

SUMMARY OF SIDE EVENT

Scaling Innovations for Impact: How the United Nations can partner with Member States to expand promising ideas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

3 May 2023, 0815 - 0930

Background on the event (one paragraph)

This side event was jointly organized by the Government of Finland, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Government of Australia, the UN Innovation Network and UN Global Pulse. The programme showcased concrete examples from the Governments of Finland, the Republic of Indonesia and Australia, as well as UNICEF, UNDP and WFP to illustrate successful collaborations for innovation scaling. This was done against the backdrop of UN 2.0 – a set of capabilities including innovation that can help the UN to offer more relevant and system-wide solutions to 21st century challenges. At this event, the Governments of the Republic Indonesia and Australia jointly announced a pledge to support the transition of Pulse Lab Jakarta in to becoming a new UN Global Pulse Asia Pacific regional hub. Moderated by the UN Innovation Network, the event also presented key findings of a UN System-wide research conducted by UN Global Pulse on the challenges for scaling innovations and proposed recommendations for how the UN and its multi-stakeholder network can support innovations to reach scale for impact.

Key points discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- For a UN 2.0 that is fit for purpose, and in response to the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda (OCA), innovation must be a permanent feature of the UN's work.
- There is a need to connect innovation to strategic foresight for more anticipatory innovation practices that can provide a stronger direction to innovation work and be responsive to emerging needs.
- Digital technologies and better use of data can help to identify strategic and operational priorities and guide timely crisis response.
- Scaling of innovations is a long journey and will require partners, incentives and new capabilities to overcome existing silos Multistakeholder cooperation can play an important role in the process.
- Innovation needs to be based on the context in which the UN works in, ensure continuous learning and build enabling ecosystems for innovation.
- There are challenges in reinventing the wheel without visibility of other solutions, no global consensus on standards and definitions of how to reach impact at scale and limited capacity of UN agencies to scale innovations.
- The Government of the Republic of Indonesia, with the support of the Government of Australia, jointly announced their support for the transition of Pulse Lab Jakarta into UN Global Pulse Asia Pacific regional hub to further create and boost conditions to accelerate innovation and scaling.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Partnering on the delivery on the Quintet of Change (UN.2.0) outlined by the OCA and being supported by the UN Global Pulse network.
- Involving stakeholders such as private sector, civil society and academia in a ‘no silos approach’ can create solutions to the challenges of scaling. Partnerships can allow for co-creation of ideas, exchange of expertise, knowledge or resources, promote inclusive innovation and promote scaling.
- Deepen current good practices in innovation scaling and invest in capability development.
- Broaden and make available actionable support to provide frameworks to bring innovations to scale.
- Expand innovation capabilities by exploring ways to incentivize innovation, increase collaboration among Member States, academia, private sector, public sector and civil society in value networks.