

## **Terms of Reference for Consultancy for Analysis of Partnerships Registered with Platform**

### **Background: About Partnerships for SDGs Platform**

The [Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Platform](#) is the United Nations' global registry of voluntary commitments and multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. Designed to facilitate the knowledge sharing among the various SDGs stakeholders, it is open to all partners -- including governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector, philanthropic organizations, local governments, parliamentarians and academia -- to map out voluntary commitments and multi-stakeholder partnerships which aim to drive the implementation of the SDGs.

Managed by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSDG/UNDESA), the Platform brings together different registries launched in support of various UN conferences and processes dealing with sustainable development over the years, including the 2017 The Ocean Conference; 2016 Global Sustainable Transport Conference; 2014 SIDS Conference; and the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. It also provides access to thematic multi-stakeholder action networks that are maintained by other UN entities and actors to galvanize partnerships and commitments in support of the SDGs.

The Platform welcomes the registration of voluntary initiatives that are aligned with SMART deliverables - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-based and Time-bound. After a registration is submitted, the initiative is reviewed by DSDG/DESA, and if qualified, is published in the online platform. Registered initiatives are expected to maintain up-to-date information and periodically self-report progress once a year through platform, focusing on how the initiative has contributed to the achievement of specific goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda.

Based on the new registrations and submitted progress updates, DSDG/DESA prepares the *Annual Partnership Report*<sup>1</sup>, which summarizes the key trends and observations on partnership initiatives collated and analysed. The Platform also serve as a basis for identifying multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments to be profiled in Department's annual special events related to partnerships, such as the ECOSOC Partnerships Forum, Partnership Exchange, SDG Business Forum, SIDS Conference, Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum and Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI).

### **Objectives of analytical work**

Recognizing the need for further building empirical evidence, UNDESA seeks to hire a consultant to undertake an analysis on partnership initiatives and voluntary commitments registered through the Platform. The two-fold objectives of analytical products include:

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<sup>1</sup> Previous reports include:

- 2017: [Analysis of SDG 14 Voluntary Commitments \(from UN Ocean Conference\)](#)
- 2016: [Voluntary Commitments and Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- 2016: [Partnerships on Small Island Developing States](#)
- 2015: [Voluntary Commitments and Partnerships for Sustainable Development](#)
- 2014: [Voluntary Commitments and Partnerships for Sustainable Development](#)
- 2013: [Voluntary Commitments and Partnerships for Sustainable Development](#)

(1) To scan the state of play of partnerships focusing on 4 key areas: **(i)** main SDG(s)/ target(s) to which partnership initiatives have contributed, together with assessment of the implementation rate and of the potential impact; **(ii)** how partnership initiatives are managing results and ensuring accountability; **(iii)** views of participating initiatives on enabling factors / challenges for effective partnerships; and **(iv)** other interesting trends and observations from the analysis of registered partnerships. The observations of the study will aim to serve as useful inputs to enhancing countries' efforts to strengthen their policy and institutional frameworks related to partnerships

(2) To inform on-going global policy dialogue including at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum and the Partnership Exchange, which will directly feed into the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

### Expectation and deliverables

The consultant will be **home-based** and work under the supervision of the Chief of Outreach and Partnership Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA.

The consultant will undertake an in-depth analysis on the commitments / partnership initiatives registered with the Platform focusing on the four areas discussed in the previous section. The consultant is expected to prepare 2019 Annual Partnership Report which will be composed of:

- Chapters summarizing the **findings for (i) through (iv)** as well as **executive summary**; and
- Boxed good **case stories** presented throughout the report (1 story per each SDG and 3 stories for interlinked areas - maximum 250 words): this will provide the opportunities for mutual learning and partnership building within policy and practice communities.

More specifically, the consultant shall deliver the below **five outputs** in accordance with the timeline and payment schedule set forth in the table below. Payments shall be made following certification by UNDESA that the services related to each deliverable, as described below, have been satisfactorily performed by or before the due dates specified below.

	Deliverable	Due Date	Instalment (USD)
1	<b>Good case stories</b> (1 story per each SDG and 3 stories for interlinked areas - maximum 250 words for each box)	15 November, 2018	10% of total payment
2	<b>Two-pager outline of findings</b> (1-2 paragraph(s) per each focus area) to be inserted to the Report as an executive summary	31 December, 2018	25% of total payment
3	<b>Final draft of 2019 Annual Partnerships Report</b>	7 January, 2019	55 % of total payment
4	<b>PowerPoint presentation of key findings</b>	18 January, 2019	5% of total payment

5	<b>Selected info-graphics for report / website</b>	18 January, 2019	5% of total payment
<b>Total</b>			

## Qualifications

The consultant is expected to have the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in public administration, public policies, international development finance, political economy, development economics, statistics, international relations or equivalent;
- Working knowledge of sustainable development issues including the means of implementation (Mols) and SDG 17.
- At least 7 years of experience (preferably, in developing countries) related to sustainable development, development finance, monitoring and evaluation and results-based management.
- A proven publication record on the topic of sustainable development, desirably with focus on SDG 17, multi-stakeholder partnerships and public-private institutional frameworks.
- Experience in communicating research to diverse audiences, particularly to policy communities.
- Extensive research experience employing both quantitative and qualitative techniques.
- Familiarity with the work of the United Nations system and internationally-agreed development goals including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## How to apply

For those who are interested, kindly [register](#) and submit the following by **COB 16 October**:

- (i) **cover letter;**
- (ii) **most recent personal history profile (PHP) of the United Nations (form is available at above link); and**
- (iii) **work plan including research methodology / approach (maximum 2 page long)**