

# PARTNERSHIPS for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## The Partnerships Team

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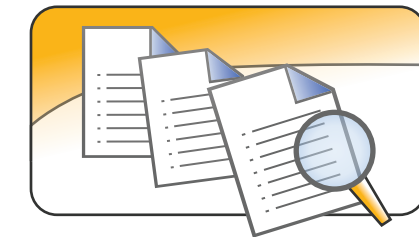
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## Criteria and Guidelines

Governments agreed at the 11th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-11) that partnerships within the context of the WSSD process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with an agreed set of criteria and guidelines, taking note of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for WSSD, including the Bali Guiding Principles and General Assembly resolution 56/76. The criteria and guidelines are set out below:

- ▶ Partnerships are voluntary initiatives undertaken by Governments and relevant stakeholders, e.g. major groups and institutional stakeholders;
- ▶ Partnerships should contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should not divert from commitments contained in those agreements;
- ▶ Partnerships are not intended to substitute for commitments made by Governments but to supplement the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- ▶ Partnerships should have concrete value addition to the implementation process and should be new – that is, not merely reflect existing arrangements;
- ▶ Partnerships should bear in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation;
- ▶ Partnerships should be based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, include mobilizing new resources and, where relevant, result in transfer of technology to, and capacity building in, developing countries;
- ▶ It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;
- ▶ Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In this regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;
- ▶ Partnerships should be publicly announced with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- ▶ Partnerships should be consistent with national laws, national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place;
- ▶ The leading partner of a partnership initiative should inform the national focal point for sustainable development of the involved country/countries about the initiation and progress of the partnership, and all partners should bear in mind the guidance provided by Governments; and
- ▶ The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to the intergovernmentally agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes.



United Nations



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# Partnerships *for* Sustainable Development

## What are Partnerships for Sustainable Development?

- ▶ Voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives contributing to implementation of inter-governmental sustainable development commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- ▶ Initiatives that add concrete value to the implementation of sustainable development by involving those relevant stakeholders whose activities have direct impact on sustainable development
- ▶ They are unique in their integrated approach to addressing economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development
- ▶ They are an important complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
- ▶ They are not a substitute for government responsibilities and commitments
- ▶ Over 200 partnerships were launched in the lead up to the WSSD
- ▶ Over 300 partnerships are currently registered with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)



## What are registered Partnerships?

The CSD secretariat has a registration process through which partnerships working towards sustainable development can register their initiatives with the Commission on Sustainable development.

- ▶ Registered partnerships are featured in the CSD Partnerships Database
- ▶ Registered partnerships provide input to summary reports prepared for the Commission on Sustainable development
- ▶ Registered partnerships network and make presentations at CSD Partnerships Fairs

## CSD Secretariat Partnerships Team

In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Governments designated the Commission on Sustainable Development as a focal point for discussion on partnerships for sustainable development. The CSD Secretariat Partnerships Team works to facilitate discussion by the Commission on the contribution of partnerships towards supporting the implementation of sustainable development by:

- ▶ disseminating partnerships information in a transparent manner
- ▶ providing a venue for partnerships to showcase progress
- ▶ fostering dialogue on practical partnership solutions
- ▶ creating and supporting networking opportunities
- ▶ developing an online portal of partnership information, linking information resources with partnership practitioners and other interested parties
- ▶ compiling summary reports highlighting trends in registered partnerships
- ▶ encouraging the registration of new partnerships

## Online Resources

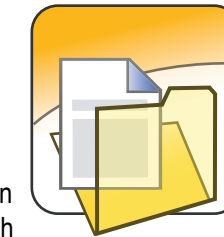


The CSD Secretariat's website on Partnerships for Sustainable Development is a valuable tool for sharing information on partnerships-related issues, and contains a wide variety of applications designed to promote information-dissemination and networking, including in particular:

**CSD Partnerships Website:**  
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/>  
**Partnerships Database:**  
<http://esa.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/>  
**Partnerships Events Calendar:**  
<http://esa.un.org/dsd/partnerships/calendar/public/>  
**Partnerships Publications:**  
<http://esa.un.org/dsd/partnerships/publications/public/>  
**Partnerships Web links:**  
<http://esa.un.org/dsd/partnerships/links/public/>  
**CSD Partnerships e-Forum:**  
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/eforum/>

## CSD Partnerships Database

Developed in response to a request from the Commission at its 11th session, this user-friendly database contains information based on voluntary self-reports from partnerships registered with the Commission on Sustainable Development. The CSD Partnerships database facilitates knowledge-sharing on the implementation of sustainable development through partnerships, and helps registered partnerships to attract new partners and donors. The database features a range of search functions:



- ▶ Browse Function: Browse by partnership title, geographic scope or lead partner
- ▶ Simple Search function: Search by keywords, partner organization name and partnership theme.
- ▶ Advanced Search Function: Search by numerous criteria including the types of capacity-building activities.
- ▶ Partnerships Resources Search Function: Search for partnerships that are seeking funding and non-financial resources.
- ▶ Partnerships Statistics Function: Trend statistics are generated based on current data.

## Publications

The CSD Secretariat's Partnerships Team produces various reports and informational documents, including:

- ▶ Annual summary reports for consideration by the CSD, containing synthesized information; statistics on trends; and progress in partnership implementation.
- ▶ Partnerships Fair Highlights reports containing key issues raised at Partnerships Fair discussion sessions
- ▶ Partnerships Fair Programme and Guidelines for participation
- ▶ Background documents for various partnership-related meetings

## CSD Partnerships Fair

Every year, in April/May at UNHQ, New York at the annual sessions of the Commission for Sustainable Development, a Partnerships Fair is organised by the CSD Secretariat Partnerships Team. The CSD Partnerships Fair provides a venue for partnerships for sustainable development to network, identify partners, create synergies between partnerships and learn from each other's experiences. The Partnerships Fair usually has several components including:

- ▶ "Partnerships in Practice" interactive discussion sessions
- ▶ Information desks where CSD registered partnerships display and distribute information
- ▶ Partnership presentations on progress made in partnership implementation

## Registration Procedures



Partnerships for sustainable development that are consistent with the criteria and guidelines are encouraged to register with the CSD. There is no deadline, registration is an ongoing process. There are several ways you can send us your information:

**Via Website:** Create a user profile on the e-DESA Information portal <http://esa.un.org/dsd/> to access the online CSD Partnerships Registration form.

**Via E-mail or Fax:** Download the Registration form from the CSD Partnerships website <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/>, and email the completed form to [beyondwssd@un.org](mailto:beyondwssd@un.org) or fax to +1 (917) 367 2341.