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2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum Side Event

Successes and Challenges: How Adaptable Partnerships Drive Solutions, Build Trust, and Advance SDGs 5 and 16

5 February, 2025, 10:00-11:30 AM (EST), Bahá'í International Community

Organized by: Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, CIC-NYU; Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations; International Development Law Organization (IDLO); UN OROSLI; Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC)

Background

SDG5 on Gender Equality, under in-depth review at this year's HLPF, and SDG16 on Peace, Justice and Inclusive Institutions are widely acknowledged as enablers of the larger 2030 Agenda. Similarly, partnerships are paramount to advancing the SDGs, as no government nor stakeholder can realize sustainable change alone. As such, and with five years remaining until 2030, this side-event focused on lessons learned in building effective multistakeholder partnerships to advance SDG5 and SDG16 at national and local levels, and their impact across sectors, development priorities, and other SDGs. With a focus on evidence-based policies and networked multilateralism, speakers provided examples and lessons learned from local, regional, national and international levels of partnerships that have practically advanced SDG 5, 16 and their interlinkages across development and political spectrums and the processes behind them.

Key Issues discussed

- Both SDGs 5 and 16 have practical interlinkages across the SDGs and are therefore critical to accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda, due to their enabling role.
- Ensuring national and international policies are gender- and youth-sensitive requires strong coordination and partnerships between government (especially ministries), civil society, the UN, academia and the private sector.
- Effective partnerships utilize the sharing of good practices, evidence-based research, and coordinated actions, while still honoring the specific identities of partners. Networks are particularly adept at this, through knowledge sharing, joint messaging and coordinated work that can have lasting, long-term impact.
- The active participation of women and youth is necessary to create policies, initiatives and partnerships that advance sustainable development with a gender and youth sensitive lens. Civil society and grassroots organizations play an important role in this regard due to their proximity to marginalized and hard to reach populations.
- Sustainable partnerships, including inter-agency, can be challenging and require sustained coordination and compromise to last long-term.

Key recommendations for action

- Effective communication is key to addressing gender stereotypes, garnering public support and documenting progress and “wins”. Partnerships can support effective communications by tailoring messages, working with trusted messengers, to the target audience through understandable and culturally sensitive language.
- Evidence-based analysis, advocacy and awareness campaigns can address resistance to gender equality policies.
- Focusing on common interests and goals help to mitigate challenges such as information-sharing and coordination between organizations with different priorities.
- Flexible, sustainable funding that supports both bottoms-up and top-down approaches is important.
- Broad coalitions that include grass-roots organizations and the general public can continue to put pressure on decision-makers to implement gender equality and peace, justice and inclusion and prevent rollbacks due to political shifts.