechanisms for multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards sustainable development
2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships: Sharing and building knowledge and expertise among and within SDGs
3. Designing a knowledge-sharing framework for multi-stakeholder partnerships in the post-2015 era – empowering

stakeholders and improving implementation through transparency

### **Session 1: Existing knowledge-sharing mechanisms for multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards sustainable development**

Institutions create partnerships in order to multiply impact and accelerate change. Partnerships allow organizations to pool their resources to bring heightened and focused attention to a specific theme, goal, or objective. Simply by existing, partnerships also become an important aggregator and disseminator of knowledge about the issues on which they are focused. Yet partnerships come in all shapes, sizes, and constellations — and those differences make a difference for knowledge sharing.

Today there are numerous existing and successful knowledge-sharing mechanisms used by multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards sustainable development. These mechanisms aim mostly to share news and information related to the topic or topics the partnerships themselves are working on, and sometimes provide more in-depth reports, studies, and other analysis-related knowledge. This session aims to take stock of existing mechanisms and practices, and to identify various gaps and challenges moving in to the post-2015 era.

Some of the main points that emerged from this session are:

- How the initial phase of the partnership (i.e., how different actors come together, establish new partnerships and ensure their implementation and effectiveness) is as important as its implementation
- The challenges faced by the partners during the implementation phase are many and include the presence of a huge number of actors and many commitments, but with little investment in knowledge sharing and management on the other; digital platforms have been multiplying, but lack of offline contacts persists
- The key factors to ensure the positive outcome of the partnership are financial commitments (mobilization of domestic resources and/or financial support from government and other key actors), political engagement, at national, regional and local level (the National Government has to be involved and the engagement respectively at national, regional and local level depends on the nature, the scope of action and the size of the partnership), trust and accountability among partners. Trust and accountability are at the core of a successful knowledge transfer (sharing access to a central repository)
- Additional key factors are ensuring equity among partners, but also critical is the role of the backbone organization as the actor uniting the different actors and holding the partnership together
- Universities as neutral broker in partnerships

### **Session 2: Multi-stakeholder partnerships: Sharing and building knowledge and expertise among and within SDGs**

While partnerships have long been part of the implementation of sustainable development, there has been a marked emphasis during the post-2015 agenda negotiations on both the concept of partnerships generally, and the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships specifically. The July 2014 report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals states, inter alia, that “the implementation of sustainable development goals will depend on a global partnership for sustainable development with the active engagement of governments, as well as Nations system” (Paragraph 14).

Some of the main points that emerged from this session are:

- The critical role of national and local governments on public awareness in the transition to the post 2015 agenda
- The decision concerning the establishment of new partnerships coming from the need of the different stakeholders to develop a shared strategy to face common challenges
- The need to focus on the different challenges each target area has to face and adjust the scope and the action of the partnership accordingly: not all SDGs are relevant for all countries,
- The attention devoted to the socio-economic impact of the partnership and on the tools to be adopted to build knowledge sharing and expertise and on how these tools might change if the partnership acts at local, regional or international level. At the international level it might be knowledge and expertise sharing through case studies and communication platforms, at the national level it might be face to face approaches, at local level it could include field visits or exchange visits
- Public-private collaborations and best practices reference standards to measure good practices: Some of these collaborations include development of capacity building and establishment of a consortium approach, setting up trainings for the trainers (scalability) and designing a blended model made of online and offline components.

### **Session 3: Designing a knowledge-sharing framework for multi-stakeholder partnerships in the post-2015 era – empowering stakeholders and improving implementation through transparency**

Nowadays information on a partnership is usually shared enthusiastically at its creation, and will only sometimes get updated once the partnership has run its course. Few partnerships engage in adaptive management, and even fewer will share negative news about their work. The Internet, and specifically the traditional organizational website, is far and away the dominant technology and methodology by which partnerships disseminate information and share knowledge.

The universality of the SDGs means that the knowledge resources aggregated and managed by partnerships also need to be shared as widely as possible. This emphasis on universality will also bring a heightened focus on information transparency and the diffusion of enabling technologies.

Some of the main points that emerged from this session are:

- The need of greater transparency in order to ensure effective sharing of knowledge within same partnership and among partnerships, as well as to achieve scale in trust – something essential for the success of any partnerships
- There is an appetite for registries enabling organizations to publish and compare data in a standardized format, uploaded from a wide range of actors, all in one place and overview of open space data platforms able to map partnerships, ease access to information and measure their progress
- Some progress has been made, but the difficulties in finding relevant information about partnerships active on the ground persists. It is essential to have contact and focal points to ensure a regular follow up

All information and documentation of the meeting, including the full background paper, is available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/partnershipsandknowledgesharing>



## CONCLUSION

As the world transitions in the post-2015 development era, it is clear that not one government or organization can solve the puzzle of sustainable development alone – it requires the meaningful and effective participation of all stakeholders. The United Nations as a centralized global movement will play an increasingly important role in coordinating development efforts in years to come in providing analytical and scientific basis for inter-governmental deliberations on sustainable development, and to inform and review progress on sustainable development commitments.

The Open Working Group proposed Sustainable Development Goals has successfully capitalized on the ambition of all stakeholders in working together for a more sustained future and setting the stage for a truly universal agenda - a global roadmap for all countries and all stakeholders in moving towards a future with economic, social and environmental prosperity.

The plethora of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a reflection of this ambition. In the post-2015 development area, partnerships are expected to continue to support government-led actions in realizing sustainable development, and be forged on a numerous issues and goal areas. Unlocking the vast knowledge and expertise in which these partnerships and partners collaboratively possess, and to transcend sectoral and thematic boundaries with their work, holds the key to effectively support the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The knowledge sharing mechanisms which multi-stakeholder partnerships are engaged in lies at the core of their operation, and often, provides a recipe for their success. Mechanisms range from traditional publication writing, managing informational websites and newsletters to implementation registries, knowledge hubs, and technology sharing platforms. These products and practices allow multi-stakeholder partnerships to share their knowledge and expertise, effectively track progress, and ultimately provide end stakeholders with ownership, transparency and accountability.

The number of partnerships that exist globally far exceeds those tied to United Nations and its processes. In order to truly unlock, and acknowledge, the potential that voluntary multi-stakeholder partnerships have on global development, efforts need to be focused on developing a global knowledge-sharing framework that allows for both sharing of knowledge and reviews progress of implementation - a framework that connects local sustainability efforts with global partnerships working towards sustainable development and the future we want.

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