



 **PARTNERSHIP EXCHANGE**

ADVANCING THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2018 REPORT



Division for Sustainable Development Goals
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Introduction

Over the recent years, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnership has been increasingly recognized by UN member States as well as by, different stakeholders including leading institutions in international development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the blueprint for global sustainable development – explicitly acknowledges multi-stakeholder partnerships as major drivers of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *Multi-stakeholder partnerships*

is key part of SDG 17 – *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development* – including two related targets:

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- 17.16 - Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17 - Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Achieving the level and quality of partnering required to deliver the SDGs requires a significant and targeted effort to build an *enabling environment for partnering*, which includes building up institutional capacities, convening and supporting infrastructure, and a policy environment that together can help mainstreaming collaboration.



The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. As such, it is also to provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

In connection with the HLPF, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) and United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), organizes annually a one-day Partnership Exchange including to review the role and impact of multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in supporting the implementation of the SDGs, and to build momentum towards the creation of an environment that stimulates multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The present report summarizes the key outcomes of the 2018 Partnership Exchange.

2018 Partnership Exchange

The 2018 Partnership Exchange was held on 13 July 2018 in the margins of the 2018 High-level Political Forum on



Sustainable Development. The one-day event, organized by UN DESA, UNOP and the UN Global Compact, with the support of the organization *The Partnering Initiative*, featured two expert level parallel sessions, a plenary segment, and a Partnership Showcase.

The objective of the Partnership Exchange, which was open to all participants of HLPF, was twofold: 1) to showcase the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and 2) to explore, and build momentum towards, the creation of the partnering enabling environment.

A special focus was placed on reviewing and learning from partnerships and voluntary commitments around the six SDGs that were under in-depth review at the 2018 HLPF:



The *Partnership for SDGs online platform*¹ maintained by UN DESA served as the basis for identifying multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments which were profiled during the Partnership Exchange. A process for identifying innovative partnerships was opened publicly on the Partnership Exchange website, between 1 April – 1 May 2018. The criteria for being selected to showcase at the Partnership Exchange is annexed to this report.

The selected partnerships and voluntary commitments were asked to show how they are effectively driving implementation of one or more of the SDGs under review at 2018 HLPF, including by

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/>

highlighting innovative solutions and best practices that could inspire others, including the countries that were presenting their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the 2018 HLPF².

Expert session 1 - Building institutions and platforms that are Fit for Partnering

Expert session 1 took place in Conference Room 11, from 10.00 AM – 01.00 PM, and included two segments.

Segment 1 - Building institutions that are Fit for Partnering

For organizations to be able to partner well and at scale, they need to have in place the right leadership and strategy, enabling systems and processes, strong staff skills and guidance, and a partnering culture. The first sub-session examined what it means in practice to be organizationally “*Fit for Partnering*” and how to build up an organization in this regard.

The guiding questions for the session were:

- *To what extent are your organizations / organizations you work with ‘fit for partnering’? What are the major institutional issues that make it challenging for them to partner?*
- *What does a pro-partnering culture look like and how do you build it?*
- *What are the skills necessary for partnering and how do you build them?*
- *What needs to happen to build the UN’s institutional ability to partner more effectively?*

At the outset, the guidebook “*Maximizing the value of Partnerships for the SDGs*”, a joint publication by UN DESA and The Partnering Initiative, was launched. Refer to chapter below for more information.

Key messages from the discussion

- *Leaderships and strategy:* Of crucial importance is the commitment of the leadership of an organization to promote collaboration and partnerships as key ways to achieve organizational objectives, to help cascade the approach down through the organization. This

² Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at HLPF - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

should be guided by a partnering strategy that either supports or is integrated into the organizational strategy, clearly showing how partnerships can add value. This will help organizations to not waste time by trying to partner in areas which are not delivering on their own strategic objectives.

- *Internal systems and processes:* It is essential for organizations to have supportive systems to help partnerships through the whole partnership lifecycle.
 - E.g. for the UN – how do we make the UN more accessible to partners, so that they don't have to navigate a complex organizational labyrinth with multiple different and sometimes competing access points. Would it be possible to create partnership hubs at the country level that would make it easier for actors to partner with the UN?
 - Organizations need to create legal agreements and processes that are supportive of partnerships rather than resorting to using standard procurement agreements.
- *Staff and the skills that are required to partner* – it is important to build people's ability to partner more effectively, including by fostering a partnering mindset and building an understanding of how other sectors of society work and operate – both the human relationship building skills and technical knowledge of how to partner are important.
 - It is also important to invest in capacity building and to hire people with the necessary skills, and to give people the space and time needed for partnering. Putting in place performance management to support staff in partnering can make a great difference.
- *Culture:* we need organizations to be much more outward-looking, and to understand that they can achieve more by partnering and working with others. But we also need to recognize the inherent risks related to partnering and that partnerships can also fail.
- *Evidence:* we need to generate more evidence that partnerships actually work in order to persuade more people to invest the time and effort into partnering.

Segment 2 - Building country level action platforms to catalyze partnerships for the SDGs

This session looked at what it takes to run effective partnership action platforms which convene societal sectors around SDG priorities, and catalyze implementation of innovative initiatives.

The guiding questions for the session were:

- *What are some examples of the platforms for SDG collaboration?*

- *What are the challenges, and what are the key success factors?*
- *As platforms multiply in country on different topics, how do we a) prevent saturation, particularly with companies being asked to contribute time to multiple different platforms and b) ensure synergies for more holistic, cross-issue action?*
- *What is the role of online technology in scaling up collaboration at the country level?*

Key messages from the discussion

- There exists a huge range of different platforms including: platforms for dialogues around national development priorities; general platforms that support all SDGs and specific thematic platforms around.
- Platforms are being run by all sectors of society: business organizations, the UN, government, NGOs.
- In addition to catalyzing partnerships, such platforms could also provide partnership training, awareness-raising of partnership as an approach, building trust across sectors to support a partnering-conducive environment.
- Success factors include:
 - Country ownership: important to have country actors take the lead and set priorities through a bottom-up approach;
 - A neutral high-level convener who can bring everyone around the table;
 - A common vision (such as the SDGs which are shared across societal sectors);
- A major challenge is funding. Who pays for these platforms - Governments? Donors? Members? Can there be a sustainable business model for what is effectively a public good?

Expert session 2 - Maximizing impact of partnerships at the national level

Expert session 2 took place in Conference Room 12, from 10.00 AM – 01.00 PM, and included two segments.

Segment 1 - Building an effective monitoring framework system for partnerships

How should partnerships report their activities and contributions to the SDGs? How can we monitor pledges and ensure they are turned in action and impact? This session looked at current approaches

to monitoring to discuss what is working well, what is less effective, and make recommendations for a future approach.

The guiding questions for the session were:

- *What do we need to monitor and why?*
- *What are the special needs / approaches required for monitoring partnerships?*
- *To what extent can we integrate partnership monitoring into existing mechanisms?*
- *How can we make monitoring useful to partnership, rather than an extra chore?*
- *How can monitoring support accountability for the delivery of pledges?*

Key messages from the discussion

- Not enough attention is given to accountability and monitoring in the SDG implementation. Voluntary reporting needs to be backed up with better incentives and more capacity for systematic monitoring.
- Monitoring needs to turn into learning. We keep busy with tracking progress, but we do not spend as much with interpreting the data and making evidence-based decisions.
- Building human capital and institutional capacity development need to be seen as long-term commitments. Donors should not trade quality and continuity for quick wins and gains.
- More strategic approach to partnerships that integrate, empower and maximize returns to investments requires a good design and a solid resource plan, but we often rush to partner, and ignore the architecture and the needed management arrangements from the start. As a result, many partnerships fail.
- Nesting local partnerships, understanding culture and behavior are prerequisites for building trust in collective engagement towards common goals. Partnering doesn't come naturally. Shared value drives solid partnerships.
- Partnerships need to be principled, standard-based and SDG aligned. We should not foster any non- SDG-compliant engagement.
- Government ownership of development should be accompanied by partnership management capacities.

Segment 2 - Building a conducive policy and funding environment for partnerships

By combining complementary resources, partnerships have the potential to deliver far more than the sum of their parts. However, they usually take significant time to develop and often have ongoing running costs, for example the costs of a dedicated secretariat. This session will look at how donors may need to adapt traditional funding approaches to become more supportive of partnerships. It will also look at what governments need to do to change policy / legislation to encourage partnerships.

The guiding questions for the session were:

- *What do governments need to do to ensure an enabling environment for fostering effective partnerships?*
- *What examples are there of policy / legislation that actively supports partnerships for sustainable development, particularly with business?*
- *How challenging is it for partnerships to find funding for the development phases and for the transaction / running costs (such as secretariats) of partnerships?*
- *What can donors do to better support effective partnerships?*

Key messages

- Partnerships can thrive in conducive legal and policy environments and with committed governmental partners.
- To ensure that partnerships are supporting the 2030 Agenda, SDG-alignment practices should be demanded from all partners.
- Mechanisms for dialogue should be in place, formal processes established and sustained over time, political commitment is essential for partnerships to stand the test of time. Policy coherence is a quality safeguards for good results and effective partnerships.
- Stakeholders are not equal in their capacities to partner. A whole-of-society approach to sustainable development requires that we step in and build the capacities of parliaments, civil society, local communities to set their agenda of support to the SDGs and engage in partnerships that address their needs and priorities while benefiting many.
- There is a need to conduct strong due diligence and bring on board development actors that are committed to the global agenda. Private sector entities who are not complying with the UN Global Compact principles cannot be convincing partners.
- The SDGs call upon a new modality of partnerships. It is not a 'regular type' of programming.

- Processes of establishing and developing partnerships need to be more inclusive and allow for a joint vision to be established.
- SDG partnerships demand new ways of funding, including loans, equity, subsidies and bonds.
- Setting up and supporting platforms for partnership exchange and dialogue are also important.
- Governments need to lead, own and direct partnerships and generate an enabling environment for partnerships to be established and develop. Regulatory regime needs to be set but should not be overly prescriptive.
- UN has an important role as a convener, supporter and facilitator. UN's reputation is helpful to solve trust issues. Also to support in leveraging different sorts of financing and partners.
- Partnerships demand flexibility and adaptation.

Panel discussion - Building the enabling system to maximize partnerships in driving sustainable and resilient societies

The afternoon plenary session of the Partnership Exchange took place in Conference Room 3, from 03.00 – 06.00 PM, and included an opening segment, a panel discussion, and a Partnership Showcase.

The plenary session was opened by Her Excellency Marie Chatardová, President of the Economic and Social Council, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

The guiding questions for the panel discussion were:

- *What do you see as the role of partnerships in building resilient and sustainable societies*
- *Where do you see good examples of initiatives or mechanisms that are systematically catalyzing partnerships?*
- *What examples do you have of organizations taking active efforts to build their institutional capacity (strategies, systems, staff capacities, culture) for partnering?*
- *What do you see as the most significant inhibitors to mainstreaming the use of partnerships, and what can be done to address those inhibitors?*
- *Which are the key political processes and forums that need to be influenced to build the enabling 'infrastructure' that can mainstream partnering?*

Key messages

- The issue of partnerships is not just about SDG 17, but it is a rather cross-cutting issue and critically important to accelerate progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- .
- The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of HLPF provide a good opportunity to involve a wide range of stakeholders, including multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Innovative financing and capacity-building is necessary. In this regard, the involvement of the private sector is crucial. While official development assistance (ODA) is still necessary, there is a need to align with business and involve investors. There is also a need to prioritize priorities.
- Successful partnerships require: trust, agreement, transparency, responsibility, inclusiveness in decision-making and communication, needs assessment, evaluation, and the integration of three dimensions of sustainable development.
- There is a need to identify what type of partnerships are necessary for driving implementation of the SDGs. In the case of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the mandated SIDS framework has served as catalysis for stimulating new genuine and durable partnerships.
- A wide range of data, including baseline information, is required to monitor progress towards the 2030 Agenda. This necessitates improved collection and coordination of data and building partnerships between inter alia, government agencies, the private sector and academia.
- Lack of capacity in data collection is a major issue in developing countries, including SIDS. If necessary, consideration should be given to setting proxy indicators. Guidelines could be developed for enhancing synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway, for example, in reporting and indicators.

Partnership Showcase



At the end of the Partnership Exchange, a Partnership Showcase session was organized with rapid fire presentations by representatives showing how their multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments were driving implementation of those SDGs under review at HLPF.

Each presenter was given two (2) minutes and the use of maximum one (1) PowerPoint slide, to address the following questions:

- *What is the name of the partnership?*
- *Which SDGs and targets is the partnership addressing?*
- *Who are the partners and beneficiaries?*
- *How is the partnership adding value to implementation of the SDGs?*

Initiatives featured:

1. Peace Boat Ecoship (SDG 7)
2. E-waste Coalition (SDG 12)
3. eTrade for All (SDG 17)
4. The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) (SDG 7)

5. PVH Sustainable Manufacturing Park in Ethiopia (SDG 6, 7)
6. Business Alliance for Water and Climate (SDG 6)
7. LIFE Certification, Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity (SDG 15)
8. Clean, Fed & Nurtured Coalition (SDG 6)
9. Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development (APSD) (SDG 9, 11, 12, 17)
10. Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions (SDG 6, 7)
11. SULITEST module (SDG 7)
12. Safer Cities for Girls, Plan International Headquarters (SDG 11)

Below is a summary of the initiatives, in the words of the presenters. All PowerPoint slides are published online at the Partnership Exchange webpage³.

Peace Boat Ecoship (SDG 7)

Peace Boat's Ecoship Project⁴ is a transformational programme to construct the world's most environmentally sustainable cruise ship as a flagship for the SDGs, through cross-sector multi-stakeholder partnerships. The key partners are Peace Boat, an NGO with Consultative Status with UNECOSOC, in partnership with the UN SDG Action Campaign and affiliated with the UNDPPI; and Japan Grace, the travel agency which coordinates Peace Boat's current global and regional voyages through a social business model.



In 2016, Peace Boat signed an MOU with the classification society DNV-GL for a partnership for the design, construction and operation phases of Ecoship.



The Ecoship will address SDG7, with the promotion of renewable energy including research and cooperation (target 7.A). It will feature 10 retractable photovoltaic

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/PartnershipExchange>

⁴ <http://ecoship-pb.com/>

sails, 10 wind generators and will host exhibitions on green and renewable energy technology in up to 100 ports per year.

SDG 12 is targeted through the real ecosystems onboard including an onboard garden and closed loop water and waste systems (target 12.5). Target 12.8 is specifically addressed through the education and capacity building programmes onboard and in port on sustainability including climate change education and experiential learning, measuring energy consumption through smart meters, and using no single-use plastics.



Ecoship also targets SDGs 4, 13, 8, 9, 12 and 16.

Ecoship will be the platform for Peace Boat global voyages for peace and sustainability organized in partnership with civil society organizations, governments and academic institutions. Like Peace Boat's current vessel, which was docked in New York during the HLPF and was the venue for the inaugural Partnership Expo held on the eve of the Partnership Exchange, Ecoship will sail with the SDG wheel logo on its hull. It will be the venue as the ship sails and in ports for events and capacity building and academic programmes focused on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG17, “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” is key to Peace Boat’s work and a key part of the Ecoship Project.

E-waste Coalition (SDG 12)

To address the growing global e-waste challenge, some of the key United Nations entities that work on e-waste have come together to create the E-waste Coalition. This informal and open Coalition builds a link with the private sector and is supported by the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.



With a wide spectrum of members and partners involved, bringing their different background and expertise to the table, the E-waste Coalition is in a position to support stakeholders at the country

level, including electronics manufacturers and recyclers, in addressing e-waste-related issues right across the Sustainable Development Goals.

The E-waste Coalition is coordinated by the Secretariat of the UN Environment Management Group.

eTrade for All (SDG 17)

The partnership is called “e-Trade for all”. "e-Trade for all" is a UN-led multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to use and benefit from e-commerce.



This partnership contributes directly to SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 industry, innovation and infrastructure and SDG 17 partnerships for the goals. It also indirectly contributes to SDG 5 – gender equality.

The eTrade for All initiative focuses on seven key policy areas of particular relevance to e-commerce development: E-commerce readiness assessment and strategy formulation, ICT infrastructure and services, Trade logistics, Payment solutions, Legal and regulatory frameworks, E-commerce skills development, Access to financing.



The eTrade for all initiative was launched as a collaborative effort to scale up cooperation, transparency and aid efficiency towards more inclusive e-commerce. For countries and partners engaged in eTrade for All, through the platform, beneficiaries can connect with potential partners, learn about trends and best practices, access up-to-date e-commerce data and be informed about upcoming e-commerce events. eTrade for all works in close cooperation with more than 30 contributors such as International Organizations (Regional Development banks, International Financial Institutions, UN agencies), Multi-national companies (DHL, Fedex, Google, Huawei, Paypal, UPS and many more) and civil society (African Alliance for E-commerce, E-commerce associations of Bangladesh, International council of Swedish industry, Latin American Ecommerce Association, and many more).

Using E-commerce as a vehicle for supporting the agenda 2030 allows to:

- Create opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises to grow, become more productive and participate in global value chains, which in turn contributes to economic growth and to the creation of jobs;
- Foster innovation and industry which are necessary for structural transformation;
- Reinforce links between public and private stakeholders by providing a platform for exchanging and addressing issues and limitations faced by the development of e-Commerce in countries, and coordinate country demand for support and donors;
- Support Least Developed Countries in assessing their ICT and e-commerce capabilities and in formulating strategies to overcome barriers.

The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) (SDG 7)

By 2050, the urban population in Africa is expected to grow from 400 million to 1.26 billion people. African cities need to respond to these challenges in order to provide a sustainable future for their citizens and keep greenhouse gas emissions low. Therefore, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy (SDG 7) and adapting to the effects of climate change are among the most pressing issues for the African population.



In this context, the European Commission launched a partnership program the “Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa” (CoM SSA) to support African cities with these challenges, by increasing their planning capacities and providing them with a platform to share knowledge and best practices. The CoM SSA is inspired by the success of the “Covenant of Mayors Europe” (CoM Europe) that united more than 6700 municipalities in their fight against climate change.



Capacity building workshop for technical staffs in Accra, Ghana (21 – 24/06/2017)

Under the CoM SSA local authorities in Sub-Saharan Africa are invited to make a voluntarily political commitment to implement climate and energy actions in their communities and agree on a long-term vision to tackle 3 pillars, namely access to energy, climate mitigation and climate adaptation.

The partners and beneficiaries of this partnership program are CEMR that coordinates the Covenant of Mayors Office for Sub-Saharan Africa partnering with six networks: Climate Alliance (CA), Energy Cities (ENC), United Cities of Local Governments Africa (UCLG Africa), ICLEI Africa and ICLEI World Secretariat. Three Institutional organizations: French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME), the International Association of Francophone mayors (AIMF), the Portuguese Energy Agency (ADENE); and two non-governmental organizations: Environment Development Action in the third world (ENDA) and Sustainable Energy for Africa (SEA). The Beneficiaries are Sub-Saharan Africa Cities and populations and their Governments

The partnership adding value to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 7 are capacity building, network and collaborate with other cities (peer-to-peer), budgeting of city resilient action plan, increased visibility for local government’s climate and energy actions, access to investment for clean energy and to international, regional and national associations of local governments through training materials and specifically tailored trainings/workshops.

PVH Sustainable Manufacturing Park in Ethiopia (SDG 6, 7)

PVH helped convene a private-public collaboration with key suppliers, the Ethiopian and local governments, and donor groups to establish an industrial park in Hawassa, a small city in southern Ethiopia. Its collective vision is that Hawassa Industrial Park (“HIP”) will be a win-win development opportunity, both for sub-Saharan Africa and for the apparel industry.



Beyond compliance, the collaboration is working with all partners to make the park a great place to work, including promoting the establishment of workers’ committees and exploring innovative transport and housing solutions, including for workers migrating to the area. The aim is to enable these workers to become part of the Hawassa community and feel invested in the park’s success.

The long-term vision is to develop a truly integrated vertical supply chain comprising all stages of apparel production, from growing cotton to dyeing fabrics to sewing the final garments. In order to minimize impacts on the environment, it is vital to use sustainable energy and ensure sufficient water supplies for both operations and local communities.

Conscious of the water scarcity risks in other parts of Ethiopia, the partnership engaged a respected independent geohydrologist to assess HIP's potential water impacts. Initial findings revealed that running fabric production operations on site would impact groundwater around the park and that measures should be taken to prevent contamination of water supplies with chemicals, which would otherwise reach groundwater level, which resulted in a partnership with the Ethiopian government and the other tenants in the park to build a zero-liquid discharge effluent treatment facility that recycles wastewater produced in the park, thereby preserving and protecting the community's water supply. In addition, steps are taken to address local water issues by looking into sponsorship of a collective action water stewardship project in Hawassa.

Business Alliance for Water and Climate (SDG 6)

The Business Alliance for Water and Climate (BAFWAC) was launched during COP 21 in December 2015. The Alliance was formed to elevate the issue of water within the climate discussions and focuses on advancing SDG6 and 13 though also touches upon other water-related SDGs such as those on sustainable agriculture, responsible consumption and production, and ecosystems.



The Alliance was launched by CDP, the CEO Water Mandate, Suez, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. It functions as a commitment platform, asking companies to commit to 3 areas:

- 1) Analyzing and sharing water related risks to implement collaborative response strategies
- 2) Measuring and reporting water use data
- 3) Reducing impacts on water in operations and throughout the value chain

Today, over 40 companies with \$650 billion in annual revenues have made the commitment. In addition, the initiative looks to work with companies to build a community of good practice tools,

resources, and eventually local activities around three innovation areas: circular water management, climate resilient agriculture, and natural infrastructure.

LIFE Certification, Brazil. Member of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity (SDG 15)

LIFE Certification's main objective is in line with SDG 15: to protect natural ecosystems, fresh water and endangered species at the same time it promotes sustainable use of terrestrial resources. LIFE Certification is designed to stimulate business sector to invest on biodiversity and ecosystem protection.



The methodology assesses biodiversity impacts on a given operation site, based on water consumption (and water availability), energy use (and energy matrix), waste (toxic and non-toxic), GHG emissions and land use (reality of local ecosystems is taken into account).

Once referred impacts are measured, the certification proposes a number of actions to offset that impact – and all the proposed actions are based on priorities drawn from ecosystem fragility, endemism, level of threat, practical results on ecosystem and species protection. The whole set of actions a potential certified organization can carry out are defined by a set list prepared and discussed by scientists and technical experts to ensure that all the actions are favorable to nature and biodiversity.

The four organizations behind its creation are Boticário Group Foundation, Fundación Avina, Posigraf (printing company) and SPVS – Wildlife Research and Environmental Education Society. The partnership also included a number of universities during the certification development phase, along with other partners such as Itaipu Binational, Petrobras, IUCN Netherlands, to name a few.

Clean, Fed & Nurtured Coalition (SDG 6)

The shared vision of the initiative is that thriving children become healthy, resilient, and productive adults, equipped to face personal, family, community and global challenges.



A coordinated focus on the Clean, Fed & Nurtured baby can shift the ways we support child growth and child development. Strategic organizational collaboration within this multifaceted milieu is essential. A focused Coalition that leverages members' respective strengths, voices, and portfolios around a shared vision of coordinated sectors in the early years will play an essential role in improving the health of children, mothers, and caretakers. Joining forces in a single coalition among four sectors—Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), Nutrition, and Early Childhood Development (ECD)— will help families more easily adopt behaviors that, together, improve children's chances to reach their fullest potential.

The Clean, Fed & Nurtured Coalition brings together practitioners, funders and researchers who focus on increasing coordination between WASH, MNCH, Nutrition, and ECD programming, policy-making, and funding to improve child well-being in the early years. The initiative recognizes that there are many policy, attitudinal, and funding barriers to coordination, and much to learn about integration. The aim is therefore to leverage collective strengths to break down barriers and make a compelling case for the necessity of a multi-sectoral approach to achieving the SDGs. The goals of the Coalition will focus on advocacy, supporting the development of integration metrics, and defining preferred practices for programmatic implementers. Only by working together in the early years can we ensure that children survive and thrive to eventually transform our world.

Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development (APSD), (SDG 9, 11, 12, 17)

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, sustainable air transport was reinforced as an enabler of sustainable development and its improvements should be embedded in development frameworks. ICAO supports the 2030 Agenda implementation by assisting Member States in enhancing their air transport systems contributing to the SDGs. ICAO invited DESA, OHRLLS, WBG, and ATAG to join the Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development (APSD), which tailor events to Countries in Special Situations aiming at sensitizing high-level government officials, raising awareness about the contributions of aviation to sustainable development, and promoting the benefits of mobilizing resources for and investing in sustainable aviation.



APSD events promote the socio-economic benefits of aviation, sensitize attendees on the fact that ICAO compliance is critical to sustainable development, foster the prioritization the air transport sector in development plans, and share information on how to finance enhancements for air transport improvements. These high-level events are focused on countries in special situations, e.i. least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and organized in conjunction with major conferences attended by States high-level officials of finance, development, and foreign affairs. The partners and States actively participate in these events to share their experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned in enhancing sustainable aviation and also assisting other States in achieving so.

Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions (SDG 6, 7)

Today, 1.1 billion people lack access to electricity, while water stress affects more than 2 billion people. By 2030, the world will need 40 per cent more water and 50 per cent more energy. Climate change will exacerbate this stress even further. The strong linkages between water and energy



demand coherent integrated policies and innovative approaches.

Recognizing this need to address the interlinkage between water and energy, Itaipu Binacional (Paraguay-Brazil) and UN DESA, have joined efforts in a partnership entitled “Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions”. The partnership



represents a unique initiative that will promote water and energy sustainability and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The goal is to provide a platform for all stakeholders to enhance capacities and signal their high-level commitment to support the implementation

of these goals in a holistic manner. The intention is to grow this global network over time to become one of the largest global multi-stakeholder-based knowledge networks on energy and water.

The ongoing initiatives by Itaipu Binacional will also be summarized in a comprehensive report of case studies and practical tools on best practices in implementing the 2030 Agenda, with particular focus on integrated approaches for water and energy in support of sustainable development.

SULITEST module (SDG 7)

"Sustainability Literacy" is the knowledge, skills and mindsets that allow individuals to become deeply committed to building a sustainable future and assisting in making informed and effective decisions to this end.



The Sulitest (Sustainability Literacy Tools & Community) was created after the Rio+20 Conference and offers a set of online tools for raising awareness and improving understanding of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its best-known tool, the “Test” is in an easy-to-use, on-line, multiple choice question format that consists of an international set of 30 questions identical for all users throughout the world, and other specialized modules that consider national, regional and cultural realities.

As of July 2018, the “Test” has been administered to more than 90,000 students. Each test question is aligned with one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, creating one of the largest databases on citizens' awareness and understanding of the SDGs.



Sulitest is currently working with UN entities and relevant actors to create SDG specific modules, with the aim of raising further global awareness of specific SDGs and to identify gaps in knowledge among students worldwide.

During the Partnership session at the last High-level political forum in July 2018, Sulitest in partnership with UN DESA has launched a module dedicated to SDG 7 – “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”.

Awareness is the first step to learning and action. The massive spread of Sulitest and in particular this new module available free for all, helps raising awareness of a larger number of students worldwide and help them to become agents of change on Energy Challenges.

Safer Cities for Girls (SDG 11)

Safer Cities for Girls is a joint programme developed in partnership between Plan International, UN HABITAT, and Women in Cities International to build safe, accountable, and inclusive cities with and for adolescent girls (13-18 years). The programme works directly with a variety of urban actors, including adolescent girls, adolescent boys, community members, families, government stakeholders, and transportation stakeholders. The programme is being carried out in ten cities around the world: Cairo, Alexandria, Assiut, Egypt; Delhi, India; Hanoi, Vietnam; Kampala, Uganda; Lima, Peru; Nairobi, Kenya; Asuncion, Paraguay; and Honiara, Solomon Islands.



The overarching goal of the programme is to build safe, accountable, and inclusive cities with and for adolescent girls in all their diversity. Since the start of the programme in 2014, it has promoted collective action around the need for safer cities, raised awareness on the issue of girls' safety in cities, and strengthened collaboration with local



authorities on safer cities. Additionally, the programme has promoted gender equality and girls' rights through social norm change, created an enabling environment for girls and boys, challenged gender stereotypes and discriminatory behavior, and encouraged support from duty bearer like police, city councilors, local transport associations. Overall, the programme has (a) improved adolescent girls' safety and access to public spaces; (b) their active and meaningful participation in urban development and governance; and (c) their autonomous and safe mobility in the city.

For further details, please contact Alana Livesey, Global Programme and Advocacy Manager, Safer Cities for Girls, Plan International (Alana.Livesey@plan-international.org). More details about the Safer Cities for Girls programme on Plan's website: <https://plan-international.org/ending-violence/safer-cities-girls>

Partnership Expo onboard Peace Boat

Peace Boat's 98th Global Voyage docked at the port of New York City on the morning of July 12, coinciding with the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The ship was host that evening to a special side event as part of the HLPF – the inaugural Partnership Expo. The Partnership Expo marked the first occasion that Peace Boat provided a venue for an event of the HLPF, highlighting the importance of forming

meaningful partnerships between the United Nations, the diplomatic community, the private sector and civil society, working towards a more peaceful and sustainable world.

Please see **Annex 2** for full report.

Guidebook - Maximizing the impact of Partnerships for the SDGs

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) supports, facilitates and monitors multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments announced at various international sustainable development conferences; promotes effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships; and provides opportunities to mobilize and share knowledge and expertise among multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the achievement of the SDGs.



Peace Boat n Manhattan, New York

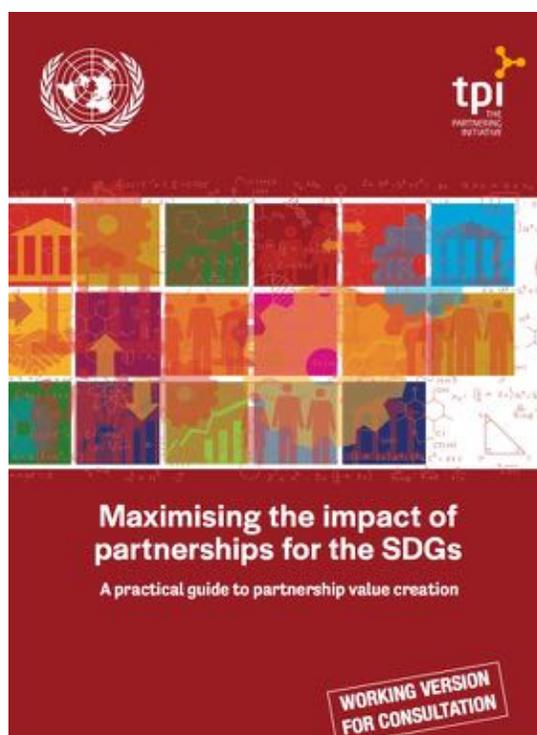
On the occasion of the 2018 Partnership Exchange, UN-DESA and The Partnering Initiative jointly launched a draft version of a guidebook “Maximizing the value of Partnerships for the SDGs” as a practical tool to support entities engaging in multi-stakeholder partnerships to maximize the value created by collaboration towards the SDGs. While it is not a comprehensive exploration of cross-sector partnerships, it is intended to complement and extend other more detailed accounts of the principles and practice of cross-sector partnership.

The guidebook attempts to deconstruct the meaning of “value” for multi-stakeholder partnerships. It explores the range of different partnerships that can be established, and how the nature of the partnership influences the type of value created for the partners and for beneficiaries.

Understanding these issues in greater detail can support organizations in the process of identifying, designing and managing effective partnerships that deliver best value, and to think more ambitiously and creatively about how they partner.

The guidebook is structured in three parts:

1. **The first part** provides contextual information, looking at the different types of cross-sector partnership that are contributing towards the SDGs.
2. **The second part** explores in more depth different kinds of partnerships and the added value that can be created through collaborative action, illustrated by real-life SDG partnership case studies.
3. **The third part** is comprised of a guide for practical actions based on a typical ‘partnering cycle’, including a set of tools designed to support both the partnership, and the individual partners, to



identify, define, and assess the types of value that the partnership will create overall, as well as the individual value each partner will gain from the collaboration.



The guidebook, entitled “*Maximizing the value of Partnerships for the SDGs*”, is available for download and commenting on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/guidebook>

Partnerships for SDGs online platform

The Partnerships for SDGs online platform, available at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships, is a United Nations global registry of voluntary commitments and multi-stakeholder partnerships, intended to facilitate global engagement of all stakeholders in support of the implementation of the SDGs.

The Partnerships for SDGs platform is open to all stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, local authorities, private sector, scientific and technological community, academia, and others, to register a voluntary commitment or multi-stakeholder partnership which aims to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17SDGs.



Partnership for SDGs online platform, home page

The platform brings together online registries that have been launched in support of various United Nations conferences and processes dealing with sustainable development, including the 2017 The Ocean Conference, the 2016 Global Sustainable Transport Conference, the 2014 SIDS Conference, and the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. It also provides integrated access to several thematic multi-stakeholder action networks that aim to galvanize partnerships and commitments in support of the SDGs.

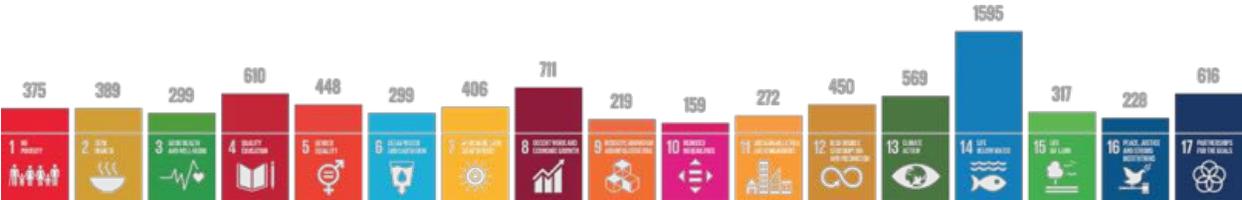
The platform is intended to provide space for sharing knowledge and expertise among different actors that are engaged in multi-stakeholder SDG-related partnerships and voluntary commitments, and for providing periodic updates on their progress.

All stakeholders are encouraged to register their initiatives aimed at driving implementation of the SDGs in the platform online. Once submitted, the initiative is reviewed for accuracy and published publicly.

Once an initiative is published, stakeholders are encouraged to regularly update the information, and provide short progress updates of the initiative once a year until its completion. New registrations and progress reports serve as basis for informally reporting to the Partnership Exchange organized in connection with the HLPF.

An overview in numbers

As of August 2018, the Partnerships for SDG platform contains **3,835** partnerships and voluntary initiatives for SDGs, registered by different stakeholders, either directly through the website, or in connection with a specific conference or process. The collection of these initiatives dates back to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.



NUMBER OF REGISTERED INITIATIVES ACROSS THE SDGS

The overall distribution across the SDGs (chart above) shows a somewhat balanced picture, with the exception of large spike for SDG 14. This is mainly as a result of the 2017 Ocean Conference, which resulted in over 1,400 voluntary commitments made in support of SDG 14. Some of the more

underrepresented SDGs include SDG 10 on inequalities and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. HLPF in 2019 could be an opportunity to garner additional actions around those SDGs.

Among the data that is collected upon the registration of an initiative is the expected date of completion. Out of all 3,835 initiatives, **1,830** have completed their activities (based on data provided upon registration), roughly 47% of the total.



Reporting

In 2015, shortly after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a new version of the Partnerships for SDGs online platform was launched, reflecting the results of an open consultation conducted with all stakeholders ⁵on the use of the platform.



World cloud of beneficiaries from progress reports in 2018

Among the new features that were suggested and implemented was to allow stakeholders to report on the progress of their initiatives.

The progress report form, which is available online at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/progress_for_registered_partnerships_to_complete, seeks information on a) overall status of the partnership b) recent achievements c) any

⁵ Partnerships for SDGs - Synthesis of online consultation - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9225Synthesis%20of%20online%20consultation%20rev%202.pdf>

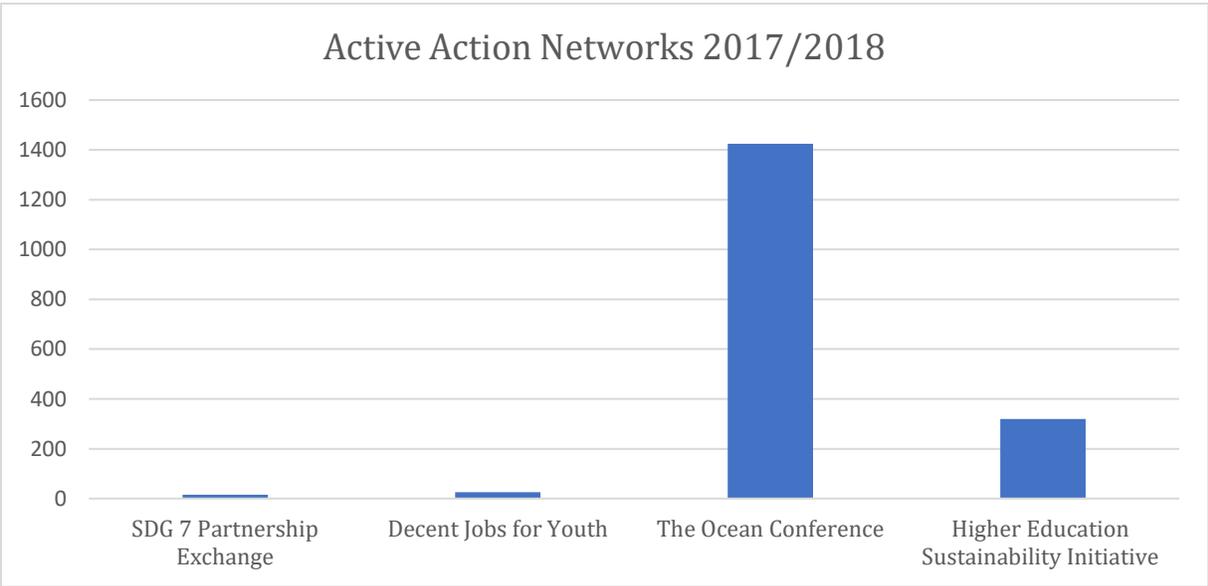
challenges faced in implementation d) next steps e) target beneficiaries, and e) specific actions taken to positively impact those beneficiaries.

Since its launch in September 2015, a total number of **288** progress reports have been submitted and posted online by registered partnerships. Among the benefits of such progress reports is that they have enabled continued engagement after registration and provided a means to assess actions and the target beneficiaries, and general progress made in implementation.

It should be noted that many of the initiatives or partnerships that are available on the SDG Partnerships Platform have not been registered directly by stakeholders in the online platform itself. Instead, they have been collected through processes such as conferences, many of which with their own registration and reporting processes. As a result, a number of the partnerships that are included on the SDG Partnership Platform are not expected to submit progress reports through the SDG Partnerships Platform. In addition, as noted above, many of the initiatives might have completed their activities, and no additional information is to be expected.

Action Networks

Action Networks are thematic action-oriented communities, or conferences, intended to stimulate actions towards advancing a specific SDG, or set of SDGs, with members and partners. There are several Action Networks registered in the SDG Partnerships platform (see figure below), five of which were active (collecting new initiatives) in the period July 2017 – July 2018.





The largest Action Network by far is the **Ocean Conference**, which resulted in over 1,400 voluntary commitments for driving implementation of SDG 14, and still brings in additional commitments. To follow-up on the implementation of these voluntary commitments; to catalyze and generate new voluntary commitments; and to

facilitate collaboration and networking amongst different actors in support of SDG 14, the United Nations have launched nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action.

The multi-stakeholder platform **Decent Jobs for Youth** - with the aim of scaling up action and impact, driving positive change for young women and men across the world - has generated 26 commitments from multiple partners.



Another growing network is the **Higher Education Sustainability Initiative**, which continues to gather commitments from higher education institutions aimed at supporting the SDGs by teaching, researching and

mainstreaming sustainable development across disciplines, supporting local sustainability efforts, and engage and share information with international networks.

In the support of the review of SDG 7 on energy at the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Secretariat established an **SDG 7 Partnership Exchange action network**, seeking concrete solutions, innovations, and partnerships from all stakeholders in support of Goal 7. The most innovative initiatives had an opportunity to be featured at the SDG 7 Conference⁶ in Bangkok, and at the 2018 Partnership Exchange.



⁶ SDG 7 Conference - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/EnergyConference>



Action Networks for the SDGs

Way forward

As a next step, DSDG will conduct an in-depth analysis of all registered initiatives to get a clearer picture on status and actual impact multi-stakeholder partnerships and other voluntary initiatives have in supporting implementation of the SDGs. The analysis will be completed in time for HLPF in 2019.

Partnership Data for SDGs

The Partnership Data for SDGs (PD4SDGs)⁷ initiative is a collaboration between the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of UN-DESA, the UN Office for Partnerships and the UN Global Compact, aimed at improving the transparency, accountability and the sharing of experiences of the work being carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in their support to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The initiative seeks to bring greater transparency, coherence, impact, and comparability of the work carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments by promoting a system-wide use of the established SMART criteria – a partnership/commitment that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-based, with clear and Time-based deliverables.



There is a growing trend to collect voluntary commitments and partnerships in support of UN conferences and processes dealing with sustainable development, sometimes with varying degree of associated level of details, which could lead to difficulty in reviewing impact, track progress and conduct in-depth and



⁷ Partnership Data for SDGs (PD4SDGs) - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/pd4sdgs>

global comparability analyses on announced commitments and partnerships. It is against this background the Partnership Data for SDGs initiative has been developed.

The initiative is open for all entities within the United Nations that engage with, and promote the work of, multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in driving implementation of the SDGs.

Contact

Mr. Ola Goransson, Partnerships Coordinator
Division for Sustainable Development Goals
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Email: goranssono@un.org

Annexes

Annex 1 - GUIDING CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES FOR REVIEW

SMART – does the initiative/partnership fulfil the SMART criteria?

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Resource-based, with
- Time-based deliverables

Relevance for 2018 Partnership Exchange

- Thematic focus – addressing one or more of the SDGs under in-depth review of the 2018 High-level Political Forum
- Lessons learned – are there any lessons learned that are relevant for other initiatives?

Effectiveness and long-term transformative impact

- Is the initiative/partnership adding concrete value to the implementation process of the SDGs? If so, how?
- Does its work, where relevant, result in the transfer of technology to and capacity-building in developing countries?
- How well the initiative/partnership is established and recognized (e.g. years in operations, references in the press/academic papers)?
- Is the initiative based on predictable and sustained resources for its implementation?
- Does the partnership have a potential for significant impact and possible scalability?

Approach and internal governance

- Mission – Does the initiative have specific and clearly defined, measurable, achievable and accepted, relevant and realistic, and time-bound objectives?

- Integration – is the initiative bearing in mind the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its design and implementation?
- Local ownership and inclusiveness – does the initiative/partnership involve local governments and other relevant stakeholders during the planning and implementation process? If relevant, does the initiative have sectoral and geographic balance? Does it also aim to support the most vulnerable and marginal communities?
- Governance structure – does the initiative/partnership apply a transparent, accountable, efficient, participatory, qualitative and equitable multi-stakeholder approach?
- Transparency and accountability – is the initiative/partnership designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner? Are there robust and transparent monitoring mechanisms and performance measures to ensure accountability? Is the initiative/partnership registered in an open registry, such as the Partnership for SDGs online platform?

Annex 2 – PEACE BOAT PARTNERSHIP EXPO

Peace Boat’s 98th Global Voyage docked at the port of New York City on the morning of July 12, coinciding with the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The ship was host that evening to a special side event as part of the HLPF – the inaugural Partnership Expo. The Partnership Expo marked the first occasion that Peace Boat provided a venue for an event of the HLPF, highlighting the importance of forming

meaningful partnerships between the United Nations, the diplomatic community, the private sector and civil society, working towards a more peaceful and sustainable world.

As an NGO holding special consultative status with ECOSOC of the United Nations, Peace Boat had the honor of collaborating with several United Nations agencies – namely UN DESA, the UN Office for



Peace Boat n Manhattan, New York

Partnerships (UNOP), the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the UN Global Compact to host the Partnership Expo.

The evening began with introductions by Peace Boat's founder and director Yoshioka Tatsuya, emphasizing Peace Boat's commitment to the SDGs. Peace Boat is the only ship in the world to carry the SDGs logo on its hull. Long-term Peace Boat supporter Ms. Cora Weiss spoke next, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and peace in moving forward for a sustainable world.



Partnership Expo participant

Following the opening, the audience was then treated to keynote speeches by UN officials including ECOSOC President, Her Excellency Ms. Marie Chatadova, and Ms. Alison Smale, the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communication who attended on behalf of UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres. Ms. Smale shared with participants the call to action that *“there is no one partnership, or one project, or one event that can do it all. It is your collective work that forms a critical piece of a larger puzzle. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is not an option, it is an imperative for a safe and secure future of prosperity, opportunity and human rights for all. It is within our grasp.”*. Other speakers in this session also echoed this message, including High Representative for UNAOC H.E. Mr Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Executive Director of UNOP Mr Robert Skinner, and Mr Dan Thomas on behalf of the UN Global Compact.

In the next special session on Oceans, Climate and Sustainability, Peace Boat was honored to first hear words from the UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson.

Following were featured talks by experts from the sciences, such as former NASA astronaut Col. Ron Garan who spoke about the life-changing experience of



H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson, UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean

viewing the Earth from space. Viewed from space, there's no question that our Earth is a single entity, and that the political divides we impose on it exist only in our minds. Though Dr Sylvia Earle, one of the world's leading marine biologists and a National Geographic explorer-in-residence since 1998, was unable to attend the event, she sent a video message in which she commended Peace Boat for fighting what she holds as the biggest threat to the ocean: ignorance about why it's important to take care of it. Peace Boat's own Ocean and Climate and Youth Ambassadors were also able to present about their passion for the ocean, the lessons they have learned while travelling onboard Peace Boat, and their commitment to building a more sustainable world.



Partnership Expo - Sustainable Fashion

Garan about the holistic beauty of the Earth, using the mediums of music and video. The members of Bella Gaia, which means “Beautiful Earth”, sang and played violin against a projection of images of the Earth and its geography.

After the plenary presentations, attendees of the Partnership Expo ventured onto the deck of the Ocean Dream docked on the Hudson River to hear more live music from Andrei Matorin and enjoy live painting by Dragon76 against the sunset behind the skyline of New York City. Guests were also able to view works by designers affiliated with the “*Conscious Fashion Campaign*”, a movement led by Kerry Bannigan aiming to produce fashion through sustainable and cruelty-free supply chains.



Partnership Expo - Live painting

The evening provided an opportunity for participants of the HLPF to gather outside the United Nations with representatives of Permanent Missions and the diplomatic community, Peace Boat partners and youth to network and discuss their respective initiatives for sustainability and peace and reinvigorate their enthusiasm for together creating a better world.

More information at: <http://peaceboat.org>