

**Remarks by Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant
Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency
Affairs, UN DESA**

**Draft Remark for Presentation on the SDG Good Practices, 2021
High-Level Political Forum**

Wednesday, 7 July 2021, 9:00 AM- 12:15 PM (EDT)

[Welcome – SDG Good Practices Initiative]

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to speak to you today. The HLPF is a unique place for the global community to discuss the challenges and advances on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

It is also an opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to showcase inspiring examples of actions that are helping to make the SDGs a reality on the ground.

I am pleased to share the outcomes of an open call for SDG Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned that was conducted by UN DESA earlier this year.

More than 740 submissions were received from all regions of the world, from national governments and stakeholders. These submissions were reviewed

by a team of experts from 24 UN entities – and I take this opportunity to thank all of them for their support and dedication.

As a result, around 460 practices have been identified as examples of SDG good practices, and the outcomes were made available publicly on a dedicated online platform.

The majority of submissions were received from NGOs, UN entities, private sector, and Governments, while Goal 17, Goal 1, and Goal 8 are the most mentioned SDGs in the submissions.

Allow me now to share a few of these inspiring SDG Good Practices.

[The EU External Investment Plan (EIP), including the European Fund for Sustainable Development]

- The “**European Union External Investment Plan (EIP)**”, is designed to help generate jobs, growth, and prosperity in support of the SDGs, and is contributing to positive change in countries neighboring the European Union and in sub-Saharan countries.
- Around 5.4 billion Euros have been allocated for blended projects and financial guarantees for high-quality investment projects.

[Partnership for Action on Green Economy]

- The ‘**Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**’ is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by five United Nations entities - UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR to provide integrated and holistic support to countries in reframing their economic policies, including macroeconomic modeling, sustainability and decarbonization practices and policies and more.

- This Partnership has delivered results across 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, partnering with 221 National Institutions and Ministries. It has also supported the development of 83 policies, trained more than 15,000 people and mobilized more than USD 87 million.

[Yucatan Solidario]

- “**Yucatan Solidario**”, implemented by the local government of the Yucatan State in Mexico is a joint collaboration among civil society, the business sector and the government that supplied more than 80% of the state's municipalities with food and medicines during the lockdowns established to combat COVID-19.
- Yucatan Solidario established alliances to promote and facilitate SDG implementation. As of December 2020, about 1,600 tons of perishable food and nearly 500 packages of different support goods had been delivered in 91 municipalities, reaching more than 1.5 million people.

[SINERGI Project - Inclusive Approach to Open More Access for Vulnerable Groups Including People with Disabilities to Training and Employment Opportunities]

- The “**SINERGI Project**”, implemented by the Rajawali Foundation based in Indonesia, in partnership with USAID, the Center for Public Policy Transformation “Transformasi” and Central Java Provincial Government, promotes the coordination between government, private sector, civil society and youth to support poor and vulnerable youth in accessing the labor market.
- More than 300 companies, 36 district level and 41 village level governments have been mobilized, more than 15,000 youth have been reached. SINERGI has created new job opportunities for over 1,500 poor and vulnerable youth and supported more than 100 new entrepreneurs.

[Planet+ Program for Carbon Neutrality by 2022 @ SITA]

- “**Planet + Program for Carbon Neutrality**”, an internal program implemented by *Société Internationale de Télécommunications Aéronautiques* (SITA), a private sector company from Belgium, aims at reducing CO2 emissions, switching to green energy providers and offsetting the remaining emissions.
- SITA has offset 48,000 tons of CO2 since 2018 through projects benefitting developing communities around the world.

[Impact Investing]

- Last example is “**Impact Investing**”, by Merck pharmaceutical company, to bridge gaps in access to care for a sustainable and resilient global health ecosystem.
- This initiative helps more than 9 million people worldwide per year, totaling USD 40 million in investments in organizations that are bringing urgently needed health solutions across different underserved communities, including millions of doses of vaccines delivered with the support of the UNICEF Bridge Fund; and thousands of patients received high-quality medical care.

[Closing]

- These are just a few of the many more inspiring examples that DESA has made available online.
- As we advance in the Decade of Action on the SDGs, it is time to move from words to action and speed up our ambition if we are to avert the worst outcomes of the pandemic and ensure a fairer, more sustainable world for everyone.
- I invite all of you to step up, register and share information with others about your concrete SDG Acceleration Actions, such as the Ehsaas emergency cash programme, launched by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to mitigate the economic hardship of the vulnerable as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Thank you!