

Spotlight Session

Informal Spotlight Session 3, “SDG Summit: Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to accelerate sustainable recovery and development”

31 January 2023, 3:00pm – 4:00pm NY EDT

Session Summary

Background on the event (max 150 words)

2023 will be a pivotal year for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as the evidence points to a regression in SDG implementation. Pandemic recovery has been uneven, with wealthy countries recovering faster than middle- and low-income ones. The road to a full recovery requires doubling down on the SDGs. As the midpoint to 2030, the SDG Summit represents an opportunity to recommit to the SDGs, and its success depends on effective and inclusive multistakeholder engagement and momentum building. This Spotlight Session’s objectives were to galvanize stakeholder attention towards the SDG Summit, showcase forward-looking solutions and examples of successful SDG implementation, and bring forward multistakeholder perspectives in building momentum.

Key Issues discussed (5-6 bullet points)

- Currently, in the world we live in, getting back on track is very challenging. The pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the global economic stagnation have all restrained the progress of the SDGs.
- The most vulnerable populations are at risk of being disproportionately affected.
- A successful SDG Summit will be one of inclusion, where all voices are heard, action, and true transformation. The SDGs Summit also needs to be a space of true accountability. Transparency helps build the SDGs.
- How do we seize the opportunity to ensure that the SDGs gain centrality in the policy agenda and how to boost their implementation?
- We need to learn from the past and get ready for the future.

Key recommendations for action (4-5 bullet points)

- We should avoid a wait and see approach. We must start building momentum. An urgent rescue effort is needed and we must not give up. We still have hope because we are continuing to work. Yet, we need to reenergize, recommit, and refocus on the progress toward the SDGs.
- We need to give voices to people who are excluded from society e.g. refugees and migrants, youth representatives, Roma communities, and people with disabilities. It is important to

emerge from September 2023 with solutions that are accessible and easily communicable to all people.

- Working with national authorities is the first step and we must closely align with national development priorities, e.g. vaccine access.
- We need civil society involvement from the international to local level, as their involvement is crucial for the SDGs implementation. The commitment to engage with civil society in a meaningful manner is highly significant and we must unleash a renewed sense of commitment toward the 2030 Agenda.
- The SDG is truly a universal agenda. We need to ensure policy coherence; governments and institutions need to speak the same language, work and advance in the same direction. We need to truly engage in a transformational shift and we need to have an accountability mechanism. We need to bring together stakeholders, provide a space to create partnerships, and establish an international system that thinks and acts.