



## **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 17 in preparation for HLPF 2019:**

### ***“Harnessing the Means of Implementation through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Build Inclusive and Equitable Societies”***

10:00 am – 1:00 pm, 12 April 2019,  
Conference Room 11, UNHQ

#### Concept Note

#### **Introduction**

Sustainable Development Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, "*Strengthen the means of implementation (MoIs) and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*" seeks to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development through intensive and systematic engagement of governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors in the implementation of other sixteen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Goal 17 cuts across all SDGs and is considered annually at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) when held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Five other goals will also be considered in depth at the 2018 HLP (see “Thematic focus” section below)

Goal 17 is elaborated by 19 targets in the areas of finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, and various systemic issues, including policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data, monitoring and accountability.

Building on the outcome of the 2018 Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on SDG 17, the 2019 EGM will continue to focus on the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in harnessing the MoIs in the implementation of the SDGs in focus. In 2019, it will be held back to back with the ECOSOC Partnership Forum (11 April, 2019), which aims to explore the innovative examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships and partnership platforms led by national governments under the theme of "*Reaching Those Farthest Left Behind Together: Partnerships as a Lever for Inclusive Sustainable Development*".

Building on the outcome of the *Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation*, which will be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019<sup>1</sup>, and noting the work of the other dedicated fora for SDG 17 – including the *biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF Forum)*; the annual *Financing for Development (Ffd) Forum and the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum)*; *World Investment Forum*; and *UN World Data Forum* – this Expert Group Meeting on SDG 17 is intended to also discuss ways to utilize South-South and tri-angular cooperation in support of the SDGs in focus as a complementary MoIs.

The EGM is organized by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in close collaboration with relevant offices of the department (Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development; Financing for Sustainable Development Office; and Statistics Division); United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and World Bank as a preparatory meeting in support of the review of SDG 17 at the 2019 HLPF.

### **Thematic focus**

The 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC, will focus on reviewing the five goals (besides Goal 17) with the theme of *"Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality"*.

- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 10: Reduce income inequality within and among countries.
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy.
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Under the theme of *"Harnessing the means of implementation through multi-stakeholder partnerships to build inclusive and equitable societies"*, the envisaged EGM aims to engage experts and practitioners working with these different MoIs on the ground to: **(i)** discuss ways the partnerships can bring concrete contributions to enhance and harness MoIs in the implementation of the SDGs in focus ; and **(ii)** identify some of strategic, inter-linked areas of MoIs to promote greater synergies and speed up progress on the SDGs.

### **Focus Questions:**

- *What concrete contributions can multi-stakeholder partnerships bring to ensure that MoIs are effectively mobilized and managed and that systemic changes are facilitated in support of the implementation of SDGs 4,8,10,13, and 16?*

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<sup>1</sup> On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

- *How can the UN play more effective roles – at global, regional and country levels –in promoting more demand- driven, results-based and accountable partnerships and discouraging unnecessary parallel structures and fragmentation for the effective implementation of SDGs 4,8,10,13, and 16?*

### **Participation**

The EGM will be held the day after the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, on Friday, 12 April 2019 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in UNHQ in New York. The meeting will be an opportunity for experts representing the governments, academia and think tanks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, philanthropic organizations, local governments, parliaments, UN entities and major groups and other relevant stakeholders to build on the outcomes of the 2019 ECOSOC Partnership Forum and to further deepen discussions on how to harness multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16.

### **Outcome**

The outcome of the EGM will be a detailed summary, which will be made available on the 2019 HLPF website. It will directly feed into the 2019 HLPF review of SDG 17.