



**PARTNERSHIP
ACCELERATOR
2030 AGENDA**
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator

11 April 2019, 01.15 – 02.30 PM, Conference Room 12, UNHQ

The **2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator** is an initiative aimed at accelerating and scaling up effective partnering across all stakeholders to deliver transformational impact for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Partnership Accelerator is a collaborative initiative between UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), its project office on Sustainable Development (UN Office for Sustainable Development), and the UN Office for Partnership (UNOP).

Building on needs identified by participants at the [Partnership Exchange in 2018](#), the initiative will accelerate partnerships for the SDGs by:

- Building the partnering skills and competencies of UN, member states, NGOs and business counterparts and create a resource library providing access to a range of tools, guidance and case studies; increased competencies and a common language should result in far faster partnership development and the creation of more robust, more effective partnerships;
- Supporting the organizational change required for our institutions to become ‘fit for partnering’: having in place the right leadership and strategies, optimized systems and processes, internal support and capacities and a culture to scale up their collaborative effort to deliver more, and more transformational, impact;
- Drawing out good practice and supporting the development of efficient SDG partnership platforms around the world, thereby creating the mechanism through which stakeholders can systematically engage with business and other development actors and develop effective partnerships.

The side event will provide an opportunity to hear more about the developing plans for the initiative, how stakeholders can be involved, and feed into its design.

Programme

Time	Agenda item
01.15 PM – 01.30 PM	Opening remarks Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
01.30 PM – 01.45 PM	Outline of the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator Presentation by Dr. Darian Stibbe, Executive Director, The Partnering Initiative
01.45 PM – 02.30 PM	Open dialogue (all participants) Moderated by William Kennedy, Senior Programme Officer UN Office for Partnerships

Background

The scope and complexity of the transformations required for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) are unprecedented. As a result, no government or stakeholder will be able to address the multi-sectoral, cross-pillar global challenges of today alone. The 2030 Agenda can only be achieved if different sectors and actors align their interests and their collective resources and work together to deliver more transformational development.

SDG 17, “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development” recognizes the critical importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share the finance, knowledge, expertise and technology to support the achievement of SDGs in all countries. The targets also highlight the need to promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

Over recent years, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in supporting the implementation of sustainable development has been increasingly recognized by UN member States and different stakeholders, including leading institutions in international development and the private sector. This is also evident in the many UN Conferences that have resulted in the launch of new multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments.

At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) in 2014, 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS were announced, covering areas such as oceans and seas, climate change, biodiversity, resilience-building, sustainable economic growth, renewable energy and disaster risk reduction. In 2017, at the UN Ocean Conference, over 1,400 voluntary commitments for concrete action to advance implementation of SDG 14 targets were made by all stakeholders, including governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations, academia, the scientific community, and the private sector. Collectively, these partnerships and commitments make considerable contributions to supporting the implementation of the SDGs.

Despite the strong rhetoric for the engagement of multi-stakeholder partnerships for supporting implementation of the SDGs, the reality is that many partnerships are not delivering as effectively as they need to, and we are still only scratching the surface in terms of the number, and quality, of partnerships required to deliver the SDGs, particularly at the country level.

The 2018 Partnership Exchange, held in the margins of the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), explored the obstacles to collaboration and identified what is required to scale up and mainstream the use of partnerships. The key building blocks included:

1. Developing the competencies of actors from all societal sectors need to effectively partner, including building an understanding of other sectors, relationship and partnership-building skills, and a technical knowledge of the building blocks of value-creating partnerships;
2. Institutions and organizations need to be set up to be 'fit for partnering': i.e. to have in place the strategies, systems and processes, staff capacities and support, and culture that are optimized to incentivize and support working collaboratively with others;
3. Setting up mechanisms or platforms that can physically convene government, business, UN, donors and civil society around SDG priorities to catalyze and support partnership development.

With respect to institutional partnership-readiness, some UN entities, international NGOs and donors have made an analysis of the degree to which they are 'fit for partnering' and begun the process of reducing obstacles to partnering, increasing incentives and improving their systems and capacities. They are, however, among the exception and most organizations are far from partnership-optimized.

Within many countries, there has been considerable progress made with respect to partnership platforms for public-private dialogue and consultation on development priorities. Dialogue alone, however, is not sufficient to catalyze the necessary collaborative action. There exists a modest but growing number of platforms which are designed to convene stakeholders and development actors around the SDGs, and then help to build the innovative partnerships needed to deliver on the SDGs. There is however currently very limited research or guidance around effective models for such SDG platforms.
