

GLOBAL ONLINE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION



SUMMAR REPORT

DECEMBER 2024



Department of Economic and Social Affairs







Global Online Stakeholder Consultation

Summary Report

to inform the preparations for the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report seeks to provide a summary of the inputs from a broad range of stakeholders received in an online consultation convened by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) ahead of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum. It is prepared by Jiayue Xu, Margaux Alexandra Bouniol, Suraya Rahim and Vivien Viera Schnitzler under the supervision of Meng Li, Naiara Costa and Lineke Wang Schrijver.

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The summary report intends to present a synthesis of views and opinions expressed by stakeholders in an online consultation held between 1 October and 1 November 2024 and does not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations. Reference herein to any specific organization, partnership, process, service, website, or otherwise, does not imply endorsement or recommendation from the United Nations and shall not be used for advertising or service endorsement purposes. Hyperlinks in the report are included as a convenience to readers. The United Nations has no control over external sites and is, therefore, not responsible, or legally liable for their content. The United Nations reserves the right to delete any input at any given time if its content is perceived as not aligned with the United Nations Charter or the principles and purposes of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum.

Table of Contents

40	knowledgments	П	
Di	sclaimer	П	
Ba	nckground	1	
	Global Online Stakeholder Consultation for the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum		
	Questions	4	
	Responses in numbers	5	
Κe	ey takeaways for the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum	7	
Su	ummary of the Global Online Stakeholder Consultation		
	Key challenges to sustainable development and "leaving no one behind" that require immediate attention and partnerships (Question 1)	11	
	Policy recommendations to further strengthen the impact from	16	
	Partnering with stakeholders - most effective ways for stakeholders tocontribute to partnerships for the SDGs (Question 3)	20	
	Capacity, knowledge and resources required to develop and sustain effective partnerships for SDGs (Question 4)	24	
	Examples of partnerships that led to substantial progress in SDGsunder review at 2025 HLPF (Question 5)	26	
	Stakeholder messages to world leaders (Question 6)	32	





2025

5 FEBRUARY 2025 | UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK

The 2025 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will be held on 5 February 2025 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the theme "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, scienceand evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind". It will place a special emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be reviewed at the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), namely Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing); Goal 5 (Gender Equality); Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); Goal 14 (Life Below Water); and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In accordance with resolution 75/290A, "the partnership forum will be focused on the exchange of new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Council cycle and the high-level political forum held under the auspices of the Council. The partnership forum will also discuss forward-looking actions by countries and all relevant stakeholders as well as innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda."

The 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be a key opportunity to galvanize 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, early in the ECOSOC cycle.

As part of the preparatory process of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, a global online stakeholder consultation was conducted from 1 October to 1 November 2024 to solicit written views, experiences, and proposals from all relevant stakeholders and make them widely available prior to the event.

This report presents the main outcomes of the consultation, highlighting key messages, views and suggestions from stakeholders that are most relevant to the theme and focus of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum. It does not intend to cover all inputs received. Detailed submissions can be viewed online <a href="https://example.com/here.











The global online stakeholder consultation was designed to:

- Encourage broad and inclusive engagement in lead-up to the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum;
- Compile inputs from stakeholders from different sectors, across all regions and at all levels, on how to strengthen partnerships to accelerate the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially those that relate to the SDGs under review at the 2025 highlevel political forum on sustainable development (HLPF);
- Seek stakeholder recommendations on examples
 of innovative partnerships that are accelerating the
 implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially the
 SDGs under review at the 2025 HLPF.



The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), convened the global online consultation from 1 October and 1 November 2024 (see detailed questions on the following page). Information about the global consultation was widely disseminated through mailing lists, UN official websites, and social media channels.

Global Online Stakeholder Consultation Questions

2025

5 FEBRUARY 2025 | UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK

1

What key challenges to sustainable development and "leaving no one behind" do you observe in your region that require immediate attention and partnerships? How can Governments and stakeholders work together to address these challenges more effectively while integrating them into a broader global framework for sustainable development? Please specify the region that your response applies to.

2

If you can share one policy recommendation to Governments to help further strengthen the impact from partnerships to advance sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for sustainable development and the acceleration of the SDGs, what would it be? What level does your recommendation align with (global, regional, national, subnational or local, other)

3

There are many ways for stakeholders to contribute to partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including but not limited to the following. Reflecting on your own partnership experience, please rate them by their level of effectiveness. Please elaborate and highlight why certain contributions from stakeholders are particularly effective or ineffective for partnerships. Any other effective ways for stakeholders to contribute to partnerships?

- Knowledge and expertise sharing
- Cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination
- Community-level implementation
- Data collection, reporting, monitoring and evaluation
- Financial contribution
- Science, technology and innovation
- Awareness raising and public engagement
- Advocacy and fund-raising

4

What capacity, knowledge, or resource is most required to develop and sustain effective partnerships for the SDGs? Select up to three elements from the list below which you think are most actionable to improve in the limited time before 2030.

- Training in professional partnering competencies (e.g. shared language, collaborative skills)
- Access to networks and platforms for partnership development and networking
- Facilitation and support for partnership processes (e.g. third-party facilitators)
- Tools and resources for partnership development and management
- Organizational alignment and internal systems to foster a pro-partnering culture and incentives
- Other

5

To help inspire the discussions at the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, could you share one example of the most effective partnership you know that has led to substantial progress on the ground in at least one of the SDGs under review in 2025, namely, SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 14 (Life below water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Please share the name of the partnership, relevant SDG(s) under review in 2025, scope of impact, key drivers for effectiveness, website.

6

Please finish the below with a catchy on-line sentence:

To advance sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for sustainable development and the acceleration of the SDGs at all levels, we need partnerships that

Responses in numbers

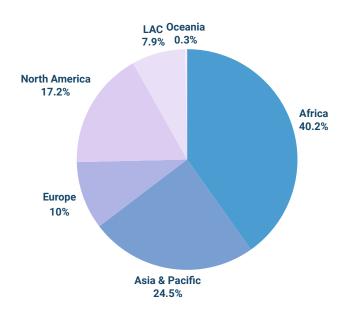
331

83

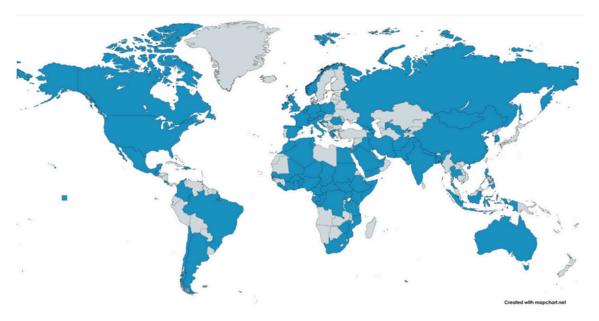
RESPONSES

COUNTRIES

A total of **331 substantive responses*** from interested stakeholders were considered for this analysis. They originated from **83 countries or areas****, covering all **regions** of the world. More than half of them were submitted by stakeholders based in Africa (40.2%) and Asia and Pacific (24.5%). Oceania was the least represented region (0.3%). All of these inputs are made publicly available here.



Distribution of submissions by region. Source: UN DESA



Geographic distribution of submissions. Source: UN DESA

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or any area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

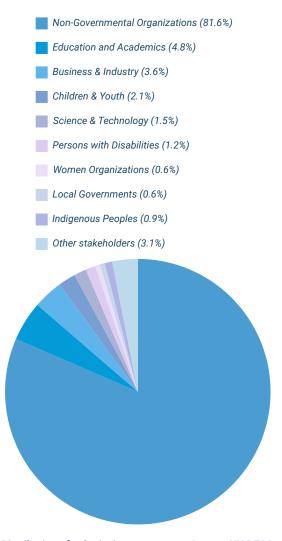
^{*} The consultation registered a total of 339 responses. A few duplications and unverifiable responses were identified and not considered for this analysis.

^{**} The 83 countries or areas include: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte D'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

81.6%

FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

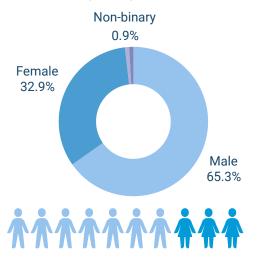
The majority of stakeholders contributing to the online consultation self-identified representatives from Governmental Organizations (NGO) -81.6%. Others included: Education Sector & Academia: Business & Industry:. Children & Youth; Science & Technology Community; Persons with Disabilities; Indigenous Peoples: Women Governments, Organizations; Local among others (see details below).



Distribution of submissions per sector. Source: UN DESA

Gender

With regards to **gender**, 65.3% of the contributors self-identified as male, amost double the number of female contributors (32.9%).

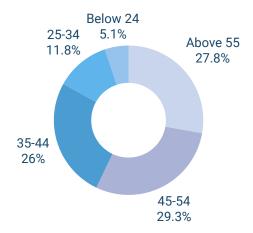


Gender distribution of responses. Source: UN DESA

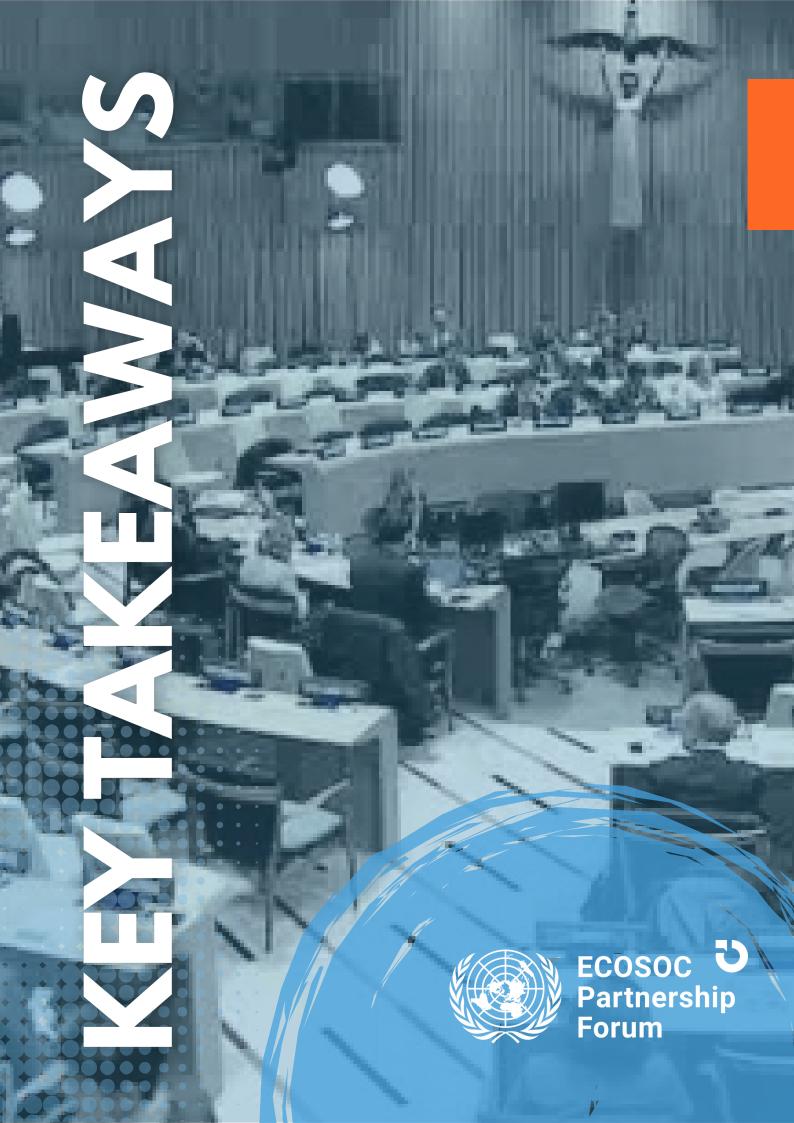
16.9%

UNDER 35 YEARS OLD

With regards to **age**, more than half of responses came from stakeholders 45 and older. Only 5.1% came from those under 24 years old. (See details below.)



Age distribution of responses. Source: UN DESA



KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR 2025





Stakeholders called for **urgent attention and partnerships** to address a wide range of challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, inequality, lack of access to basic services, education, healthcare, conflicts and displacements, digital divide, among others (see word cloud below).

Unemployment Infrastructure Deficit Marginalized Groups **Poverty** Resource Mobilization Circular Economy YouthIndigenous Peoples **Food Insecurity** Renewable Energy Governance Rural Leave No One Behind Inequality **Conflict & Displacement** Water Ocean Community Engagement Environmental Degradation Healt Informal Economy imited Access Gender inequality silos **Digital Divide** raining and Capacity Building Civil Society Engagement InC

LEARN MORE >>

Word cloud on key challenges that require immediate attention and partnerships based on stakeholder responses to Question 1 (created using Wordart.com)



Knowledge and expertise sharing, awareness raising & public engagement, community-level implementation, cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination are perceived as the most effective ways for stakeholders to contribute to partnerships.

Women & Girls





Stakeholders called for more efforts to improve key **capacity**, **knowledge**, **resources help develop and sustain effective partnerships** for the SDGs.

Stakeholders rated "access to networks and platforms for partnerships" and "training in professional partnering competencies (e.g. shared language, collaborative skills)" as the most actionable areas to improve in the limited time before 2030, which are closely followed by "facilitation and support for partnership processes (e.g., third-party facilitators)", "tools and resources for partnership development" and "organizational alignment and internal systems for partnerships".





Stakeholders have identified a number of **drivers for partnership effectiveness**, such as adopting **evidence-based approaches**, developing **tailored solutions** to meet local contexts, having **strong and effective leadership**, **clear communication and shared goals**, **robust governance structures and financing mechanisms**. Effective partnerships are **adaptable** and engage in collaborations that **transcend boundaries** – geographical, sectorial, institutional – to address interlinked challenges in an integrated manner.

ENGAGING MARGINALIZED GROUPS
INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISM
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TAILORED SOLUTIONS
EVIDENCE—BASED APPROACHES
STRONG AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP
CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND SHARED GOALS
CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION
AROBUST GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES



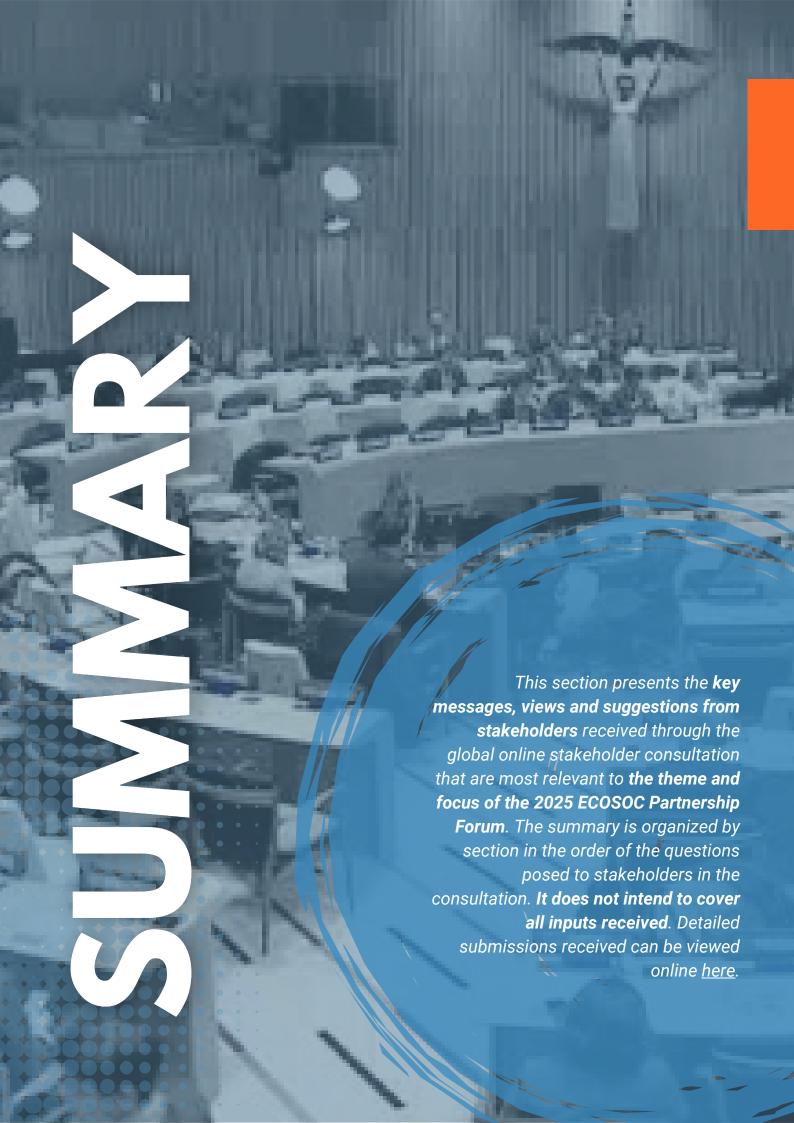
Word cloud on key drivers for partnership effectiveness, based on stakeholder responses to Question 5 (created using Wordart.com)



To help Governments **further strengthen the impact from partnerships**, stakeholders shared many **policy recommendations**, with some recurring themes highlighted below:

- Create dedicated hubs, networks, and platforms to facilitate collaboration, both vertical (global to local) and horizontal (across sectors), to align efforts, share resources, and co-create solutions;
- Make efforts to raise awareness, build capacity, and share knowledge, including technology and skills transfer to low-income areas and marginalized communities;
- Establish formal mechanisms to elevate the voices of marginalized groups within governance processes and structures to ensure that no one is left behind;
- Support smaller-scale efforts and expand successful models to foster partnerships with proven effectiveness and higher potential for long-term impact.
- Simplify grant application processes and lower entry barriers for smaller organizations to contribute;
- Establish robust monitoring mechanisms to track partnership implementation to ensure transparency and accountability.





Key Challenges

THAT STAKEHOLDERS CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION AND PARTNERSHIPS



In **Question 1**, stakeholders were asked to share key challenges to sustainable development and "leaving no one behind" observed in their regions that require immediate attention and partnerships. They were also asked to outline how Governments and stakeholders can work together to address these challenges more effectively while integrating them into a broader global framework for sustainable development.

Among all the substantive responses, 20% reflected upon global challenges, 40% provided inputs on key challenges observed in Africa, 24% in Asia and Pacific, 4% in Europe, 5% in North America and 7% in Latin America and Caribbean.

The top challenges highlighted are depicted on the word cloud in the previous page, with further details elaborated below:

Poverty and Socio-Economic Inequalities

Economic disparities and unequal access to services essential such as education. healthcare. and resources remain critical challenges globally. Marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, and rural communities, often face systemic inequities that hinder their participation in the economy and overall well-being. These inequalities perpetuate cycles of poverty, limit opportunities for growth, and exacerbate social tensions.

"The key challenges to sustainable development that require immediate attention partnerships are youth unemployment, climate change, and inequality. Marginalized groups, including women, youth, and indigenous populations, face barriers to opportunities and resources, hindering efforts to 'leave no one behind.' Climate change disproportionally affects vulnerable communities, exacerbating poverty and increasing disaster risks, while unemployment drives social instability." (Good Governance Protection Forum, Children & Youth, Nepal)

Proposed solutions include promoting inclusive through economic growth public-private partnerships that improve infrastructure. support small businesses, and create affordable housing. Structural changes, such as enhancing access to childcare and education, are deemed essential to closing inequality gaps. By adopting such strategies, stakeholders aim to create equitable economic environments that empower marginalized groups and improve overall societal resilience.

Poverty remains one of the most persistent barriers to achieving sustainable development globally. Factors such as limited access to education, inadequate healthcare, and unstable economic conditions disproportionately affect marginalized communities. These challenges are further intensified by climate change, conflict, and systemic barriers. The intersection of poverty with other socio-economic issues, such as unemployment and lack of access to technology, restricts upward mobility and perpetuates cycles of deprivation. Strategies to combat poverty emphasize equitable resource distribution, capacity-building programs, and robust safety nets to mitigate risks for vulnerable populations. By addressing poverty holistically, governments and organizations aim to foster resilience and empower communities.

"High unemployment, especially among youth, highlights the need for improved vocational training and decent work opportunities." (Trinity Girls Network Corp, Non-Governmental Organization, United States)

Digital Divide and Technology Access

The uneven distribution of digital infrastructure, tools, and literacy poses significant challenges to sustainable development. Marginalized populations are disproportionately affected, with limited access to critical digital resources impacting education, healthcare, and economic

opportunities. This divide not only restricts participation in the digital economy but also increases vulnerabilities, particularly for youth, to harmful digital practices due to insufficient ethical standards in digital literacy.

Addressing these disparities requires investments in digital infrastructure to ensure equitable access and fostering ethical digital literacy programs targeted at underserved groups. Collaborative efforts between public and private sectors are crucial to closing the gap and enabling vulnerable populations to fully participate in the digital economy, contributing to sustainable development.

"A lack of ethical standards in digital literacy poses challenges, particularly in protecting youth from harmful digital practices" (Concern on Innovative Radiance Society, Non-Governmental Organization, United States).

Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

Climate change, environmental degradation, and pollution remain persistent threats to ecosystems and vulnerable communities. Regions facing deforestation, overfishing, and poor resource management are particularly affected, with climate risks disproportionately impacting the poorest populations. Limited adoption of nature-based solutions exacerbates these issues, reducing the ability of communities to adapt and thrive in changing environmental conditions.

"Due to climate changes and conflict, there are serious challenges in ensuring equitable access to food and water" (Barzani Charity Foundation, Non-Governmental Organization, Iraq).

Proposed solutions include adopting sustainable practices such as nature-based solutions, stricter governance in resource management, and regional partnerships to address food and

water insecurity. Stakeholders emphasized the need for stronger regulations, particularly in areas like fishing, and for promoting sustainable agricultural and marine practices to restore ecosystems and mitigate climate risks.

"Climate change vulnerability poses a substantial threat, as many areas face increasing risks from climate-related disasters that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations with limited adaptive capacity." (BRANDi and Companies, Business & Industry, Thailand)

Health Inequities

Health disparities disproportionately impact marginalized populations, particularly in rural areas, where access to essential healthcare infrastructure is often limited. Factors such as the closure of rural hospitals and barriers to accessing menstrual hygiene products further exacerbate these inequities, particularly among women and vulnerable groups. These gaps in healthcare access hinder overall well-being and contribute to systemic inequalities.

Addressing these challenges requires targeted investments in rural healthcare infrastructure and the expansion of telehealth services. Initiatives providing affordable menstrual hygiene products and preventative care for women are also critical. By improving healthcare access and reducing disparities, stakeholders aim to create more inclusive health systems that meet the needs of underserved populations.

"The integration of technological innovation, medical training, equitable distribution of economic resources, and the involvement of the civil society is essential for enhancing the impact of Goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda... Health systems face numerous challenges, from rising costs and unequal access to health services to emerging diseases. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach." (Campus Salute Onlus, Non-Governmental Organization, Italy)

Lack of Inclusive Governance

Stakeholders expressed concerns that development initiatives often exclude local community perspectives, resulting in ineffective policies and a lack of ownership. Siloed approaches and limited coordination among actors further hinder sustainable development, while the absence of nature-based solutions in projects limits their long-term impact. Stakeholders highlight the need for participatory decision-making and the inclusion of civil society and local stakeholders in planning and implementation.

"Governments and stakeholders should promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to pool resources, engage communities, and localize [SDGs]. This means involving local leaders, creating inclusive policies, and ensuring representation of marginalized groups. By aligning local priorities with the global SDG framework, policies can become more effective and culturally relevant." (Centar Društvenih Inovacija, Non-Governmental Organization, Croatia)

Recommendations include integrating local perspectives into infrastructure projects and establishing cross-sector coordination mechanisms. Fostering inclusive governance, may enhance accountability and ensure that development initiatives are more equitable and effective.

Education and Awareness

Stakeholders indicated that **lack of awareness** about the SDGs and insufficient integration of systems-thinking approaches in education systems pose barriers to progress. Without widespread understanding and actionable knowledge of sustainability, individuals and institutions struggle to contribute meaningfully to achieving these goals.

To address this, stakeholders advocate for implementing SDG literacy programs and embedding systems-thinking approaches in education. Public awareness campaigns and community workshops are also proposed to engage citizens and empower them to take impactful actions toward sustainability.

"One of the main challenges is to achieve universal education and lifelong learning. If education is not guaranteed, it is impossible to build the capacities that people need to face the challenges of development." (Global Campaign for Education, Education Sector & Academia, Costa Rica)

Partnerships and Collaboration

Effective partnerships between governments, the private sector, and NGOs are critical for achieving sustainable development. However, these collaborations often lack coordination. funding, and inclusive platforms stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders expressed their concern that, without a unified efforts remain fragmented, approach, reducing their overall impact.

"Partnerships (SDG 17) between governments, civil society, and the private sector are crucial to tackle these challenges and ensure sustainable development for all under the 2030 Agenda." (Millenium Child Support Group, Children & Youth, Ghana)

Stakeholders recommend creating frameworks for shared goals and providing resources to support multi-sectoral partnerships. By fostering inclusive platforms for co-creating solutions, these collaborations aim to address systemic challenges and amplify the impact of development initiatives.

"Collaborative initiatives involving local communities, non-profits, and the private sector are essential to ensure inclusive decision-making" (Partnership with Native Americans, Non-Governmental Organization United States)

Conflicts and Migration

Conflicts and migration remain critical challenges to sustainable development, as they disrupt livelihoods, hinder economic stability, and strain resources in affected regions. Stakeholders alerted that armed conflicts lead to displacement. creating challenges governments and stakeholders in providing adequate resources, housing, and social services for refugees and internally displaced populations. Additionally, conflict-affected areas often suffer from weak governance and infrastructure, further impeding recovery and long-term development efforts.

"Migration, often due to conflict or economic crises, creates significant barriers for young people to access quality education and health care." (Solidarité numérique Éducation et Santé Castres (SCESC), Non-Governmental Organization, France)

To address these challenges, stakeholders advocated for conflict resolution initiatives and the establishment of sustainable frameworks to manage migration effectively. Strengthening local governance, providina support for displaced communities, and creating opportunities for economic integration are identified as key priorities. Collaborative approaches involvina governments. NGOs. and international organizations are essential to build resilient systems that address both immediate needs and long-term solutions for affected populations.

"Armed conflicts in Africa, especially in sub-Saharan regions, create barriers to sustainable development and increase displacement" (Organisation for Gender, Civic Engagement and Youth Development, Non-Governmental Organization, Cameroon).

Policy Recommendations

TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SDGS



In **Question 2**, stakeholders were asked to share one policy recommendation to Governments to help further strengthen the impact from partnerships to advance sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for sustainable development and the acceleration of the SDGs.

In response, stakeholders offered a range of insights that highlighted the importance of multisector collaboration, inclusivity, data transparency, funding, and capacity building. These insights emphasized the critical role of creating an enabling environment that fosters effective, inclusive, and sustainable partnerships. Key themes are detailed below:

Enabling Multi-Sector Collaboration for Sustainable Solutions

Stakeholders widely advocated for the creation of dedicated hubs, networks, frameworks, and platforms to facilitate ongoing collaboration across sectors. These platforms would serve as spaces for public, private, and civil society actors to align efforts, share resources, and cocreate solutions. Stakeholders believe that facilitating multi-sector collaboration is essential to maximize the impact of partnerships.

"Recommend that governments institutionalize multi-stakeholder partnerships through a dedicated "Sustainable Development Partnership Platform." This platform would bring together government agencies, civil society, private sector, youth organizations, and academia to cocreate policies and implement evidence-based, inclusive solutions aligned with the SDGs. It should prioritize youth engagement, climate action, and social inclusion by ensuring that decision-making is participatory and science-driven." (Good Governance Protection Forum; Children & Youth; Nepal)

Stakeholders highlighted the need for interhierarchical collaboration, both vertically (global to local) and horizontally (across sectors at each level). They argued that such collaboration would help align efforts, maximize resource availability, and foster mutual learning, ultimately supporting the acceleration of the SDGs at every level.

"Implementing the SDGs requires that governments be able to work with a diverse set of actors across policy domains, levels of governance and timeframes. Institutional mechanisms can increase policy coherence by facilitating cross-sectoral integration." (Somali Aid & Humanitarian Organization (SAAHO); Non-Governmental Organization; Somalia)

Building Capacity and Support Systems for Inclusive Development

A critical barrier identified by stakeholders is the lack of awareness about partnership opportunities, particularly in remote underserved areas. They called for efforts to raise awareness and provide educational resources, ensuring that all communities can engage with and benefit from sustainable development initiatives. Education should be a core component of partnerships, empowering communities with the knowledge to actively participate.

"To build a more robust civil society, governments should prioritize policies that strengthen partnerships between civil society organizations, educational institutions, and local communities. Such programs not only foster social responsibility but also promote critical thinking and democratic engagement, empowering youth to actively participate in shaping their communities. By embedding civic activities into educational frameworks and

encouraging public-private collaborations, partnerships can cultivate a shared commitment to social justice and sustainable development." (Asociatia GEYC; Non-Governmental Organization; Romania)

There was strong support for policies that promote technology and skills transfer between high-income and low-income countries to build local capacities. Stakeholders emphasized that wealthier nations should engage in capacity-building partnerships, sharing technology and knowledge to support sustainable development in less-resourced regions. Respondents also advocated for the implementation of the Global Digital Compact in order to close this digital divide.

"Governments should actively promote knowledge sharing and capacity building in these partnerships to enhance the scalability and replicability of successful initiatives and maximize their impact on sustainable outcomes" (Adventist Development and Relief Agency – ADRA; Non-Governmental Organization; USA)

Funding was a major focus, with stakeholders for diversified fundina calling sources. simplified grant applications, and the creation of regional and global funds dedicated to sustainable partnership projects. Simplifying grant processes would also lower barriers for smaller organizations to participate in impactful initiatives. These resources are deemed essential to support the scaling of successful partnerships and enable more actors to engage sustainable in development efforts. Stakeholders emphasized that there is a severe lack of funding opportunities currently.

"Many NGOs struggle to secure continuous funding, which is essential for maintaining programs. Partnerships with government bodies, private sector companies, or international organizations can provide financial support and help diversify income streams." (NGOs Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi Cantt; Non-Governmental Organization; Pakistan)

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in Partnerships

A recurring theme was the need for inclusive policies that ensure that marginalized groups, such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and Indigenous Peoples, are actively included in partnership discussions, building on the principle of leaving no one behind. Stakeholders called for formal mechanisms that elevate the voices of these groups within governance processes, stressing that their unique perspectives and traditional knowledge are valuable assets in advancing sustainable development.

"To tailor solutions to local needs, marginalized communities, civil society, and private sector actors should be involved in decision-making processes." (Centre for the Sustainable use of Natural and Social Resources (CSNR); Non-Governmental Organization; India)

Many stakeholders emphasized the importance of scaling partnerships by initially investing in grassroots initiatives and pilot projects. By supporting smaller-scale efforts and expanding successful models, governments can foster partnerships that have proven to be effective and with higher potential for long-term impact. This approach would enable adaptation to local contexts and ensure resources are directed towards impactful programs.

"Knowledge derived from real-life experiences and community-based action provides crucial context needed to meet SDG targets and measure progress. Drawing on such knowledge will enable local governments to implement interventions that are context specific, culturally appropriate, and aligned with local priorities. Local civil society and research organizations can inform such bottom-up efforts and help ensure that solutions benefit marginalized groups." (African Alliance for Health Research Economic Development; Non-Governmental Organization; Kenya)

Stakeholders highlighted the critical role of accessible, science-based data and citizen science in driving evidence-based decisionmaking. They called for policies that promote transparent data collection and sharing, including the involvement of citizens and local volunteers as valuable and cost-effective contributors to data gathering. This inclusive approach would enhance partnership initiatives and better inform future decision-making. artificial Additionally. intelligence mentioned numerous times due to its potential in facilitating data collection and analysis. Stakeholders urged for further research and development in this field, along with stricter regulations to prevent misuse.

"By integrating scientific research with community insights and local knowledge, governments can ensure that policies are both data-driven and deeply reflective of the lived experiences of vulnerable populations. This participatory approach will accelerate progress on the SDGs by fostering adaptable, inclusive partnerships." (Harvard Medical School; Education sector and Academia; United States of America)

To ensure accountability, stakeholders urged for the establishment of robust monitoring mechanisms to track partnership implementation. They emphasized the need for publicly available information on partnership outcomes to enhance transparency, inform future policies, and allow the public to assess the effectiveness of resource use. Transparent tracking of progress is viewed as essential to building trust in partnerships and government initiatives.

"Generate networks among different stakeholders involved in R&D&I, such as universities, technology centers, and high-performance centers, as a first step to share knowledge and create joint developments. Another key element is measuring the impact on society and on each specific SDG. You can only improve what is measured. Localized statistical databases must be built, where the information can be disaggregated." (Basque Government; Local Government; Spain)

Through these policy recommendations. stakeholders envision framework for а partnerships that is inclusive, data-driven, and transparent. This approach prioritizes building capacities, ensuring local diverse representation, and promoting sustainable growth across sectors and regions. By fostering collaboration and accountability, governments can enhance the adaptability of partnerships to and community needs maintaining global coherence and shared responsibility. Such a framework positions partnerships as powerful drivers of progress toward the SDGs. ensuring that communities, especially marginalized ones, are integral to the journey towards a more sustainable and equitable world.

Partnering with Stakeholders

MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS FOR STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SDGS



In **Question 3**, stakeholders were asked to rate the effectiveness of eight ways for stakeholders to contribute to partnerships building on their own partnership experiences, ranging from extremely ineffective to extremely effective. The distributions of their overall ratings are summarized in the chart below.

Knowledge and expertise sharing, as well as awareness-raising and public engagement, have been indicated as the top priorities that contribute to effective partnerships.

Considering that effectiveness ratings are in many cases context-specific, stakeholders were also invited to further elaborate on the reasons why certain ways of stakeholder contributions are considered particularly effective or ineffective. Key insights are summarized below.

Knowledge and Expertise Sharing

Many stakeholders emphasized that **structured platforms and specialized training programs** significantly enhance overall impact. Strong institutional support and targeted capacity-building initiatives were key for success.

In contrast, several stakeholders highlighted challenges like uneven access to knowledge resources, language barriers, and limited engagement. To address these disparities, stakeholders suggested expanding training programs and improving access to technical resources in underrepresented areas.

Cross-Sectoral Collaboration and Coordination

Many stakeholders emphasized strong governance frameworks and alignment between public and private entities as reasons for successful initiatives. Similarly, stakeholders highlighted growing recognition of cross-sectoral efforts, though some noted the need for further strengthened coordination. Conversely, many stakeholders rated this approach as "extremely ineffective," citing reasons such as fragmented policies, low trust, insufficient coordination. Their and recommendations included fostering multistakeholder dialogues, building trust, and aligning incentives to improve outcomes.



Reflection of effective ways for stakeholders to contribute to partnerships based on inputs to Question 3 (UN DESA)

Community-Level Implementation

Community-level implementation was regarded as "highly effective" by a large number of stakeholders where initiatives are often wellfunded and tailored to community needs. These stakeholders emphasized the importance of inclusivity and arassroots engagement. However. some stakeholders reported perceptions of lower effectiveness, primarily citing reasons such as resource limitations, inadequate local capacity, and insufficient government support. Their suggestions included decentralizing decision-making and providing local communities with sufficient funding and capacity building to improve technical expertise.

Data Collection, Reporting, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Many stakeholders rated data-related efforts, and reporting. monitoring. evaluation "extremely effective," which could be attributed to advanced tools, transparent methodologies, and robust capacity-building efforts, among others. On the other hand, different stakeholders highlighted challenges such as technical limitations, lack of standardization, and gaps in transparency, which contributed to their perception of relatively lower effectiveness. Recommendations in this regard included investing in data infrastructure, standardization, and developing local technical skills.

Financial Contributions

Many stakeholders perceived financial contributions as being "extremely effective" mentioning **innovative funding models**.

On the other hand, some stakeholders highlighted limited resource availability and inefficiencies in fund allocation. Solutions suggested by stakeholders included adopting innovative financing models, such as blended finance and public-private partnerships, to bridge funding gaps.

Science, Technology, and Innovation

Stakeholders consistently rated science, technology, and innovation as an extremely effective way for stakeholders to contribute to partnerships, especially when leveraging cuttingedge technological advances to drive solutions accelerate SDG implementation. Some stakeholders also shared perceptions of growing effectiveness in this area, supported by technology transfer and innovation hubs. stakeholders However. some expressed concerns over inadequate access to technology and limited infrastructure. Suggestions in this regard included fostering global partnerships for technology transfer and enhancing local capacity building through financial and technical support.

Awareness Raising and Public Engagement

Many stakeholders highlighted the success of targeted campaigns and educational initiatives in mobilizing public support for SDG efforts. In contrast, other stakeholders provided mixed feedback, with many citing cultural and language barriers and limited outreach as factors hindering effective stakeholder contribution to partnerships.

To improve effectiveness in this regard, stakeholders recommended localizing awareness-raising efforts, incorporating local language and cultural contexts, and more community-driven approaches.

Advocacy and Fundraising

Many stakeholders emphasized advocacy and fundraising efforts, supported bv networks and strategic campaigns influencing policy and securing funding. Stakeholders noted similar successes, particularly in grassroots mobilization. On the contrary, others reported perceptions of limited advocacy effectiveness, attributing it to relatively weaker networks and relatively more restricted access to decisionmakers. Recommendations included building stronger coalitions, leveraging digital platforms, and aligning advocacy efforts with regional policy priorities.

Others

Many stakeholders highlighted additional ways for stakeholders to contribute to partnerships for the SDGs including fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) to enhance collaboration and cost-effectiveness; advocating for policy influence, raising awareness to spread best practices; engaging communities to localize solutions and tailoring approaches to regional contexts and creating multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms to foster collaboration and alignment across sectors. Other recommendations included promoting inclusivity in project design through co-creation and supporting marginalized groups to ensure equitable contributions, aligning efforts with the principle of "leaving no one behind."

Capacity, Knowledge & Resources

THAT STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS



In **Question 4**, stakeholders were asked to provide inputs on capacity, knowledge, or resources most required to develop and sustain effective partnerships for the SDGs. They were asked to select up to three from a list of five options to reflect what they think are most actionable to improve in the limited time before 2030. They also had the option to select "other" and provide further input.

The overall results are depicted below:



Capacity, knowledge, or resources most required to develop and sustain effective partnerships for the SDGs, based on stakeholder responses to Q4

The most frequently selected element was access to networks and platforms for partnerships, chosen by 74% of stakeholders. This was closely followed by training in professional partnering competencies (e.g., shared language, collaborative skills), which chosen by 70% of responders. Facilitation and support for partnership processes (e.g., third-party facilitators) was the third most common choice, selected by 50% of stakeholders. Tools and resources for partnership development (46.2%)organizational alignment and internal systems for partnerships (42.9%) were also notable responses selected. Additionally, 7.9% of responses selected were unique responses, highlighting various additional needs to foster effective SDG partnerships. Networking and knowledge sharing were seen as essential to driving effective partnerships. Stakeholders highlighted that networks could facilitate access to connections across diverse sectors, enabling

organizations to share resources, foster innovation, and build support systems. They emphasized that establishing data-sharing networks and collaborative online platforms could help partners align goals and share best practices, ultimately enhancing making and accountability. Additionally, some stakeholders noted that organizational alignment and a pro-partnering culture within organizations vital for are sustaining partnerships. additional responses, ln stakeholders emphasized capacity building and sustainable funding as crucial for enabling effective partnerships. Consistent funding emerged as another critical area, particularly for smaller NGOs, which struggle to maintain commitments without reliable financial resources. Stakeholders also pointed to the need for advocacy within partnerships to amplify the voices of marginalized groups and ensure their perspectives are integrated into SDG efforts, promoting inclusivity across sectors.

Examples of Effective Partnerships

THAT STAKEHOLDERS RECOMMENDED FOR GOALS UNDER REVIEW AT THE 2025 HLPF



In Question 5, stakeholders were invited to share one example of a most effective partnership that has led to substantial progress on the ground in at least one of the SDGs under review in 2025, namely, SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 14 (Life below water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). In addition, stakeholders were invited to outline key drivers for their effectiveness.

Key Drivers for Partnership Effectiveness

The word cloud below shows the most important drivers highlighted by stakeholders. Stakeholders placed great emphasis on **evidence-based approaches** as a key factor in determining the effectiveness of partnerships. Through data collection and analysis, evidence-based knowledge can be generated, allowing

resources to be used effectively and tailored interventions to be designed. Stakeholders mentioned that evidence-based interventions and the use of data to support them allow for greater accountability. Strong and effective leadership is crucial as it demonstrates commitment, ensures long-term sustainability and improves coordination. According to stakeholders, effective leadership is essential to guide partnerships and resolve conflicts, leading decision-making. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of tailored solutions and partnerships to the specific needs of marginalized groups, local communities, and socio-economic contexts, to ensure long-term sustainability. Stakeholders emphasized clear communication and shared goals as key drivers of effective partnerships. Clear objectives, open communication, and a shared vision are hereby crucial. Cross-sector collaboration is another important driver. multi-stakeholder collaborations between NGOs, governments, and innovators create holistic solutions and lead to diverse perspectives.

ENGAGING MARGINALIZED GROUPS
INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISM

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TAILORED SOLUTIONS

EVIDENCE—BASED APPROACHES
STRONG AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP
CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND SHARED GOALS
CROSS—SECTOR COLLABORATION
ROBUST GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

Word cloud on key drivers for partnership effectiveness, based on stakeholder responses to Question 5 (UN DESA)

Selected Examples of Effective Partnerships Recommended by Stakeholders









GLOBAL FINANCING FACILITY

The Global Financing Facility (GFF) is a country-led partnership hosted at the World Bank that fights poverty and inequity by promoting the health and rights of women, children, and adolescents. It does this by helping countries strengthen health systems and increase access to care through prioritized plans, aligned public and private financing, and policy reforms. With the support of the GFF partnership, countries are taking the lead in building health systems that benefit women, children and adolescents.

"The effectiveness of the Global Financing Facility (GFF) is driven by three key factors:

- (a) Multisectoral Partnerships: The GFF engages a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and private sector actors, fostering collaboration that brings together diverse expertise and resources to tackle health challenges holistically.
- (b)Evidence-Based Approach: By prioritizing data collection and analysis, the GFF ensures that health interventions are based on solid evidence. This data-driven strategy enables targeted funding and the ability to measure progress effectively.
- (c) Sustainable Financing: The GFF emphasizes strengthening domestic resource mobilization, encouraging countries to invest in their health systems. This focus on financial sustainability ensures that health initiatives are resilient and can continue to operate effectively in the long term, reducing reliance on external aid."

Partnership highlighted by Association Mouvement pour la Defense de l'Humanité et l'Abolition de la Torture (MDHAT), Non-Governmental Organization, Younde/Cameroon





GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE

<u>Gavi</u> is an international organization bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal of saving lives and protecting people's health by increasing equitable and sustainable use of vaccines. Gavi's impact draws on the strengths of its core partners, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and plays a critical role in strengthening primary health care (PHC), bringing us closer to the SDG target of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), ensuring that no one is left behind. Gavi also works with donors, including sovereign governments, private sector foundations and corporate partners; NGOs, advocacy groups, professional and community associations, faith-based organizations and academia; vaccine manufacturers, including those in emerging markets; research and technical health institutes; and implementing country governments.

"Multistakeholder Collaboration: GAVI brings together diverse partners, including governments, UN agencies, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies and donors. This collaboration: Leverages expertise, Shares resources, Ensures collective ownership. Innovative Financing Models: GAVI's financing approach includes Donor funding, Private sector investments, Vaccine bonds, Co-payment schemes. This flexibility ensures sustainable funding. Country-Led Implementation, GAVI's country-driven approach: Empowers national governments, Aligns with local health plans"

Partnership highlighted by Peculiar Women of Destiny International, Inc., Non-Governmental Organization, United States/Nigeria











THE GLOBAL FUND

The Global Fund is a worldwide partnership to end HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer and more just future for all. The Global Fund raises and invests more than US\$5 billion a year to fight deadly infectious diseases, address the injustices that fuel them, and strengthen health systems and pandemic preparedness in more than 100 of the most affected countries. It brings together world leaders, communities, civil society, health workers and the private sector to find the most impactful solutions and scale them up globally. The Global Fund is the world's largest multilateral donor for global health in low- and middle-income countries, disbursing more than US\$65 billion to countries since 2002.

"The effectiveness of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria can be attributed to several key drivers. Here are the top three:

- 1. Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: Diverse Partnerships, Shared Ownership
- 2. Data-Driven Decision Making: Evidence-Based Strategies, Monitoring and Evaluation
- 3. Innovative Financing Mechanisms: Flexible Funding, Sustainability Focus

These drivers, multi-stakeholder collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and innovative financing mechanisms, are pivotal to the Global Fund's effectiveness in addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes globally."

Partnership highlighted by Human Access for Partnership and Development, Non-Governmental Organization, Yemen







STRIVE WOMEN

Strive Women, a four-year program led by CARE and supported by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, is strengthening the financial health of women-owned small businesses in Pakistan, Peru and Vietnam. Women-owned small businesses are critical contributors to economies, communities and households around the world. Working with local partners, Strive Women uses a women-centered design approach to deliver tailored financial products and support services, such as building digital skills and strengthening women's networks. The program addresses the unique gender barriers faced by women-owned businesses and tests innovations related to the climate crisis and childcare, both of which disproportionately affect women. Building on a long-term commitment to women entrepreneurs, CARE is also activating an inclusive ecosystem of stakeholders. While the program will directly support over 300,000 entrepreneurs, Strive Women aims to reach over 6 million entrepreneurs through its campaigns.

"The effectiveness of the Strive Women Program can be attributed to several key drivers. First, the alignment with Key Performance Indicators allows for clear, measurable tracking of progress in areas such as the number of women trained, improvements in financial literacy, and access to financial services. This data-driven approach enables continuous evaluation and adaptation of strategies to meet goals. Second, the program's comprehensive training and support provide tailored education in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and vocational skills, equipping women with essential tools for success. This holistic approach enhances individual capabilities and fosters community empowerment and economic growth. One of most important thing was design thinking and constant iteration in offerings based on feedback."

Partnership highlighted by Mobilink Microfinance Bank, Business & Industry, Pakistan





MISSION BLUE

Mission Blue inspires action to explore and protect the ocean. Led by oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle, Mission Blue unites a global coalition to increase public awareness, access and support for a worldwide network of marine protected areas - Hope Spots. Under Dr. Earle's leadership, the Mission Blue team is implementing communications campaigns that bring Hope Spots to the world stage through documentary films, social media, traditional media, and innovative tools such as Esri ArcGIS. Mission Blue also conducts regular ocean expeditions that shed light on these vital ecosystems and build support for their protection. The Mission Blue alliance currently includes more than 200 respected ocean conservation groups and like-minded organizations, from large multinational corporations to individual scientific teams conducting critical research. In addition, Mission Blue supports the work of conservation NGOs that share the mission of building public support for ocean conservation.

"The partnership between Mission Blue and the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy project is a prime example of effectiveness in advancing SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This collaboration has led to significant progress in establishing large marine protected areas (MPAs) worldwide, including areas critical to biodiversity and climate resilience. Top three drivers of its effectiveness:

- 1. Strong Scientific Foundation: This partnership leverages cutting-edge research and data, ensuring that MPAs are designated based on ecological importance.
- 2. Global Advocacy and Policy Influence: Through coordinated efforts, the partnership has influenced policy at both national and international levels, securing political will for ocean protection.
- 3. Community Engagement and Local Leadership: The inclusion of local stakeholders and communities ensures long-term sustainability, empowering them to manage and protect their marine environments."

Partnership highlighted by Sylvia Earle Alliance / Mission Blue, Non-Governmental Organization, USA











GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DATA

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is a network of over 700 private sector, academic and civil society organizations, and governments, with a Secretariat based across eight countries. The Partnership works across 35+ countries and convenes a network based in 80+ countries. It leverages the power of data to change minds, policies, and lives for the better with the aim of ensuring that data can be put to good use to achieve the SDGs. One important initiative, the Power of Data: Unlocking the Data Dividend for the SDGs, aims to accelerate the progress on the SDGs by harnessing the potential of data and technology. Through this initiative, countries are brought together to build political support, strengthen partnerships, and mobilize investment in national data systems to support development strategies.

"The effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the SDGs is driven by: Shared vision and common goals: ensuring alignment and commitment among all partners. Effective governance and clear roles: providing structure, accountability, and transparency. Resource mobilization and shared contributions: leveraging diverse resources and ensuring the sustainability of efforts."

Partnership highlighted by Y4D Foundation, NGO, Youth Led Organization, India







ITC SHETRADES INITIATIVE

Founded in 2015, <u>ITC SheTrades</u> aims to create the right conditions and capacity for women to thrive in global trade. At SheTrades, the work is underpinned by the firm understanding that empowering women through trade requires pulling all the levers in the trade and business ecosystem. Women producers and traders gain access to critical knowledge, resources, and networks; support policymakers in inclusive policy reforms; and leverage public and private partnerships to amplify the impact of their work.

"The three main factors in the effectiveness of the SheTrades Africa partnership are:

Training and capacity building: The programme offers targeted training to improve the skills of women entrepreneurs, making them more competitive on the international market. This enables them to better manage their businesses and increase their economic impact.

Access to finance: SheTrades Africa facilitates access to appropriate financial resources, enabling women to invest in their businesses. This financial support is crucial to overcoming the economic barriers that often prevent women from accessing opportunities.

Networking and partnerships: The programme promotes networking between women entrepreneurs, support organisations and potential buyers. By creating connections and facilitating partnerships, SheTrades Africa maximises business opportunities and raises the profile of women in the economic sector"

Partnership highlighted by LEADERS DE DEMAIN, Poverty and Social Inclusion NGO, France

Stakeholder Messages

TO WORLD LEADERS ATTENDING THE 2025 ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM



"To advance sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for sustainable development and the acceleration of the SDGs at all levels, we need partnerships that..."

In **Question 6**, stakeholders were invited to complete the above with a catchy on-line sentence. This section highlights a few selected quotes, which do not represent all of the entries received in the consultation. All inputs are accessible <u>here</u>.

"...ensure accountability and transparency."

Clean Climate and Environment Campaign Initiative, Non-Governmental Organization, Nigeria

"...innovate and grow together, empower nations, and leave no one behind."

Sibling's Keeper, Non-Governmental Organization, USA,

"...break down barriers, foster innovation, and unite diverse perspectives to drive sustainable change."

Politeknik Statistika STIS, Education Sector and Academia, Indonesia

ignite collaboration, champion, equity, and accelerate global progress."

Harvard Medical School, Education Sector and Academia, USA

"...are inclusive, sustainable and impactful."

Village farmers Initiative (VFI), Indigenous Peoples, Nigeria

"...can be tailored and scaled according to local needs."

WAVE Foundation Africa, Non-Governmental Organization, Nigeria

"... align their objectives and scale successful projects from local to global."

Basque Government, Local Governments, Spain

"...ignite innovation and drive collective impact for a brighter future."

Nile Engineering, Science & Technology Community, Ethiopia

"...foster unity, support local initiatives, and build a sustainable future for everyone."

Millennium Child Support Group, Children & Youth, Ghana

"...embrace gender-transformative and collective approaches to empower all and drive meaningful change."

African Girls Empowerment Network, Non-Governmental Organization, Nigeria

"...empower action, spark innovation, and drive change for a greener, equitable future."

Green Mentors, Education sector and Academia, India

"...drive innovation, bridge global gaps, and create resilient pathways to a sustainable future."

Shushilan, Non-Governmental Organization, Bangladesh





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