

TALKING POINTS

Developing Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals in support of the reviews of The High-level Political Forum- Asia and Pacific

By
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Objectives: Key note address

Introduction:

- Esteemed colleagues; Ladies and gentlemen.
- In the outset, allow me to thank all participants at this event. You are the actors on the ground and you are keeping the momentum for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- I would also like to thank our ESCAP colleagues for hosting this important meeting, in collaboration with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Office for Partnerships.
- Today's Expert Group Meeting represents an important forum for learning, sharing knowledge and enhancing engagement through multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives in support of the SDGs.
- The partnerships being profiled today are shining examples from the Asia and Pacific region, and beyond. They show new and innovative ways to make a tangible contribution toward advancing the SDGs, while empowering the poor and marginalized communities.
- So many in this room have played a significant role in shaping these invaluable partnerships and amplifying the voices and concerns of civil society.
- It is crucial that we all are equipped with the best knowledge at hand, so we can go out and forge successful and sustainable partnerships in order to tackle the Sustainable Development Goals. The collective experience in this room will help inform stakeholders all over the world in this endeavor.

The vision of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda:

- For a like this are essential to realizing the 2030 Agenda's vision of a world without poverty, a healthy and thriving planet, a vibrant and inclusive global economy, and a life of dignity for all.
- By adopting the bold 2030 Agenda, along with the historic Paris Climate Agreement on climate change, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, leaders have sent a powerful message far and wide: we can open the way to a new future.

- To succeed, we need to mobilize all partners to work together in broader and deeper partnerships. These can foster social progress, protect the environment, drive economic growth and create a more just, stable and peaceful world.
- We need new ways of living that will end the suffering, discrimination and lack of opportunity that hurt billions of people around the world - and that drive instability and conflict.
- National leaders are ambitious. This is reflected in international agreements. Now the SDGs need to be nurtured in local communities so that high ambitions take root everywhere.
- Public support is essential to turn plans into reality – especially in this first year of the 2030 Agenda implementation.
- Help us now to reach out far and wide to amplify the message of this golden opportunity and to ensure it is heard by everyone. Help us to amplify the voices of those leading in their own communities. Help us to create avenues for citizens to engage.
- SDG 17 recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in all countries, particularly developing countries.
- That is why it is so important to make the most of our collective strengths. We will need to work together – across sectors and industries – to address how to realize new approaches to finance, investment, trade and technology.
- As we scale up our work, we have to be guided by integrity, accountability and transparency.
- We also must be rigorous in monitoring and measuring the impact and performance of the partnership initiatives we undertake. And when we make our assessments, we need data that includes the qualitative feedback of the beneficiaries themselves. Their views matter most.
- We have seen many examples at the United Nations of how leveraging joint resources and expertise can quickly and effectively uncover solutions.
- I encourage you to forge even stronger partnerships that have a real impact on people’s lives. Building new partnerships is an important area for innovative thinking to create global solutions.
- I encourage you to continue to work at the global, regional and local level to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is understood and owned by citizens, communities, local and national governments, civil society organizations of all levels, and enterprises of all sizes.

Conclusion:

- The SDG 14 - focused on the health of our Oceans and seas - require special attention. We need to turn the tide if we’re going to achieve this goal by 2030.

- One of the pivotal UN events in 2017 will be the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The conference will be co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden in New York, from 5 to 9 June 2017.
- Partnerships will again play a crucial role at this event. Member states have decided that the theme of the Conference will be “*Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14*”
- The Conference programme will comprise of plenary meetings, seven Partnership Dialogues, and a special event commemorating World Oceans Day.
- One of the objectives of this Conference is to build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14;
- A two-day preparatory of this Conference meeting will be held in New York on 15-16 February 2017, where the themes of the seven partnership dialogues will be discussed, as well the elements for a “Call for Action” – the intergovernmental agreed outcome document of this event
- I welcome all stakeholders to engage with this Conference next June. We need your active participation and your inspiring innovations to drive actions toward implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.
- Registration of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to the Preparatory meeting in New York in February 2017 has already begun. A special accreditation process to allow those organizations not in ECOSOC consultative is also underway. I invite you visit the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform for more information on these processes (sustainabledevelopment.un.org)
- I hope you will be able to come to New York next June, join the partnership dialogues and contribute to sustainable future of oceans for generations to come.
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- We are the first generation that can end global poverty. We are the last generation that can address climate change before it is too late.
- Through deeper engagement of all sectors of society, we can realize the promise of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- I wish you a successful meeting.
