

E-discussion: “*Managing the Transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what will it take*”

Summary Report Thematic Window III: Partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda

Thematic Window III on ‘Partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda’ discussed examples for fostering partnerships that can lead to implementation and development results at the global, national and local levels; how multi-stakeholder partnerships can be effectively established and taken into account to facilitate the implementation of development priorities; and the elements needed to ensure accountability within partnerships for managing responsibilities, commitments and expectations for the implementation of the SDGs.

Overall, e-discussion participants reiterated the importance of fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the post-2015 development agenda. They noted that harnessing the potential contributions of multiple actors, including governments, private enterprise, civil society, foundations, and others will be crucial for advancing the deliverability of resources and for increasing the effectiveness of the next development agenda. At the same time participants noted the need to have a better defined understanding of what partnerships mean where true partnerships are founded on a shared vision and are multi-stakeholder in nature. Key points from Thematic Window III of the e-discussion are summarized below:

What are good examples for fostering partnerships, including public-private that can lead to implementation and development results at the global, national and local levels?

- Building systematic partnerships with the private sector is a key prerequisite for the successful implementation of a transformative agenda to accelerate poverty reduction and sustainable development. The private sector has the ability to have a profound impact on areas as wide-ranging as food security, climate change, gender equality, human rights and good governance. The UN Global Compact, for example, is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. By doing so, business, as a primary driver of globalization, can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere. With over 12,000 corporate participants and other stakeholders from over 145 countries, it is the largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative in the world. Partnerships focus on the many areas where private actors and public institutions can engage in win-win relationships, such as poverty reduction, health, education and community development.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can make important contributions to promoting sustainable development through their well-established and diverse experience, expertise and capacity, especially in the area of analysis, sharing of information and knowledge, promotion of dialogue and support of implementation of sustainable development. Partnerships with NGO’s have yielded significant development results. Smile Foundation in India, for example, in partnership with more than 150 corporate and institutional partners and more than 180 grassroots NGO’s and Community Based Organizations, works to empower underprivileged children, youth and women through relevant education, innovative healthcare and market-focused livelihood programmes. Its interventions benefit more than 300,000 people annually. In Pakistan, partnerships with local NGO’s to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights have been quite successful as local NGO’s have now integrated this objective into their programmatic priorities. In Nigeria, the DFID-funded State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI) partners with citizen groups, parliamentarians and the media encouraging them to work together to promote more responsive, accountable and inclusive state governance. SAVI has been successful in promoting and accelerating key pieces of State legislation to support better

- The private sector can be a strategic partner in the implementation of the development agenda and their capacities can be harnessed to innovate in order to deliver real solutions for sustainability. Governments must work with businesses to create coherent policy frameworks and incentives to ensure that profits are translated into sustained economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. While the private sector can be an effective partner in addressing development challenges, it must assume a larger role in supporting and respecting the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights and supporting a precautionary approach to environmental challenges; undertaking initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
- CSOs have a prominent role to play in the implementation of development priorities and are key actors in multi-stakeholder partnerships. Greater investment –financial and otherwise– is needed in CSOs capacity to perform their critical and independent development roles.
- North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation can be powerful mechanisms to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships. These mechanisms can help find solutions to common development challenges through knowledge sharing, technology exchange, and collective action.
- In order for multi-stakeholder partnerships to play an effective and key role in the implementation of the new development agenda, structural coordination at the local, national, regional and global levels is needed.
- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has identified criteria (that are subject to ongoing review) for the development and implementation of multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development. These could help guide the work of existing partnerships and foster new alliances. Under these criteria, partnerships should:
 - be ambitious, identify concrete objectives and address transformational change in the spirit of the post-2015 agenda;
 - pursue clear and measurable goals, w

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- Formal institutions governing each partnership need to be set up for reporting, monitoring and

Expecting accountability of partnerships requires the commitment of states to affirm