



# ECOSOC Partnership Forum

## Expert Group Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group to the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

15 November 2023, 8:00 – 10:00 AM (EST) (virtual meeting)

### Summary

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## Background

The [2024 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#) will be held on 30 January 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the theme *“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”*. The Forum will place a special emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals that will be reviewed at the 2024 HLPF, namely Goal 1 (no poverty); Goal 2 (zero hunger); Goal 13 (climate action); Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions); and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

The 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be focused on the exchange of new ideas, expectations, and priorities for the work ahead for ECOSOC and the HLPF on the theme. It will also showcase and discuss forward-looking actions and innovative partnerships by countries and all relevant stakeholders that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda and address new challenges.

In accordance with [A/RES/75/290A](#), the Partnership Forum will engage countries, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth and other stakeholders.

In order to support inclusive preparations, the ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Paula Narvaez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN, has established an informal **Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group on the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum**.

## Presentation of the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum programme and its preparations

**Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA**, began the meeting with a brief overview of the Partnership Forum. Ms. Tahtinen reviewed the Forum programme, including the SDG Action Segments that will focus on each of the SDGs under review. She also pointed to the ongoing open call for side events and shared some key points from the global online stakeholder consultation.

## Opening remarks

**H.E. Ms. Paula Narvaez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN, President of ECOSOC**, reinforced the objectives and theme of the 2024 Forum. She also stressed the important role of partnerships in advancing the SDGs, including key areas recognized in the SDG Summit outcome, such as eradicating poverty, ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture, achieving gender equality, promoting inclusive education and digital inclusion and fostering sustainable consumption patterns and financing

sustainable development. H.E. Ms. Narvaez also underscored the critical need for a collaborative and cooperative approach to make the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs a reality.

## Discussion

In the open dialogue, group members were asked to consider: how can partnerships support and drive transformations needed to achieve the SDGs; what enabling factors are needed to ensure partnerships flourish; how to ensure accountability of partnerships; what new research, analysis and tools are available to support partnerships; how to effectively promote active engagement of all stakeholders, including those most vulnerable; and to identify examples of successful partnerships to be featured at the Forum.

**Mr. Darian Stibbe, Executive Director, The Partnering Initiative**, introduced a recently published report titled "[Unite to Ignite](#)" that explores what is holding back partnerships for sustainable development and what is needed to deliver the SDGs through collaboration and engagement with stakeholders. The report also serves as a call to action for governments and organizations to shift their funding mechanisms and build their internal capacity to partner.

**Ms. Thanyaporn Krichtitayawuth, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact Network Thailand**, shared Global Compact's work on SDG 17, including the collaborative effort to develop the [SDG Guidebook](#), adopted by the government of Thailand. She further shared the efforts being done to integrate impact measurements into decision making and to set up science-based targets. She also referenced the [SDG Guidebook for Thai Listed Companies](#), which aims to act as a practical guideline for listed companies to incorporate SDGs into their operations and strategies.

**Mr. Charles Abani, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Ghana**, underlined the interlinked nature of the SDGs and the importance of viewing the compounding impacts, both negative and positive of the SDGs in synergies. He noted the particular challenge and need to think of how to maintain a development focus in times of conflict and crisis. He called for special attention to both governance issues and SDG 2 as it relates to displaced people.

**Mr. André du Plessis, United Nations Programme Director, Outright International**, spoke on behalf of the LGBTI stakeholder group, pointing to the critical need to address the intersecting challenges around social and climate justice. He emphasized the community-led work being done that is based on mutual trust, respect for dignity and the elevation of community knowledge. Mr. du Plessis highlighted partnerships in places of conflict and with the private sector aimed to increase the inclusion and protection for the LGBTIA community.

**Mr. Patrick Paul Walsh, Vice President of Education and Director of the SDG Academy, Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN)**, stressed the importance of open education resources and open data to accelerate the SDGs and ensure no one is left behind. Mr. Walsh highlighted some partnerships SDSN is involved in to mobilize digital infrastructures, including a partnership with UNESCO and UNITAR that resulted in the joint launching of [an AI and Human Right course](#). Mr. Walsh recommended all sessions of the

Forum to link directly to platforms, courses, certifications and relevant science materials to showcase the need for access to data and educational resources.

**Ms. Yera Ortiz de Urbina, Deputy Director and OiC, United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office**, suggested efforts to maintain the momentum of the SDG Summit and align the Forum with the outcomes of the Summit. She offered to provide examples of successful partnership with multilateral development banks and financial institutions, ensuring regional diversity.

**Ms. Shea Gopaul, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, International Organization of Employers**, shared that IOE is developing a playbook to guide collaboration between resident coordinators, employers, federations, private sector, global compact and UN entities to address issues at the local level. Ms. Gopaul stressed the importance of bringing together the right actors in a dialogue to enhance policies. She recommended that the Forum be held in a hybrid format to encourage the participation of more stakeholders working in the field that may not be able to travel for the Forum. She further suggested that the Forum link to the STI Forum to promote the reskilling of current and future workers.

**Ms. Mara Angelica Murillo Correa, Senior Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Programme**, highlighted the critical intersection of SDG 13 and SDG 16, linking climate and environmental justice. She emphasized the need to promote partnerships at the regional and local levels, and not only focus on global partnerships. Ms. Correa suggested the Forum highlight new partnerships that are being developed by different groups of society, with a focus on a whole-of-society approach.

**Mr. Marius Lukosiunas, Advisor, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO**, shared the work being done by UNESCO on SDG 16, namely the access to information and global information laws. He highlighted UNESCO's regional partnerships with the Network of Information Commissioners of Africa and a similar partnership in Latin America. Mr. Lukosiunas pointed to UNESCO's partnership with and for training judges in the judicial systems.

**Ms. Sofia Borges, Senior Vice President and Head of New York Office, United Nations Foundation**, echoed calls for a continued momentum of the SDG Summit, especially further efforts to bring the 12 UN High Impact Initiatives (HII) to scale.

**Mr. Caleb Brathwaite, President, Barbados Youth Development Council**, speaking on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth, stressed importance of youth participation at the Forum. He recommended that youth speakers, nominated by the Major Group, be involved in all sessions of the Forum. Mr. Brathwaite suggested that the Forum include a dedicated session on innovative partnerships for the implementation of the HIIs. He further suggested that the Advisory Group continue to have a role after the Forum, providing feedback and recommendations. Mr. Brathwaite also called for partnerships that protect people and planet over profits, highlighting the children that are losing their lives and future rights due to war and exploitative actions.

**Mr. Jan-Willem Lammens, External Affairs Officer, World Bank**, noted the new vision of the World Bank, which will focus on ending poverty on a livable planet through mission-oriented partnerships. He noted that strategic alignment of partners committing to promote better policy, draw political attention and leverage financial and development resources will enhance implementation. He also mentioned a “Partnership Charter” being developed.

**H.E. Mr. Sunil Algram Sitaldin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations**, stressed the need for practical actions for the implementation of the SDGs, and the importance of ensuring that information of discussions and recommendations be shared with those implementing the goals on the ground. He noted that financing is a challenge that should be prioritized at the Forum.

**Ms. Priya Sood, SDG 16 Knowledge and Advocacy, UNDP Oslo Governance Centre**, shared the [Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators](#), a joint report with UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR. She expressed UNDP’s interest to contribute to the SDG Action Segment on Goal 16.

**Ms. Anita Thomas, United Nations Representative, Women First International Fund and Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development**, underscored the importance of aligning the vision and design of partnerships with systemic transformation to be long-term and transformative. Ms. Thomas suggested showcasing partnerships that view governments, business and civil society as equal partners and work to localize the SDGs. She also recommended engaging members of the GISD Alliance and highlighting partnerships that support MSMEs. Lastly, she pointed to community-based partnerships that create action when governments are not able to step in.

## **Review of main recommendations and closing remarks**

H.E. Ms. Narvaez closed the meeting with a wrap-up of the key recommendations and sincere thanks to all members of the Advisory Group for their input. The recommendations will inform the preparations of the Forum.

Key recommendations:

- The discussions at the Partnership Forum should remain focused on achieving the SDGs amidst multiple crises. While looking at the SDGs under review at the 2024 HLPF, the Partnership Forum should also look at the interlinkages and trade-offs between the SDGs.
- Consideration should be given to also highlighting the 12 High-Impact Initiatives that were launched by the UN in connection with the 2023 SDG Summit (<https://www.un.org/en/sdg-summit-2023/page/transformative-action>).

- The Forum and the SDG-focused segments should feature new partnerships at all levels, as well as those that have adopted a whole of society approach and that promote collaborations that safeguard both people and the planet.
- Discussions on SDG 16 could also build on and share experiences from peacebuilding processes, as applicable.
- The Forum should foster active and meaningful participation and engagement by all stakeholders including youth, including by supporting hybrid participation, as relevant.
- Given the importance of financing, the Forum should also highlight partnerships that enhance global aid and the development finance architecture (a reference point in this regard could be the recent UN DCO report "Six Transitions," which outlines integrated approaches and investment pathways for SDGs). Consideration should also be given to actively engaging the private sector, including members of the GISD.
- The Partnership Forum should also look at ways to ensure open science, data access, and tools/knowledge sharing.
- Consideration should be given to ensuring that recommendations from the Forum are transmitted to the ground to inform those that are implementing the SDGs. The role of DCO was flagged in this regard.

## Partnerships

- [UNITAR, UNESCO, SDSN AI and Human Rights Course](#)
- [UNESCO and African Network of Information Commissioners partnership](#) to strengthen access to information legal frameworks and implementation across Africa.
- [Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance \(GISD\)](#)
- [Nature conservation and Government of Seychelles](#)

## Resources

- [Expert group meeting Mural](#)
- [Unite to Ignite](#)
- [UNDP & SEC SDG Guidebook for Thai Firms](#)
- [UNDP Guidebook Thai Listed Companies](#)
- [One Good Day Journey Agreement](#)
- [Connections that Matter: How the Quality of Governance Institutions may be the Booster Shot we need to reduce Poverty and Inequality](#)
- [UNESCO: Right Access Information](#)
- [UN ECA and Afreximbank Framework agreement to establish special economic zones](#)

- [Connections that Matter: How does the quality of governance institutions help protect our Ocean?](#)
- [SDSN Cop 28](#)
- [SDSN Open Education resources](#)
- [Sustainable Development OER platform](#)
- [Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs](#)
- [Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators: A Wake-Up Call for Action on Peace, Justice and Inclusion](#)