



VNR LABS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Catalysing Partnerships for SDG implementation

Thursday 18 July 2019, 8:00 – 9:00 am

Conference room 11, United Nations Headquarters

To build momentum for SDG achievement at national and local levels, a range of stakeholders must commit to work together. Governments alone cannot achieve the SDGs and the role of partnerships at the national and local level is particularly important. These can ideally foster synergies among different actors, combine their resources and energies towards addressing specific shared objectives inspired by the SDGs, find innovative solutions, and enhance mutual accountability.

Of the 102 countries that have so far submitted voluntary national review (VNR) reports to the HLPF, almost all have mentioned partnerships as an important means of implementation. However, only a few reference explicit efforts to foster platforms and partnerships¹. Several countries have also noted in their reports their challenges in establishing robust, efficient partnerships, and there is little evidence that the VNR process has helped countries identify specific areas for new, transformational partnerships.

It is increasingly recognised that the United Nations should support its member states in building functional and effective partnerships that address national and local needs. In late 2016, in resolution A/RES/ 71/243 the UN General Assembly called on the UN to support governments in initiating and designing partnerships. In mid-2017, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed stated that the UN needed to become a “policy broker” and support governments in identifying the best partnership options².

To accelerate the gathering momentum of partnerships at national level and following on from the discussions at the 2019 ECOSOC Partnership Forum on how to build effective country-level partnership platforms, this VNR Lab proposes to bring together those broadly knowledgeable about partnerships and those engaged in specific partnership mechanisms at country level to facilitate an intensive discussion around the following questions:

- What role do partnerships and partnership platforms currently play in delivering the SDGs?
- Are countries putting in place the enabling environments suited to the formation and growth of multi-stakeholder partners to advance the SDGs? What challenges do they face?
- Based on gaps identified in VNRs, can VNR follow-up at country level help in identifying where multi-stakeholder partnerships would make an important contribution to filling those gaps?
- How can multi-stakeholder partnership platforms facilitate and harness the contributions of different stakeholders to implement transformative SDG partnerships at national and local level?
- What strategic roles can the United Nations and Resident Coordinators play in supporting the initiation, design and brokering of partnerships at country and local level?

Specific attention will be given to how to identify ‘missing partnerships’ required for SDG transformations at national and local level.

¹ M. Beisheim, A. Ellersiek, Partnerships for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Transformative, Inclusive and Accountable? December 2017, Berlin, p. 20.

² IISD 2017: UN Secretariat Reports on QCPR Follow-up, 5 May 2017.



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DRAFT AGENDA

8:00 – 8:05	WELCOME AND OPENING Moderator: Mr. Darian Stibbe, Executive Director, Partnering Initiative
8:05 – 9:00	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION Establishing a transformative multi-stakeholder SDG partnership platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Sarah Muui, State Department for Planning, Kenya Key principles for successful multi-stakeholder partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Ingolf Dietrich, Commissioner for the Sustainable Development Goals and Deputy Director General at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Lessons learned from SIDS Partnership Framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Mícheál Tierney, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations Utilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships for tackling national priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Martin Garcia, Head of Division Private Public Partnerships of the Ministry of Social Development of Chile Engaging private sector in the VNR process and SDG implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Margarita Ducci, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Chile Open discussion with the audience