

Governance *for* Sustainable Development

VOLUME 2

Implementing the 2030 agenda



Edited by the Friends of Governance
for Sustainable Development



Governance for Sustainable Development Volume 2: Ideas for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development is produced by the Friends of Governance for Sustainable Development. The chairs of the Friends of Governance for Sustainable Development are the governments of Germany, Nigeria, Republic of Korea and Romania.

Secretariat support for the Friends of Governance for Sustainable Development is provided by ARTICLE 19 through the Civic Space Initiative funded by the Swedish International Development Agency.

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Published by New World Frontiers

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Published March 2018

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Acronyms and abbreviations

A4SD	Action for Sustainable Development
AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ADC	Africa Data Consensus
APF	Asia Pacific Forum
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBDR	Common but Differentiated Responsibilities
CEB	Chief Executives Board
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CGD	Citizen-Generated Data
CIVICUS	World Alliance for Citizen Participation
CoD	Community of Democracies
CR	Country review
CSA	Country self-assessment
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
EEAC	Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EMG	Environmental Management Group
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FfD	Financing for Development
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GN-NCSD	Global Network of National Councils for Sustainable Development and Similar Bodies
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Cooperation
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IACSD	Interagency Committee on Sustainable Development
IAEA	International Atomic for Energy Agency
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDEA	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IAEG-SDG	Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IEP	Institute of Economics and Peace

IFI	International Financial Institutions
IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations
IFSD	Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development
IMF	International Money Fund
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JPoI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	Least Developed Country
MDB	Multi-Lateral Development Banks
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MDG-EIAG	Millennium Development Goals Expert Inter-Agency Group
MOI	Means of Implementation
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
NCSD	National Councils for Sustainable Development
NPEAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPoAs	National Plans of Action
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
NSO	National Statistical Offices
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OI	Open Institute Kenya
OWG	Open Working Group
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PrepCom	Preparatory Committee
PRI	United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
RNE	German Council for Sustainable Development
RTI	Right to Information
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SAP	Strategy and Action Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDplanNet	Sustainable Development Planning Network
SF	Stakeholder Forum
SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics
SIDS	Small Island Developing States

SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-Based, With Time Based Deliverables
SSI	Sustainable Stock Exchanges
TAI	The Access Initiative
UN	United Nations
UNCAS	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO-IPDC	UNESCO International Programme for Development Communication
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-FI	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Introduction

Akinremi Bolaji, Yeongmoo Cho, Reinhard Krapp, Cristina Popescu, David Banisar, Felix Dodds and Quinn McKew

The Friends of Governance for Sustainable Development is an informal government group which was created in the autumn of 2011. It has built on a rich tradition of ‘Friends of Groups’ in New York which have served as a useful informal space for governments to discuss ideas and papers relating to a particular topic.

The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda states:

“We are calling for a fundamental shift to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of well-being, not optional extras. This is a universal agenda, for all countries. Responsive and legitimate institutions should encourage the rule of law, property rights, freedom of speech and the media, open political choice, access to justice, accountable government and public institutions. ... These are ends as well as means.”

These were incorporated in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals and have been further elaborated upon as indicators.

The main objective of the Friends group is to create an informal space for governments to have discussions among themselves, backed up by expert papers when requested, on issues relating to good governance and the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) in relation to the development and implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

It is chaired by the governments of Germany, the Republic of Korea, Nigeria and Romania. Over the last year, it has hosted three workshops with the support of ARTICLE 19 as the secretariat for the Friends group.

Achieving sustainable development requires an enabling environment. Governance plays a crucial role in creating those conditions, notably, for our purposes in the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda process. From creating new platforms to reforming old ones, the process must live up to this standard and its mechanisms should be geared towards fostering this type of new international environment and cooperation for sustainable development.

This is the second volume produced by the Friends Group. The first volume presented the period from late 2014 to the end of 2015. The Group also has a website which it places the papers that are being discussed at the Friends Group’s meetings, which can be found [here](#).

The chapters of this book are a reflection of the rich contributions made by governments, intergovernmental bodies and stakeholders to the three workshops that the Friends Group hosted in 2017.

The papers in this book only represent the views of the people who write them; they do not represent the views of the Friends Group.

In preparing this book, we would like to thank John Charles for the design of the book and Tanner Glenn for work in editing and marketing to enable a broader readership.

Biographies

Davis Adieno, works at CIVICUS World Alliance as Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development. He advises, oversees and coordinates organisational initiatives on sustainable development, including identifying and pursuing partnerships and fundraising opportunities for these. He designs organisational positions and messaging on sustainable development in consultation with CIVICUS' membership and other key stakeholders. He plays a leadership role in the strategic direction and delivery of DataShift (an initiative of CIVICUS that focuses on strengthening the capacity of civil society to generate and use citizen-generated data to engage and power campaigns) and has extensive experience in data, citizen engagement, and policy engagement. He joined CIVICUS in 2016 from Development Initiatives where he worked as Senior Manager Strategic Partnerships and Data Use, based at the Africa Hub in Nairobi Kenya. He champions the harnessing of the data revolution for effective sustainable development at various levels – by supporting and bringing together parliamentarians, policy makers, civil servants, technology experts, civil society organisations, and community level organisations to develop inclusive information ecosystems that support data sharing and use. He holds a Masters in Communication Studies from the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

David Banisar, is a Senior Legal Counsel at ARTICLE 19. He has worked in the field of information policy for over 20 years and was previously Director of the Freedom of Information Project at Privacy International. He has authored books, studies and articles on freedom of information, freedom of expression, media policy, whistleblowing, communications security and privacy. He has also served as an advisor and consultant to numerous organizations, including the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the UN Development Programme and the Open Society Institute.

He was a research fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and Policy Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, DC. He has a Juris Doctor in law and public policy from The Columbus School of Law, at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Akinremi Bolaji, is currently Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of the Second Committee in the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN.

Born on 4th December 1965, in Ibadan, the largest city in West Africa, Mr Akinremi Bolaji joined the Diplomatic Service of Nigeria in 1993, after a stint in the private and media sector. His foreign service training traversed both Nigerian and Indian Academy. He is a Multilateralist Diplomat and has served in the Embassy of Nigeria in Addis Ababa.

He served as the Chief Protocol Officer in The Office of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Before his Posting to New York He was the Deputy Director & Head of Policy planning Division as well as Head Crisis Management and Public Communications Division cum Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Nigeria,

He is a Political Economist with unusual skill in Protocol, Event Planning and Management, and Project design.

He is a committed Husband, Father and a Preacher of the Good News.

Yeongmoo Cho, is currently Counsellor working within the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the UN

Felix Dodds, is a Senior Fellow at the Global Research Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is an Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute. He was the co-director of the 2014 Nexus Conference on Water, Food, Energy and Climate.

Dodds was the Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future from 1992-2012. He played a significant role in promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues at the United Nations and proposed to the UN General Assembly the introduction of stakeholder dialogue sessions at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

He has been active at the UN since 1990, attending and actively participating in UNFCCC, UNCBD, the World Summits of Rio Earth Summit, Habitat II, Rio+5, Beijing+5, Copenhagen+5, World Summit on Sustainable Development and Rio+20, while also attending the UN Commissions for Sustainable Development and UNEP Governing Councils.

In 2011, he chaired the United Nations DPI 64th NGO conference – 'Sustainable Societies Responsive Citizens'. From 1997-2001, he co-chaired the UN Commission on Sustainable Development NGO Steering Committee.

Dodds has written, or edited, fourteen books the most recent is *Negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals: A Transformational Agenda for a Insecure World* written with Ambassador David Donoghue and Jimena Leiva Roesch it is the fourth book in the Vienna Café Trilogy the other books are *Only One Earth: The Long Road via Rio to Sustainable Development* written with Michael Strauss and Maurice Strong and *From Rio+20 to a New Development Agenda Building a Bridge to a Sustainable Future* and *The Plain Language Guide to Rio+20* written with Jorge Laguna Celis and Elizabeth Thompson..

He is also an International Ambassador for the City of Bonn.

James Goldstein, was the Research Director at Communitas and oversaw work groups and expert-led research. James served in the Communitas Secretariat while being Senior Fellow at Tellus Institute, where he directed the Sustainable Communities Program. His research centers on the development of analytic methods and stakeholder processes in support of community-based initiatives to integrate environmental protection, economic development, and social well-being.

James has over thirty years of experience in the assessment of environmental problems and policies, with a particular emphasis on pollution prevention, solid waste management, and integrated resource planning for water. The current focus of his work is the incorporation of a global perspective in designing local and regional sustainability efforts.

James' projects at Tellus have included: preparation of a white paper on Sustainable Communities and the Great Transition; development of long-range sustainability scenarios for the Boston metropolitan area; assessment of the potential employment and environmental impacts of enhanced recycling in the US; analysis of the costs and benefits of greening affordable housing; expert consultation on long-range integrated resource planning for water, wastewater and stormwater; and development of a regional climate adaptation strategy. He presents widely on a range of environmental and sustainability issues and holds a B.A. in Geography from Clark University.

Dr. Minu Hemmati, is a psychologist with a doctorate in Organisational and Environmental Psychology. Since 1998, she has been working as an independent consultant with NGOs; governments; international organisations; women's networks; corporations; and research institutions. In 2016, she co-founded the MSP Institute eV, an international charitable association based in Berlin, Germany, working on multi-stakeholder processes for sustainable development.

Minu's work includes designing, facilitating and coaching change processes that use dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships; leadership development; training and teaching; and research and advocacy on participation and on gender issues.

Minu has wide experience with multi-stakeholder processes at all levels; facilitating a diversity of meeting formats for small and large groups; international policy making on sustainable development and related issues; local and national level implementation; and evaluation in the field. She has published two books and co-authored another, and written over 50 articles, book chapters, and reports.

Minu is a Senior Fellow of EcoAgriculture Partners, a co-founder of GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice, and serving on the Jury of Swiss Re's International ReSource Award. She was instrumental in setting up the SEED Initiative, co-

coordinated the Stakeholder Implementation Conference, and recently led the Climate Dialogue project.

H.E. Dr. Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations graduated from Faculty of Physics at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Law at The University of Bucharest and National School for Political and Administrative Studies. He received a MA in European Administration at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, completed an International Relations course at the University of Leeds, conducted a NATO-funded research project entitled “Joining NATO, the EU, and the WEU: differences, similarities, synergies. Romania’s case”, and in 1999 he received a PhD in Law for his thesis entitled “Institutional Reform of the European Union in the Context of the Intergovernmental Conference to Review the Maastricht Treaty”.

Ion Jinga authored and co-authored five books and over 30 articles on European Integration in peer-reviewed journals and published extensively on his blog in Huffington Post UK.

Ambassador Jinga joined the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 1992. Between 2002 and 2003 he was Director General for the EU, a member of the Romanian Delegation to the Convention on the Future of Europe. From 2003-2008, he was Ambassador of Romania to Belgium, from 2008-2015 he was Ambassador of Romania to the UK, and since 2015 he is the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations in New York.

Ambassador Jinga received the following distinctions: the National Order for Merit with the Rank of Officer (Romania) in 2000; Officier de l’Ordre National du Mérite (France) in 2003; The Patriarchal Cross of the Romanian Orthodox Church (Romania) in 2005; Grande Croix de l’Ordre de la Couronne (Belgium) in 2008; The Cross of the Royal House of Romania, in 2008. He was awarded the title “Ambassador of the year 2007 in Belgium”, “Diplomat of the Year 2012 from Europe in the UK”, “Romanian Diplomat of the Year 2012”, and “Diplomat of the Year 2015 in the UK”. In 2013 he was included in “Top 100 people who change Romania”. He is Honorary President of the Global Romanian Society of Young Professionals, New York, USA and delivered lectures to more than 20 British and American universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia, Utah Valley and Harvard.

Reinhard Krapp, a German diplomat since 1981, studied law in Muenster/Westphalia and Lausanne/Switzerland. He is currently head of the economic section of the German Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Previously he served at the German embassies in Ottawa, Cairo, Moscow and Sofia as well as the German Permanent Mission to the European Union in Brussels.

During his professional career he dealt mainly with questions related to international environmental policy, international climate policy and all questions related to sustainable development. His last assignment in the Foreign Office in Berlin was head of the division for international environmental policy and sustainable development. He participated since 1989 in numerous international environmental conferences and was member of the bureau of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly. In 2017 he received the Elisabeth-Haub- Award for Environmental Diplomacy.

Quinn McKew, is the Deputy Executive Director of ARTICLE 19, an international freedom of expression and information NGO. Quinn leads ARTICLE 19's global programs on ICTs, protection of human rights defenders and the campaign to incorporate transparency and good governance in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. She is responsible for global operations and governance at ARTICLE 19 including the integration of the 8 regional offices and 50+ regional partner organisations. Prior to joining ARTICLE 19, she worked for the largest non-profit management consultancy in Europe, and was a campaign manager for leading environmental organisations in the United States. McKew has a Masters of Business Administration from Georgetown University focusing on global non-profit management and a BA in International Relations and the Environment from Stanford University.

Cristina Popescu, is currently working within the Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN, as

delegate to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) of the UN General Assembly and she is in charge of the development portfolio, ECOSOC coordination and the UN Funds and Programs active in the development field.

Her professional contribution is focused on bringing the national and the European vision to the current debate on supporting fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals globally. The UN has to deliver on the 2030 Agenda – the universal framework document setting up 17 SDGs and 169 targets – and the Member States and the UN bodies have to ensure that humanity fully engage on a sustainable and resilient path, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Cristina Popescu had previously worked within the Embassy of Romania to Italy and the Embassy of Romania to the Czech Republic, in charge with the European affairs portfolio, she worked in various political directorates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and as an expert within the Department of European Integration, the Government of Romania.

She holds a PhD in Ethics of Conflict Negotiation from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Bucharest, a Diplôme d'études approfondies in European

Studies from the European Institute of the University of Geneva and a Master in International Relations from the Faculty of Political and Administrative Sciences of the University of Bucharest. She has a diploma in Political Science from the Faculty of Political and Administrative Sciences of the University of Bucharest.

Principles and Practices of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Development – Guidance and Oversight from UN Decisions

By Minu Hemmati, MSP Institute and Felix Dodds, Tellus Institute

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1. Purpose of the Paper

“It was further proposed that there might be a role for the Friends of Governance for Sustainable Development in engaging and coordinating various stakeholders in their engagement on the question of the accountability and transparency of MSPs.” (UNDESA, 2016)

The above was a request from the Summary of the UNDESA Expert Group Meeting “Multi-stakeholder partnerships on implementing the 2030 Agenda: Improving accountability and transparency”.

The present paper is meant to support discussions about **multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) for sustainable development** in the context of United

Nations' work towards implementing key agreements relating to sustainable development, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Samoa Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and The Future We Want.

The paper reviews decisions on multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development, and discusses possible updates and additions that governments may wish to consider in 2017. Such updates and additions are meant to **strengthen the guidance** provided by the key principles that should govern MSPs' contributions to sustainable development agreements, and **support effective implementation**, and **enhance learning** from MSP activities.

2. Definitions

Given the multiple definitions of 'partnerships' that exist and some confusion that the discourse on partnerships has seen over the years, it seems useful to provide some suggested definitions of key terms and concepts in the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development for discussion:

Stakeholders are those who have an interest in a particular decision, either as individuals or representatives of a group. This includes people who influence a decision, or can influence it, as well as those affected by it (Hemmati 2002).

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) for sustainable development are specific commitments and contributions, undertaken together by various partners intended to support the implementation of transformation towards sustainable development and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant sustainable development agreements.

Examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development principally range from small collaborative projects of individual organisations and institutions that address local challenges to international partnerships tackling global issues. Goals and activities can centre on capacity building and knowledge exchange, market development, technological innovation, or standard setting. Many of the international initiatives operate local or national centres that implement a global standard, and network amongst each other to share lessons learned and support each other's work.

The **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)** is an example of a global standard. It aims to promote the open and accountable management of natural resources. The partnership supports EITI implementation, for example in Germany (D-EITI), and promotes dialogue and transparency in the German raw materials sector through a range of activities, including producing regular reports about the German raw materials sector and the key financial flows between the state and businesses; communicating findings to the general public; and thus achieving a unique level of data transparency and establishing the basis for more accountability

D-EITI's governance includes a multi-stakeholder group (MSG), comprising 15 representatives from the public and private sectors and civil society. The MSG is chaired by a representative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). Decisions are adopted on the basis of consensus.

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for sustainable development are by definition using a multi-stakeholder approach: They are inclusive in nature, involving all relevant actors in their area of work. MSPs can be arranged among any combination of partners, including governments, regional groups, local authorities, non-governmental actors, international institutions, private sector partners and other relevant stakeholders. All partners should be involved in the development of the MSP from an early stage, so that it is genuinely participatory in approach. Yet as partnerships evolve, there should also be opportunities for additional partners to join on an equal basis.

EcoAgriculture Partners is a catalyst, pursuing a multi-pronged approach to make an impact at the landscape, national, regional and international level. Each of these scales reinforces the others as they work to mainstream integrated landscape management around the world – supporting biodiversity conservation while maximizing agricultural yield and enhancing social development. EcoAgriculture Partners is an NGO registered in the USA, and works with partners from multiple stakeholders in three main areas, i.e.:

1. **Improving Landscape Management:** working with development groups, community-based organizations, and government agencies to train leaders, develop plans and strategies, and build coalitions and governance platforms to improve landscape management performance.
2. **Leading Policy and Market Change:** connecting landscape leaders with their local and national governments to spur constructive dialogue, and serving as a

trusted adviser to decision makers, providing cutting-edge analysis that guides sound policy choices. EcoAgriculture Partners helps private and public investors see the long-term value of investments in integrated landscapes.

3. Creating Partnerships for Action and Advocacy: catalyzing global initiatives, leading and managing dynamic teams, and stewarding critical new connections between governments, research institutions and landscapes, to maximize the impact of everyone's efforts.

EcoAgriculture Partners also serves as the secretariat for Landscapes for People Food and Nature, a multi-stakeholder initiative with partners from governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and business initiatives.

Adopted by the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1) on 6 February 2006 in Dubai, the **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)** is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world.

SAICM was developed by a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral Preparatory Committee and supports the achievement of the 2020 goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. SAICM overall objective is the achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

SAICM is distinguished by its comprehensive scope; ambitious "2020 goal" for sound chemicals management; multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral character; endorsement at the highest political levels; emphasis on chemical safety as a sustainable issue; provision for resource mobilization; and formal endorsement or recognition by the governing bodies of key intergovernmental organizations.

The SAICM Secretariat is hosted by UNEP in Geneva.

Major Groups: Agenda 21 and consequent UN agreements recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992, drew upon this sentiment and formalized nine sectors of society as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development. These are officially called "Major Groups" and include the following sectors: Women; Children and Youth;

Indigenous Peoples; Non-Governmental Organizations; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers (UN, 1992).

Other Stakeholders: Two decades after the Earth Summit, the importance of effectively engaging these nine sectors of society was reaffirmed by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in 2012. Its outcome document “The Future We Want” highlights the role that Major Groups can play in pursuing sustainable societies for future generations. In addition, governments invited other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, to participate in UN processes related to sustainable development, which can be done through close collaboration with the Major Groups (UN, 2012).

There is a lot of confusion around MSPs and Private Public Partnerships (PPPs). **Private Public Partnerships** are principally contractual arrangements between single or several public agencies (federal, state or local) and single or several private sector entities. Through such arrangements, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared, in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public. Other stakeholders might be sub-contractors in a PPP.

Private Public Partnerships – ‘Other Stakeholders’

One example might be women’s groups being sub-contracted to do an evaluation of the role that gender might play in an infrastructure project.

The World Bank has identified this with their new Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy. They identified five areas that need to be considered in PPPs. These are:

- Identifying gender-specific needs that infrastructure services can meet
- Eliminating gender biases from legal frameworks governing PPPs
- Paying close attention to the stakeholder consultation process
- Including a gender-specific affordability analysis.
- Embedding gender considerations in the output specifications for the private sector

Voluntary Initiatives: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was an action-oriented conference, where all stakeholders,

including Major Groups, the UN System/IGOs, and Member States were invited to make individual commitments focusing on delivering concrete results for sustainable development on a voluntary basis. It has been estimated that of these there have been over 1400 voluntary initiatives with a financial commitment of around US\$636 million (Seth, 2013).

While one of the key principles of partnerships is that they be voluntary, voluntary initiatives are not necessarily partnerships. Voluntary initiatives are activities or contributions made by single governments or organisations, or groups of them, towards a certain goal, and above and beyond legally binding or UN-agreed commitments.

Most recently we see more calls for voluntary actions and initiatives in the context of the upcoming Oceans Conference in June 2017.

Two examples from Rio+20 include:

Microsoft pledging to become carbon neutral, and

Eight multilateral development banks (MDBs) to commit US\$175 million toward sustainable transportation. (Stakeholder Forum, 2013)

CSD 11 and ECOSOC 2003 Decision on Partnerships

3.1. ECOSOC 61 Resolution 2003

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development at its 11th Session in 2003 considered partnerships in the context of implementing Agenda 21 (1992), the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21), and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002), and agreed the CSD 11 decision on partnerships (June 2003).

In July 2003, ECOSOC reviewed the CSD-11 decision on partnerships and made the decision on partnerships (ECOSOC 2003/61 text, para 21-24) quoted below.

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/61

The Economic and Social Council,

21. *Recalls* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission to serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote

sustainable development, and reiterates that partnerships, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, those commitments;

22. Stresses that partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines, taking note in that regard of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for the Summit, including the Bali guiding principles, and General Assembly resolution 56/76 of 11 December 2001:

- a) Partnerships are voluntary initiatives undertaken by Governments and relevant stakeholders, such as major groups and institutional stakeholders;
- b) 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 resources from the commitments contained in those agreements;
- c) Partnerships are not intended to substitute 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;
- d) Partnerships should add concrete value to the implementation process and should be new, that is, they should not merely reflect existing arrangements;
- e) Partnerships should bear in mind the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation;
- f) Partnerships should be based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, should include the mobilization of new resources and, where relevant, should result in the transfer of technology to, and capacity-building in, developing countries;
- g) It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;
- h) Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In that regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;
- i) 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;
- j) Partnerships should be consistent with national laws and 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;
- k) 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;
 - l) The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to intergovernmental agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes;
23. *Decides* that providing information and reporting by partnerships registered with the Commission should be transparent, participatory and credible, taking into account the following elements:
- a) The registration of partnerships should be voluntary and should be based on written reporting to the Commission, taking into account the provisions specified above. Reporting by partnerships should focus on their contribution to the implementation of the goals, objectives and targets of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
 - b) Partnerships should submit a regular report, preferably at least on a biennial basis;
 - c) The Secretariat is requested to make information available on partnerships, including their reports, through a database accessible to all interested parties, including through the Commission web site and other means;
 - d) The Secretariat is requested to produce a summary report containing synthesized information on partnerships for consideration by the Commission, in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in review years;
 - e) The Commission, during review years, should discuss the contribution of partnerships towards supporting the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practices, identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints, and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during policy years, as necessary;
24. *Calls* for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the Summit process and its follow-up and facilitating new ones, including through such initiatives as partnerships fairs and learning centres, mindful of the importance of sharing information on existing activities, particularly across the United Nations system.

3.2. Other UN Decisions on Partnerships

UN Decisions

2002 (January) UNGA Resolution (56/76) Towards global

partnership [https://documents-dds-](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/490/02/PDF/N0149002.pdf?OpenElement)

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[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/500/50/PDF/N0550050.pdf?OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/500/50/PDF/N0550050.pdf?OpenElement)

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partnerships http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/223

2014 (February) UNGA resolution (68/234) Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant

partners http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/234

2015 (December) UNGA resolution 70/224 Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant

partners http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/224

4. Main Principles in the Decisions

Summarizing the existing decisions, the main principles that have been agreed to should guide partnerships and their engagement with the UN system, are as follows:

- **Voluntary nature:** actors and stakeholders come together in partnerships at their free will, and with everyone benefitting in ways they desire and need
- **Transparency:** public announcements, registration, regular reporting
- **Credibility:** putting announced activities into practice and reaching stated objectives
- **Accountability:** exchanging relevant information with governments and other stakeholders, regular reporting
- **Participation:** open and participatory in nature
- **Multi-stakeholder**, i.e. including three or more stakeholders in the partnership
- Reflecting **sectoral and geographical balance**
- Integrating the **three pillars of sustainable development:** ecological, economic, and social
- Resulting in **technology transfer and capacity building** in developing countries
- Making a **genuine, concrete, additional contribution** to agreed sustainable development goals
- Adhering to agreed **plans and priorities at national level**
- Conforming to **intergovernmental agreed mandates**
- Being based on **predictable and sustained financial resources** while not drawing funds away from other agreed mandates

These principles should be reviewed by member states and considered when discussing ways to enhance the contribution of partnerships to implementing sustainable development.

From what we have learned about partnerships in the last years and decades, an important series of questions emerge: Are there principles that are missing from existing agreements but would be important to include? What have we learned about how to best put these principles into practice? How can we use easily accessible and cost-effective technologies and mechanisms to implement these principles? And how can we make such lessons learned available to all governments, all parts of the UN system, and all stakeholders available so that everybody who wishes to engage in partnerships can do so most effectively?

5. Updating Existing Decisions

Member states might like to consider taking existing resolutions on partnerships such as the ECOSOC decision from 2003 and updating them, rather than starting from scratch. An approach could be to refer to recent agreements, reviewing and updating principles and guidelines in order to include aspects that have been arising based on the experiences with partnerships since 2002.

5.1. Some Suggestions Trying to Bring Together the Approaches to Partnerships

Suggested enabling paragraphs could be:

Partnerships in the context of the 2030 Agenda process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines; in this regard, taking note of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for WSSD, including the Bali Guiding Principles, and the General Assembly resolution A/RES/56/76, A/RES/58/129, A/RES/60/215, A/RES/62/211, A/RES/64/223, A/RES/66/223, A/RES/68/234 and A/RES/70/224.

The High Level Political Forum should serve as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development and reiterates that partnerships, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, contribute to the implementation of inter-governmental commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Samoa Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the New Urban Agenda and The Future We Want.

The timelines and milestones should be based on those agreed in the Agenda 2030 process (and the Samoa Pathway, Sendai, AAAA, NUA and The Future We Want).

5.2. Possible Additions Aiming to Enhance Implementation

There have been a number of ideas that have arisen based on the experiences with partnerships since 2002. These have been captured in a number of academic studies and reflected in the reports from the two UN DESA retreats on partnerships (see references in Annex 2). These ideas are an effort to support the enhancement of practical implementation and maximize the contribution of partnerships to realizing the SDGs.

In particular, this would include addressing issues such as reporting; registration and listing on the UN SDGs partnerships website; additional guiding principles; learning and exchange; engaging and supporting.

Most of the following aspects are indeed meant to support the implementation of principles relating to partnerships that have consistently been articulated. As many believe that stronger due diligence, intensified monitoring of implementation, and wider circulation of agreed principles would increase the impact of resolutions and guidelines, many of the aspects being put forward focus on these and related aspects.

Reporting

Aiming to support the present system that the UN Division on Sustainable Development operates as regards multi-stakeholder partnerships, these could be considered:

- All partnerships that the UN initiates to report annually by May 1st of each year to UNDESA relevant divisions.
- All partnerships to include Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-Based, With Time Based Deliverables (SMART) criteria in their registration and reporting.
- All partnerships that are not involving the UN to report annually (similar to requirements for the Global Compact membership and NGO accreditation).
- All partnerships will be observed using the traffic lights reporting as has been undertaken by the SIDS Partnership Framework and now DSD: Green for reporting regularly; Yellow if they have not reported within two years; Red if they have not reported within 3 years; and delisted if they have not reported for over three years.
- An annual synthesis report to be prepared for possible comments in the HLPF Ministerial Declaration, summarizing main contributions by partnerships: which goals, which regions and countries, which sectors are engaged; main lessons learned; open questions.

Additional suggestions have been made at the two UN DESA workshops on multi-stakeholder partnerships that member states might consider. They include the following:

Registration and continued inclusion in the SDGs online platform for partnerships

- The UN should consider monitoring partnerships that are listed on the UN website using an early warning mechanism to ensure they do not bring the UN into disrepute. Any partnership putting the UN at reputational risk should be delisted.
- Within the UN web site there should be a clear differentiation between voluntary initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships while recognizing that both contribute to delivering the global agreements.
- The UN as a whole could adopt these criteria in their individual work on multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure coherence within the UN family/One UN.

Guiding Principles/Compliance

- For multi-stakeholder Partnerships that include companies: those companies must be a member of the UN Global Compact and comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

ECOSOC Partnerships Forum and other Spaces for Exchange and Learning

- The High-level Political Forum, under the auspices of ECOSOC, should continue look at thematic partnerships linked to the sustainable development goals;
- The HLPF could benefit from a “lessons learnt” review of partnerships by ECOSOC.
- The ECOSOC Charter mandate also gives it the authority to regulate interaction between the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations which covers a range of civil society organizations including the private sector, foundations, NGOs, academia, among others. The Council is also the body that coordinates the activities of the United Nations system and as such it is uniquely situated to provide oversight of partnership initiatives or commitments in which the UN system is involved. ECOSOC would therefore set the broad parameters for partnerships that apply to the whole of the UN system.
- The Partnership Forum in ECOSOC could be utilized to advance the principles and guidelines for partnerships and review those partnerships involving the United Nations to ensure these principles and guidelines are being applied; The UN could provide additional spaces for open exchange about partnerships, MSPs and – in particular within the Finance for Development Forum – Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- Partnerships working on the same goals should consider working together where possible in a knowledge network.
- The UN Agencies and Programmes could consider hosting Partnership Forums where they have a lead interest in a particular goal linked to their meetings dealing with the SDGs.
- UN Agencies and Programmes could consider helping to establish knowledge banks for each SDG based on the experience of MSPs and report to the HLPF on this.

Stakeholders Engaging in and Supporting Partnerships

- Individual stakeholders and MSPs should continue to share their experiences, lessons learned, and tools, models and templates of governance mechanisms, financing models, risk management, useful tools for learning, contracting, and reviewing.
- Governments and foundations should consider stronger support for the development and building of partnerships, including where relevant supporting capacity development; brokering and facilitation; setting up of independent secretariats; and undertaking monitoring, evaluation and learning activities.

- Researchers should consider supporting building knowledge on MSPs and sharing it widely, particularly with those engaged in sustainable development.
- Professional associations relevant to MSPs should engage more in the SDG process to strengthen the implementation of the SDGs (e.g. facilitators; knowledge management specialists; experts of mixed financing models from the field of social entrepreneurship).

One Final Thought

An interesting idea that came out of the first UNDESA workshop on MSPs (UNDESA 2016) was the idea of distinguishing between partnerships of three categories, these being:

1. Multi-stakeholder partnerships that are led by the UN – e.g. Sustainable Energy for ALL
2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships that the UN is involved with – e.g. GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation)
3. Multi-stakeholder partnerships that are independent of the UN

The due diligence processes maybe be different for these different categories. Capacity building and knowledge management needs are also likely to be different and would need different approaches and mechanisms.

Finally, we hope this paper helps Member States in their consideration of MSPs and the more effective delivery of MSPs in helping to realise the SDGs.

Annex 1 Global Compact Principles

One of the major initiatives in the UN on partnership with the private sector has been the Global Compact. It was first announced by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1999 during a speech at Davos and launched formally as a Secretary General initiative in July 2000. The Global Compact currently has almost 8000 active corporate participants in over 140 countries. To join the Global Compact companies had to agree to ten principles that address safeguarding the environment, ensuring social inclusion, building markets and combating corruption. It has in addition become a catalyst for support within the business community for the Millennium Development Goals. The Principles are:

Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The Global Compact has a Communication on Progress (COP) policy and produces an annual update as a mechanism to show accountability and transparency. Companies are required to follow this policy. Failure to do so will “result in a change in participant status and possible expulsion” (UNGC, 2014). The COP represents several important purposes: it advances transparency and accountability, it drives continued performance improvement, safeguards the integrity of the UN and the UN Global Compact and helps build a repository of corporate practices to promote dialogue and learning.

Annex 2 Background Information and Resources

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Notes

[1] collated by Felix Dodds (Tellus Institute) & Minu Hemmati (MSP Institute),
2017

High-Level and UNGA Resolutions on Sustainable Development Governance: Existing Language for Committee of Experts on Public Administration

By David Banisar Article 19

- I. Overview
- II. Principles of Responsible and Effective Governance
- III. Sustainable Development Goals
- IV. Millennium Goals – Related Declarations
- V. Rio-Related Declarations
- VI. UNGA Resolutions

I. OVERVIEW

This month, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration will discuss the development of “internationally recognized principles of responsible and effective governance” which would as a means of assisting Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the past 25 years, the UN General Assembly and high-level gatherings of national leaders have approved numerous declarations on sustainable development and related matters, especially around the MDG and Rio processes. In these declarations, governance-related issues have been repeatedly discussed and agreed to. There is a significant overlap with already existing agreements relating to sustainable development which can be synthesized by the Expert Group.

This document provides relevant excerpts from these previous agreements relating to the governance issues, much of which was incorporated in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes human rights, transparency, public participation, fighting corruption, access to information, safe societies, and ensuring the rule of law. It does not include resolutions of the UN Human Rights Committee, Council or its predecessor, the Commission.

II. PROPOSED PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration agreed in 2016 at its 15th session to discuss the development of a “internationally recognized principles of responsible and effective governance” as a means to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It broke down governance into three areas: effectiveness, accountability, and inclusiveness. In those three areas, the Committee has identified 10 concepts which may be the foundation of principles for it to develop in its future work:¹ (*1 see <http://undocs.org/E/C.16/2017/6>*)

Elements of effectiveness

1. Competence: Professional civil service, Proper financial management, Performance management, Efficiency in delivery of public services, Economy in public expenditure
2. Sound public policy: Regulatory quality management, Policy coherence, Risk management
3. Cooperation: Non-interference, Friendly relations, Public, public-private and civil society partnership

Elements of accountability

4. Integrity: Promotion of public interest and ethics, Countries have legislation that prohibit corruption; corruption prevention legislation is enforced, Countries have an anti-corruption agency; the anti-corruption agency is free of political interference, Adherence to rule of law, Privacy protection
5. Transparency: Access to information, Open government, Freedom of the media
6. Independent oversight: Financial disclosure requirements are in place for public servants; these rules operate in practice, Active civil society, Independence of courts, Access to justice, Independent oversight institutions

Elements of inclusiveness

7. Non-discrimination: Access to public service on general terms of equality, Equal treatment before the law, Inclusion, Equitable fiscal and monetary policy, Social equity
8. Participation: Public consultation, Equality of opportunity, Representation, Voice
9. Subsidiarity: Fiscal, political and administrative decentralization; Territorial planning and spatial development
10. Intergenerational equity: Sustainable development

III. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 have a number of governance related targets. Those targets are supplemented by indicators developed by the UN Statistics Commission. The following are the targets followed by the indicators as adopted by the UN Statistics Commission in December 2016. 2 (2 **Source: Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, Annex III Revised list of Global Sustainable Development Goal indicators. E/CN.3/2017/2, 15 December 2016. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/2017-2-SDG-IAEG-EE.pdf>**)

While most of the relevant language is in Goal 16, some is also found in other targets and indicators.

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise,

technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public- private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships.

IV. MILLENNIUM GOALS – RELATED DECLARATIONS

1. Resolution 55/2. Millennium Declaration (2000) 3 (3 <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>)

4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:

- Freedom. Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
- Tolerance. Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.

9. We resolve therefore:

- To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with

the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.

- To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.

13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.

- 20. We also resolve:

...

- To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.
- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all.

V. Human rights, democracy and good governance

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

25. We resolve therefore:

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 - To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
 - To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
 - To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
 - To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to

promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.

- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

2. Resolution 60/1. 2005 World Summit Outcome. (2005) 4 (

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<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN021752.pdf>

4. We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential to international relations.

6. We reaffirm the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, in accordance with international law, in order to better address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world and to achieve progress in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, underlining the central role of the United Nations, and commit ourselves to promoting and strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization through the implementation of its decisions and resolutions.

9. We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

11. We acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

12. We reaffirm that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security. We are committed to creating a world fit for future generations, which takes into account the best interests of the child.

13. We reaffirm the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights.

21. We further reaffirm our commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, and to mobilize domestic resources, attract international

24. In our common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment, increasing human capacity, reducing capital flight, curbing the illicit transfer of funds and enhancing international cooperation for creating an enabling domestic environment. We undertake to support the efforts of developing

countries to create a domestic enabling environment for mobilizing domestic resources. To this end, we therefore resolve:

(a) To pursue good governance and sound macroeconomic policies at all levels and support developing countries in their efforts to put in place the policies and investments to drive sustained economic growth, promote small and medium-sized enterprises, promote employment generation and stimulate the private sector;

(b) To reaffirm that good governance is essential for sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

(c) To make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and we welcome all actions taken in this regard at the national and international levels, including the adoption of policies that emphasize accountability, transparent public sector management and corporate responsibility and accountability, including efforts to return assets transferred through corruption, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.⁵ We urge all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying and implementing the Convention;

39. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries.

IV. Human rights and the rule of law

119. We recommit ourselves to actively protecting and promoting all human rights, the rule of law and democracy and recognize that they are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations, and call upon all parts of the United Nations to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their mandates.

120. We reaffirm the solemn commitment of our States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments relating to human rights and

international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

Human rights

121. We reaffirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

122. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

126. We resolve to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into national policies and to support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system, as well as closer cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and all relevant United Nations bodies.

Rule of law

134. Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels, we:

- (a) Reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States;
- (b) Support the annual treaty event;
- (c) Encourage States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to all treaties that relate to the protection of civilians;
- (d) Call upon States to continue their efforts to eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;
- (e) Support the idea of establishing a rule of law assistance unit within the Secretariat, in accordance with existing relevant procedures, subject to a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, so as to strengthen United Nations activities to promote the rule of law, including through technical assistance and capacity-building;
- (f) Recognize the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, call upon States that have not yet done so to consider

accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute and consider means of strengthening the Court's work, including by supporting the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice on a voluntary basis.

Democracy

135. We reaffirm that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. We also reaffirm that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirm the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right of self-determination. We stress that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

136. We renew our commitment to support democracy by strengthening countries' capacity to implement the principles and practices of democracy and resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States upon their request. We welcome the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations. We note that the advisory board to be established should reflect diverse geographical representation. We invite the Secretary-General to help to ensure that practical arrangements for the Democracy Fund take proper account of existing United Nations activity in this field.

137. We invite interested Member States to give serious consideration to contributing to the Fund.

3. Resolution 65/1. MDG + 10 Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (2010) 5 (5 http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/outcome_documentN1051260.pdf)

3. We also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.

11. We acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

13. We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

17. We call on civil society, including non-governmental organizations, voluntary associations and foundations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels, to enhance their role in national development efforts as well as their contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and we commit ourselves as national Governments to the inclusion of these stakeholders.

23. We take note of the lessons learned and the successful policies and approaches in the implementation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and recognize that with increased political commitment these could be replicated and scaled up for accelerating progress, including by:

(e) Supporting participatory, community-led strategies aligned with national development priorities and strategies;

(i) Ensuring the full participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, in decision-making processes;

(j) Respecting, promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;

(n) Working towards transparent and accountable systems of governance at the national and international levels;

(o) Working towards greater transparency and accountability in international development cooperation, in both donor and developing countries, focusing on adequate and predictable financial resources as well as their improved quality and targeting;

(s) Strengthening statistical capacity to produce reliable disaggregated data for better programmes and policy evaluation and formulation.

36. We resolve to promote and strengthen national ownership and leadership of development as a key determinant of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with each country taking the primary responsibility for its own development. We encourage all countries to continue to design, implement and monitor development strategies tailored to their specific situations, including through broad consultations and participation of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate for each national context. We call on the United Nations system and other development actors to support the design and implementation of these strategies, at the request of Member States.

52. We stress that fighting corruption at both the national and international levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and sustainable development. We are determined to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all of its manifestations, which requires strong institutions at all levels, and urge all

States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹³ and to begin its implementation.

53. We recognize that the respect for and promotion and protection of human rights is an integral part of effective work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

55. We reaffirm that States should, in accordance with international law, take concerted, positive steps to ensure respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, on the basis of equality and non-discrimination and recognizing the value and diversity of their distinctive identities, cultures and social organization.

59. We stress the need for adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational activities of the United Nations development system as well as the need to make funding more predictable, effective and efficient. We also reaffirm, in this context, the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting on the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies.

68. We recognize that all countries require adequate, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including demographic data, in order to design better programmes and policies for sustainable development. We commit ourselves to strengthening our national statistical systems, including for effectively monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. We also reiterate the need to increase efforts in support of statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

73 (h) Improving national health governance, including through the participation of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, as well as strengthening international support, as appropriate, in order to ensure that national health systems are sustainable, well prepared and capable of responding to challenges, including crises and pandemics;

78. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 8, including by:

(j) Implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information. In this regard, strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including support to developing countries and technical assistance to enhance their capacities. Additional measures should be implemented to prevent the transfer abroad of stolen assets and to assist in the recovery and return of such assets, in particular to their countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;¹³

(v) Strengthening public-private partnerships in order to close the large gaps that remain in access to and affordability of information and communications technology across countries and income groups, including by upgrading the quality and quantity

of existing telecommunication infrastructure, particularly in the least developed countries, to support more modern information and communications technology applications and greatly increase connectivity, access and investment in innovation and development and the effective use of innovative information and communications technology applications and e-governance tools; and in this regard encouraging further operationalizing of the voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund.

V. RIO-RELATED DECLARATIONS

1. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) 6 (6
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163>)

Principle 3

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 17

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.

2. Earth Summit + 5 S/19-2. Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (1997)7

23. Economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. Sustained economic growth is essential to the economic and social development of all countries, in particular developing countries. Through such growth, which should be broadly based so as to benefit all people, countries will be able to improve the standards of living of their people through the eradication of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy and the provision of adequate shelter and secure employment for all, and the preservation of the integrity of the environment. Growth can foster development only if its benefits are fully shared. It must therefore also be guided by equity, justice and social and environmental considerations. Development, in turn, must involve measures that improve the human condition and the quality of life

itself. Democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are also an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development.

24. Sustainable development strategies are important mechanisms for enhancing and linking national capacity so as to bring together priorities in social, economic and environmental policies. Hence, special attention must be given to the fulfilment of commitments in the areas set out below, in the framework of an integrated approach towards development, consisting of mutually reinforcing measures to sustain economic growth, as well as to promote social development and environmental protection. Achieving sustainable development cannot be carried out without greater integration at all policy-making levels and at operational levels, including the lowest administrative levels possible. Economic sectors, such as industry, agriculture, energy, transport and tourism, must take responsibility for the impact of their activities on human well-being and the physical environment. In the context of good governance, properly constructed strategies can enhance prospects for economic growth and employment and at the same time protect the environment. All sectors of society should be involved in their development and implementation, as follows:

108. Access to information and broad public participation in decision-making are fundamental to sustainable development. Further efforts are required to promote, in the light of country-specific conditions, the integration of environment and development policies, through appropriate legal and regulatory policies, instruments and enforcement mechanisms at the national, state, provincial and local levels. At the national level, each individual should have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in the communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. Governments and legislators, with the support, where appropriate, of competent international organizations, should establish judicial and administrative procedures for legal redress and remedy of actions affecting environment and development that may be unlawful or infringe on rights under the law, and should provide access to individuals, groups and organizations with a recognized legal interest. Access should be provided to effective judicial and administrative channels for affected individuals and groups to ensure that all authorities, both national and local, and other civil organizations remain accountable for their actions in accordance with their obligations, at the appropriate levels for the country concerned, taking into account the judicial and administrative systems of the country concerned.

3. Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002) 8 (8)
<http://www.un-documents.net/jburgdec.htm>

26. We recognize that sustainable development requires a long-term perspective and broad-based participation in policy formulation, decision-making and implementation at all levels. As social partners, we will continue to work for stable partnerships with all major groups, respecting the independent, important roles of each of them.

30. We undertake to strengthen and improve governance at all levels for the effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit.

4. Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) 9 (9 <http://www.un-documents.net/jburgpln.htm>)

25. (b) Facilitate access to public information and participation, including by women, at all levels in support of policy and decision-making related to water resources management and project implementation;

163. Each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development, and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. All countries should promote sustainable development at the national level by, inter alia, enacting and enforcing clear and effective laws that support sustainable development. All countries should strengthen governmental institutions, including by providing necessary infrastructure and by promoting transparency, accountability and fair administrative and judicial institutions.

164. All countries should also promote public participation, including through measures that provide access to information regarding legislation, regulations, activities, policies and programmes. They should also foster full public participation in sustainable development policy formulation and implementation. Women should be able to participate fully and equally in policy formulation and decision-making.

5. Rio + 20 The Future We Want (2012)10 (10 <http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf>)

10. We acknowledge that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. We reaffirm that to achieve our sustainable development goals we need institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic.

43. We underscore that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential to the promotion of sustainable development. Sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and subnational legislatures and judiciaries, and all major groups: women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business

and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers, as well as other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families as well as older persons and persons with disabilities. In this regard, we agree to work more closely with the major groups and other stakeholders and encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels.

44. We acknowledge the role of civil society and the importance of enabling all members of civil society to be actively engaged in sustainable development. We recognize that improved participation of civil society depends upon, inter alia, strengthening access to information and building civil society capacity and an enabling environment. We recognize that information and communications technology is facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public. In this regard, it is essential to work towards improved access to information and communications technology, especially broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard.

75. We underscore the importance of a strengthened institutional framework for sustainable development which responds coherently and effectively to current and future challenges and efficiently bridges gaps in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. The institutional framework for sustainable development should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner and enhance implementation by, inter alia, strengthening coherence, coordination, avoiding duplication of efforts and reviewing progress in implementing sustainable development. We also reaffirm that the framework should be inclusive, transparent and effective and that it should find common solutions related to global challenges to sustainable development.

76. We recognize that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development. The strengthening and reform of the institutional framework should not be an end in itself, but a means to achieve sustainable development. We recognize that an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development at the international level should be consistent with the Rio Principles, build on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and its objectives on the institutional framework for sustainable development, contribute to the implementation of our commitments in the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and take into account national priorities and the development strategies and priorities of developing countries. We therefore resolve to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development, which will, inter alia:

(d) Enhance coherence, reduce fragmentation and overlap and increase effectiveness, efficiency and transparency, while reinforcing coordination and cooperation;

(g) Promote the science-policy interface through inclusive, evidence-based and transparent scientific assessments, as well as access to reliable, relevant and timely data in areas related to the three dimensions of sustainable development, building on existing mechanisms, as appropriate; in this regard, strengthen participation of all countries in international sustainable development processes and capacity-building especially for developing countries, including in conducting their own monitoring and assessments;

(h) Enhance the participation and effective engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the relevant international forums and in this regard promote transparency and broad public participation and partnerships to implement sustainable development.

VI. UNGA RESOLUTIONS

The UN General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions relating to development, including a regular resolution on “the right to development”. For the most part the language in these resolutions are largely unchanged from year to year.

1. Resolution 41/128. Declaration on the Right to Development (1986)¹¹ (*<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/41/a41r128.htm>*)

Concerned at the existence of serious obstacles to development, as well as to the complete fulfilment of human beings and of peoples, constituted, inter alia, by the denial of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and considering that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and that, accordingly, the promotion of, respect for and enjoyment of certain human rights and fundamental freedoms cannot justify the denial of other human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Article 2

1. The human person is the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development.

2. All human beings have a responsibility for development, individually and collectively, taking into account the need for full respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as their duties to the community, which alone can ensure the free and complete fulfilment of the human being, and they should therefore promote and protect an appropriate political, social and economic order for development.

3. States have the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom.

Article 6

1. All States should co-operate with a view to promoting, encouraging and strengthening universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without any distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

2. All human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent; equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

3. States should take steps to eliminate obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

Article 8

2. States should encourage popular participation in all spheres as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights.

2. Resolution 50/225. Public administration and development (1996)12 (***12*** <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/50/a50r225.htm>)

Recognizing that effectiveness of government requires an efficient and effective public administration in all countries that is responsive to the needs of the people, promotes social justice, ensures universal access to quality services and productive assets and creates an enabling environment for sustainable people-centered development,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing the quality of public administration based, inter alia, on the participatory approach to development,

5. Reaffirms that democracy and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society are indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centered sustainable development;

6. Underlines the importance of transparent and accountable governance and administration in all public and private national and international institutions;

8. Reaffirms that Governments in all countries should promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, bearing in mind the interdependent and mutually reinforcing relationship between democracy, development and respect for human rights, and should make public institutions more responsive to people's needs;

3. Resolution 59/185. The right to development (2004)13 (***13*** <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/43f312240.pdf>)

4. Stresses the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session, congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

21. Also recognizes that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

26. Emphasizes the urgent need for taking concrete measures to fight against all forms of corruption at the national and international levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify as soon as possible, and States parties to implement effectively, the United Nations Convention against Corruption;¹⁰

4. Resolution 64/172. The right to development (2009)¹⁴ (***14*** http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/172)

28. (same good governance language as Resolution 59/185 pp 21 above)

35. Emphasizes the urgent need for taking concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

5. Resolution 64/236. Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2009) 15

Recognizing that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

12. Also reaffirms the objective of enhancing the participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation, in the implementation of Agenda 21;
21. Encourages the active participation of all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 and further elaborated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and decisions taken at the eleventh session of the Commission, at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission as well as its established practices related to the participation and engagement of major groups;
6. Resolution 66/209. Promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions (2011)16 (16

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/209)

Emphasizing also that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

7. Resolution 67/1. Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (2012)17 (17 http://unrol.org/files/Declaration%20HLM_A%20RES%2067%201.pdf)

7. We are convinced that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law, and for this reason we are convinced that this interrelationship should be considered in the post-2015 international development agenda.

11. We recognize the importance of national ownership in rule of law activities, strengthening justice and security institutions that are accessible and responsive to the needs and rights of all individuals and which build trust and promote social cohesion and economic prosperity.

12. We reaffirm the principle of good governance and commit to an effective, just, non-discriminatory and equitable delivery of public services pertaining to the rule of law, including criminal, civil and administrative justice, commercial dispute settlement and legal aid.

8. Resolution 67/171. The right to development (2012)18

30. (same good governance language as Resolution 59/185 pp 21 above)

38. Recognizes the need for strong partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for corporate social responsibility;

39. Emphasizes the urgent need for taking concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

9. Resolution 68/116. The rule of law at the national and international levels (2013)¹⁹

Convinced that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and acknowledging that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with the Charter and international law, against transnational threats,

6. Stresses the importance of adherence to the rule of law at the national level and the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building;

10. Resolution 68/158. The right to development (2013)

28. Also recognizes that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

37. Emphasizes the urgent need for taking concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

11. Resolution 68/175. Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (2013) 20 (20

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/175)

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

12. Resolution 68/188. The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (2013)21

Reiterating that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law,

Bearing in mind that the rule of law includes fostering respect for a rule of law culture and the legislative, executive and judicial institutions needed to make and administer effective laws, and fostering trust and confidence that law-making will be responsive to the concerns and needs of the population and that the administration of law will be just, efficient and transparent,

Concerned by urban crime, acknowledging the need for stronger coordination between security and social policies, with a view to addressing the root causes of urban crime, and recognizing the direct relevance of urban safety as a prerequisite to sustainable urban development and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals,

Convinced that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that crime prevention and criminal justice elements that support the rule of law should therefore be considered in implementing the post-2015 international development agenda,

3. Underscores that the post-2015 development agenda should be guided by respect for and promotion of the rule of law, and that crime prevention and criminal justice have an important role in that regard;

9. Urges Member States providing development assistance, in particular to countries emerging from conflict, to increase their assistance in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, and recommends that such assistance could, upon request, include elements relating to strengthening the rule of law;

11. Also stresses that institutions of governance and the judicial system should be gender-sensitive and that the full participation of women needs to be promoted;

13. Resolution 68/204. Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (2013) 22 (22

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/204&Lang=E)

7. Reaffirms that good governance and advancement of the rule of law at all levels are essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and hence reaffirms the importance of the implementation of the commitment to sound policies;

15. Recalls that the ongoing fight against corruption at all levels is a priority, reaffirms the need to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all its manifestations in order to reduce obstacles to effective resource mobilization and allocation and to prevent the diversion of resources away from activities that are vital for development, recalls that this requires strong institutions at all levels, including, in particular, effective legal and judicial systems and enhanced transparency, recognizes the efforts and achievements of developing countries in this regard, notes the increased commitment of States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard urges all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention;

17. Reaffirms the importance of implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhance disclosure practices and promote transparency in financial information, and in this regard notes that strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including through support and technical assistance to developing countries to enhance their capacities;

14. Resolution 69/123. The rule of law at the national and international levels (2014) 23 (23 http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/123)

Convinced that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and acknowledging that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with the Charter and international law, against transnational threats,

Convinced that the promotion of and respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, as well as justice and good governance, should guide the activities of the United Nations and its Member States,

15. Resolution 69/195. Rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (2014) Strongly determined to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of the international community's commitment to moving the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reiterating that the rule of law and development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and

international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law,

Concerned about the serious threat that violence related to transnational organized crime poses to development and the rule of law, security and well-being of communities, hindering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by reducing national income and productivity, diverting investment and rolling back hard-won development gains, and recognizing that comprehensive crime prevention strategies can contribute to addressing those challenges effectively,

1. Recognizes the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development, and recommends that such linkages and interrelationships be properly addressed and further elaborated;

2. Underscores that the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda should take into account respect for and promotion of the rule of law and that crime prevention and criminal justice have an important role in that regard, giving due consideration to the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to channel, as appropriate, its contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders;

3. Encourages Member States, in their deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, to give due consideration to the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice, while promoting universal respect for human rights and strengthening relevant national institutions;

9. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, where necessary, including gender-specific data, in order to contribute, where appropriate, to the post-2015 development agenda;

16. UNGA Resolution 70/155. The right to development (2015)

31. Also recognizes that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

40. Emphasizes the urgent need to take concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the

principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

Executive Summary from Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting on Public Private Partnerships

Executive Summary

Background and Purpose of this Working Paper

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are attracting renewed attention as a possible mechanism that helps deliver infrastructure services in furtherance of the major global agenda setting initiatives of 2015. The Addis Ababa Action Plan (the Addis Agenda) is a forward-looking framework for financing sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda), and the means of implementation for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Both Agendas place importance on sustainable and resilient infrastructure as a pre-requisite to achieving sustainable development.

Energized by these global agreements, countries and key regional and global actors have already embarked on actions to fill the infrastructure gap, including a renewed effort to make PPPs work to this end. Although many civil society organizations consider PPPs as an overvalued and underperforming vehicle for infrastructure development, some may reevaluate the potential of PPPs if stronger public governance of PPPs can be ensured.

Are the current PPP models fit for purpose? If PPPs can be transformed to meet the expectations of the global community, what would they look like and what would drive the transformation?

This Working Paper reviewed twelve PPP guidelines published by major regional or international organizations to understand the drivers, motivations, experiences, and implications of PPPs in the context of the global Agendas. The guidelines were also compared against a set of principles for PPPs extracted from the Addis Agenda. These principles are:

- Careful consideration given to the structure and use of blended finance instruments;
- Sharing risks and reward fairly;
- Meeting social and environmental standards;
- Alignment with sustainable development, to ensure “sustainable, accessible, affordable and resilient quality infrastructure”;
- Ensuring clear accountability mechanisms;
- Ensuring transparency, including in public procurement frameworks and contracts;
- Ensuring participation, particularly of local communities in decisions affecting their communities;

- Ensuring effective management, accounting, and budgeting for contingent liabilities, and debt sustainability; and
- Alignment with national priorities and relevant principles of effective development cooperation.

Findings

The Audience, Nature and Focus of the PPP Guidelines: The guidelines reviewed for this Working Paper generally aim to advise PPP practitioners and are usually informative rather than normative. They also serve the purpose of a reference or source book on respective PPP thematic areas, such as public governance, public sector financial management and budget transparency, risk sharing, disclosure of information, contract provisions, and PPP implementation from start to finish.

Similarities and Differences: Even though some assumptions, values and approaches converge, the areas of divergence outweigh areas of convergence, reflecting the complexity of PPPs. They contain divergent definitions of PPPs – some prefer a narrower approach while others tend to advocate for a broader definition, and may even include CSOs as partners. They also define key concepts, such as “value for money,” differently.

Gaps: On the whole, the guidelines reviewed leave out the viewpoint of the public or noncommercial stakeholders and the need for PPPs to generate public benefit and public good for the country and its people. Too many of the guidelines dedicate their content to public financial management and facilitating the interest of commercial stakeholders. They define concepts such as value for money, cost benefit analysis, and affordability from public sector financial management and efficiency perspective. They fail to explain how different stakeholder groups, particularly vulnerable ones, are impacted by and react to infrastructure. Transparency and accountability mechanisms do not cater to the needs of these stakeholders. Furthermore, the idea of sustainable development as a public good seems to have been left out altogether. The guidelines only partially incorporate environmental, social and governance dimensions of sustainability. Moreover, they are entirely silent on climate change issues. The target audience of the PPP guidelines should not be blind to the most up-to-date advice on climate change and PPPs; for example, some consider the uncertain nature and extent of climate change would render PPPs ill-suited as a vehicle for infrastructure development.

Drivers of Differences and Gaps: Several factors seem to drive the notable differences and gaps. Even though several of the PPP guidelines are strongly influenced by the public governance theme, they are largely driven by a narrower

view of public governance that omits a fuller acknowledgment of the role of the public. This approach could limit the ability of PPPs to generate public value through improved infrastructure decisions and delivery, *and* public good through enhancement of sustainable development. The latest guidelines are influenced by the SDGs and focus on the role of the public more explicitly. Yet all guidelines could benefit from a better articulation of sustainability and climate change considerations, if they are to evolve to the next generation of PPP guidance.

Alignment with the Addis Agenda: The PPP principles in the Addis Agenda are echoed in varying degrees or not at all in the guidelines reviewed but, overall, the guidelines need adjustments to fit the purpose of the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. “PPP structure and instruments” are only covered at a high level, as most of the guidelines do not act as PPP manuals but more as a source book. Most lack helpful guidance on the circumstances under which PPPs should be used or avoided. It is possible that PPPs are unsuitable for all but the simplest and the most predictable and stable projects, and may not work well in economic infrastructure projects with significant climate change risks. While there is good material on “risk sharing”, few examples illustrate “reward sharing.” “Social and environmental standards” are addressed in a patchy manner, and the guidelines are surprisingly silent on “sustainable development” and the idea of “accessible,” “affordable” and “resilient” infrastructure. “Transparency” and “accountability” coverage leaves out the public. While most guidelines do talk about the importance of “proper management of PPP liabilities”, they are silent about debt sustainability with a couple of exceptions. Finally, the guidelines do not address “national priorities and development cooperation principles.”

Impacts of Guidelines: It is not clear whether the guidelines impact results on the ground since little data is available. Considering the renewed attention to PPPs in the recent years, it is possible that the guidelines could influence public officials in charge of PPPs. At the same time, it is easy to imagine that time-constrained users would prefer shorter materials and interactive tools and shun the lengthy and dense guidelines. Furthermore, if PPPs only work well in limited circumstances, one could question whether the time and resources that go into producing the PPP guidelines could be directed more productively elsewhere, for example, to infrastructure more generally.

This Working Paper also speculates that the value addition of the PPP guidelines may be greater when expert institutions engage with countries or countries engage with each other and analyze and socialize the lessons learned in a holistic learning setting. In addition, if the MDBs finance PPPs explicitly in accordance with their

own advice contained in the guidelines, this could also have tangible impacts on the ground.

1. **Success Factors:** The guidelines converge on ex ante success factors but do not shed light on the possible ex post indicators of PPP success that projects should monitor and report on. Impacts and benefits measurement constitutes one of the greatest challenges of the new generation of PPPs. Impacts on people, including vulnerable groups, must be measured in a disaggregated manner. Indicators of public service delivery, such as access, pro-poor aspects, and quality of service, as well as public benefit and sustainability dimensions also must be measured and analyzed consistently in all PPPs.

Other Observations

1. The multilateral development banks (MDBs) could actively disseminate sustainability and other policies and studies relevant to PPPs so that they can guide other financial institutions that seek information in these areas.

Hardly any transparency initiatives or accountability mechanisms exist for infrastructure and little caters to the interest of noncommercial stakeholders. Any effort to strengthen transparency and accountability should be mindful of the need to properly align the two.

Guidance on PPP contracts should provide information about the public policy aspects of PPPs and not be driven by bankability considerations alone.

Cross-border PPPs will become a significant challenge in the future and states need guidance on how to manage unexpected aspects of such PPPs.

Sustainability considerations need to be fully reflected in the entire procurement process.

Conclusion

The PPP guidelines are driven by different aspects of “public governance.” They rightly assert the importance of public sector performance though good financial management and efficiency, because public value in PPPs flows from efficient public sector management and performance; however, from this perspective, noncommercial stakeholders are less visible compared to commercial stakeholders. The guidelines pay less attention to the role of the public as beneficiaries and participants in public sector management and decision making, and miss the opportunity to underscore the positive role they play in legitimatizing decisions and improving the delivery and quality of infrastructure. Also absent is the idea that PPPs should create public good through effective enhancement of sustainability and appropriate consideration and management of climate change risks. These gaps indicate that the PPP guidelines do not yet fully align with the Addis Agenda or the 2030 Agenda.

For the organizations that published the PPP guidelines, this is an opportune moment to take stock of areas of improvement in PPP guidance. It would be extremely helpful for the guidance documents to fully spell out the circumstances under which PPPs could be undertaken or avoided. This will ensure that public resources will not go to waste in making a PPP work in a project not suited to PPPs. If PPPs are in fact unsuitable for all but the simplest projects, time and resources could be directed more productively elsewhere, for example to infrastructure more generally, rather than on PPPs. After all, PPPs are but one tool in an infrastructure toolbox. Any new work on PPPs should not be at the expense of broader work in infrastructure development. A more holistic approach to infrastructure development and finance would help us fulfill the ambition of sustainable and resilient infrastructure for all, envisaged in the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, this Working Paper recommends consideration of a new set of PPP guidance for the next generation PPPs. Such guidance could focus on public governance of PPPs that would explicitly incorporate climate change and environmental, social and governance aspects of PPPs alongside economic considerations, and purposefully take on the perspectives of noncommercial stakeholders.

Guidance should be created collaboratively with partners and build on existing guidance and resources to the extent available, as envisioned by the Addis Agenda. Guidance could take the form of one or more documents, an interactive toolbox, a knowledge platform or a combination of these forms, and could be further strengthened by a self-assessment tool, a rating system, a certification mechanism, and/or a venue for sharing lessons or conducting peer review.

Draft Principles for Public-Private Partnerships

By James Goldsmith Research Director, the Communitas Coalition

Ensuring Beneficial Outcomes for Local/Regional Authorities and their Citizens

Background

Cities and sub-national governments are on the front lines for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the New Urban Agenda, but coming up with the resources to finance implementation – estimated at trillions of dollars per year globally – is a critical challenge facing all levels of government.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been touted as a key mechanism for accessing private capital in support of implementation, particularly for the development and/or management of infrastructure and basic services at the city/regional level in developing countries.

PPPs are generally contractual agreements between one or more local/regional governments and, principally, private business partners. Such contractual partnerships may need to adhere to national guidelines/protocols. Similarly, while it may be useful to follow UN guidance and principles, these PPPs do not fall under UN auspices. Therefore, there is a need to develop PPP guidelines and protocols separate from the multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) discussions and negotiations at the UN.

There is both tremendous enthusiasm for and skepticism about the role and impact of PPPs for sustainable urbanization. The high level of interest is due both to the emphasis on partnerships in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the sheer magnitude of urban infrastructure investment requirements in developing countries. Among the potential benefits of PPPs to governments put forth by proponents are access to: private capital where public financing is unavailable or insufficient, advanced technologies from leading global businesses, and management expertise that may not exist locally. The potential benefits to businesses include access to markets and revenue streams, as well as understanding of local needs, expectations, and political conditions/constraints.

On the other hand, skeptics of PPPs point to a number of potential risks/challenges for governments: distortion of the public agenda, loss of local control over critical infrastructure and services, and co-option of government or civil society partners; commoditization of commons; lack of strong local legal/regulatory frameworks and the need for institutional capacity-building; lack of transparency and accountability, including hidden or “off-book” accounting treatment of PPP-related debt; the need

for improved monitoring and evaluation; inadequate investment in maintenance; and displacement of public employees.

The following Draft Principles are intended to identify the necessary conditions for such partnerships to be potentially beneficial for local/regional authorities and their citizens, particularly in developing countries where the conditions for PPPs pose considerable challenges.

These Draft Principles are based on: (1) a review of relevant literature, (2) presentations and discussions at a June 7, 2016 workshop convened by the Communitas Coalition in New York City on Public-Private Partnerships for Urban Infrastructure: The Potential Benefits and Risks.

Objectives of PPPs

1. PPPs should result in improved outcomes for end users and citizens, through improved service quality, accessibility and
2. PPPs should be consistent with and support the long-range sustainable development plans of the public

Conditions of Suitability

The following conditions need to be met in order for the local/regional authority to successfully engage in a PPP:

1. Need “sound enabling environment” – rule of law, high standards of public and corporate governance including: fair competition laws, transparency, accountability and enforcement mechanisms, and adequate anti-corruption
2. Public authority must have the capacity to negotiate and independently oversee implementation of PPP on an equal basis with private sector
3. Public authorities should evaluate the potential life-cycle costs, benefits, and risks of a range of available infrastructure financing and management alternatives, including a careful “Value for Money” analysis, comparing the financial impacts of the PPP option against those of a traditional public financing
4. Transparency measures should be maintained throughout the lifecycle of the project, including full and proactive public disclosure of PPP agreements, with specific accountability instruments that establish performance-based responsibilities of all parties. Governments should include PPPs in national accounts rather than off- balance sheet, so they are part of debt sustainability

Meaningful and sustained consultation with and participation of end-users and other (local) stakeholders in decision making through a deliberative process, from design to implementation and evaluation, including prior to infrastructure project.

Contracting Provisions

1. Appropriate (equitable) risk sharing should be included, based on assessment of public interest, with caution concerning any public sector
2. Payment modalities and return should be commensurate with investment risk allocation. Remuneration to the private party (or parties) should be linked to predetermined, mutually-agreed performance
3. The sources of revenue to pay the private partner should be clearly identified and made transparent from the outset of a PPP
4. Employment preference should be specified for local labor and, where it exists, for unionized labor to ensure health and safety protections, honor prevailing wage rates, and maintain benefit commitments (e.g., pensions, holidays). At a minimum, jobs created must abide by the ILO's decent work
5. Responsibilities concerning social and environmental aspects of the projects should be clearly identified, as well as risk allocation in case of unforeseen
6. Clear, independent performance monitoring and reporting mechanisms must be identified, including provisions to monitor private partner(s)' observance of human rights principles and coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
7. Include clear, mutually acceptable dispute resolution procedures as well as defined mechanisms for renegotiation, with full public disclosure of renegotiation process and results
8. Clearly identify the grounds and procedures for terminating the partnership, with full disclosure of the terms of termination within the PPP

Citizen Data around Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

By Davis Adieno: Senior Advisor, Data, Accountability, and Sustainable Development – CIVICUS World Alliance

Context of the SDGs: Implementation, Follow Up and Review

The United Nations describes the 2030 Agenda as a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, seeking to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. The Agenda has prioritised eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty – citing this as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development[1]. It is therefore no surprise that many countries are working hard to try and domesticate and integrate the SDGs in their national development frameworks. The ambitious, integrated, and cross-cutting nature of the SDGs requires countries to work smart, be much more innovative, raise awareness, and be much more inclusive; working with citizens, civil society, research/academia, and development partners, among others to integrate and track progress.

The post-2015 negotiating process opened doors to a range of stakeholders including civil society and private sector. Widely hailed as inclusive, the resultant goals, targets, and indicators represent a broad set of issues and diverse interests that could potentially unleash a truly transformative agenda[2]. More importantly, the whole world has been rallied towards “leaving-no-one behind.”

The 2030 Agenda couldn't have come at a better time. The world is at cross-roads, experiencing highly complex socio-economic and political challenges. Whereas the ambition is to leave no one behind, we still have no clear methodology nor data to tell us who the most poor, marginalised, and vulnerable are; let alone exactly where they are in order to develop and deploy targeted strategies that bring them to the fold of mainstream development and governance. As a result, they still remain in the red zone; likely to be left behind yet again.

Process-wise, a truly transformative agenda is at risk with slow progress being made in resolving challenges around tier II and III SDGs indicators[3]. As of September 2016 the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)[4] published the updated tier classification that showed that out of the 230 globally agreed SDGs indicators, 81 were Tier I indicators, 57 were Tier II, and 88 were Tier III. In addition to these, there were 4 indicators that had multiple tiers (different components of the indicator were classified into different tiers). It is, however, taking longer than anticipated to resolve the tier related issues, with a direct negative consequence on the ability of countries to domesticate SDGs. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developing countries will find it even more difficult to mainstream SDGs in their national plans and establish follow up and review mechanisms. The grim reality is we stand the risk of many countries not fully achieving set targets under the SDGs.

The SDGs are being implemented in a difficult political context for citizens and, more specifically, civil society. The affront on civic freedoms and civic space is on the rise. In 2016 alone, CIVICUS World Alliance[5] documented serious violations of civic space in 109 countries[6]. This year is no different, if findings in the 2017 State of Civil Society Report[7] are anything to go by. A consistent pattern is emerging of attacks on civil society organisations (CSOs) and activists engaged in defending human rights and fundamental freedoms from repressive state machinery, extremist groups and criminal forces linked to big business. While some of the worst conditions for civil society's fundamental rights of association, peaceful assembly and expression are experienced in Africa and Asia, every global region has countries where civil society is repressed. Civic space is being seriously constrained in 106 countries, over half of all United Nations (UN) members. This means that the restriction of civic space has become the norm rather than the exception. It should now be considered a global emergency.

Additionally, the CIVICUS Monitor[8] is adducing evidence that civic freedoms and indeed civic space is in a sorry state all over the world. Just three percent of people on the planet live in countries with open civic space. By contrast, almost one in ten people live in a country with closed civic space and over a third of people live in countries with repressed civic space. According to the HLPF reporting timeline[9], it's only until 2019 that member states will have the opportunity to report on SDG 16[10]. But given the importance of an enabling environment as a pre-condition to achieving sustainable development, we are more inclined to think that perhaps it is time to reconsider annual reporting at the High Level by countries on the progress being made to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) around governance for the SDGs

Through DataShift[11], an initiative of CIVICUS we have learnt that the link between globally defined frameworks, such as SDGs and what is happening in people's lives at the local level, are not always obvious. It is therefore important to relate these concepts to real-world scenarios to ensure they can be understood by all, particularly in their local contexts. A closer review of and demonstration of areas of government policy or service delivery for example health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture and so forth; and how government is translating these into meaningful results in people's lives can make it easier to stimulate people's interest and participation.

Citizens are also seldom seen as proactive members of the data ecosystem, but more so final recipients of interventions born out of decisions made elsewhere. This exacerbated by power imbalances that pitch government on one side and citizens on the other – each perceiving the other as a distinct and separate entity. On the other hand, the majority of people simply can't make sense of data, and therefore are not interested in it. As governments grapple with the domestication of SDGs, non-state actors need not wait. They have been implementing sustainable development initiatives for decades. The big question is how these can be mainstreamed into a framework that allows them to directly contribute to the implementation and track progress on specific sub-national and national SDGs indicators, while reporting on the same. Governments need to lead the process of developing these kinds of frameworks.

Significant challenges remain in accessing timely, relevant, and good quality data to supply useable information. Capacity gaps, resource constraints, governance and institutional challenges stand in the way of efficient and effective production of good quality, timely, and relevant data and statistics. A culture of usage is yet to be inculcated in many critical formal government sectors and therefore decisions are

not aligned to development priorities – often left to intuition and political interests. The Africa Data Consensus (ADC)[12] outlines other challenges including a lack of disaggregated data; a lack of accessible usable information that is open to all communities; a mismatch between available data and actual problems; weak demand and capacity in the use of data at both national and local level; concerns over privacy, data protection and intellectual property; insufficient funding and dependence on external resources; a lack of common standards allowing comparison of data across sectors and countries, and; a lack of data on key issues such as governance, peace and security, environmental sustainability, gender and human rights.

Citizen-generated data can connect people with timely, meaningful information that is actionable for their circumstances and everyday tasks. DataShift describes CGD as data that people or their organisations produce to directly monitor, demand or drive change on issues that affect them. CGD is data generated by citizens that falls outside the remit of official data, either surveys, administrative, or civil registration and vital statistics. In most cases its production is initiated by citizens or non-state actors like civil society organisations, community based organisations, and religious institutions through research, social audits, crowd-sourcing online platforms, mobile phone and SMS surveys, phone calls, reports, storytelling, social media, and community radio.

CGD can be quantitative or qualitative, structured or unstructured, and open or closed. It comes in a number of formats, ranging from numerical data in spreadsheets to text, audio or photos. Typically, citizen-generated data is collected through a specific initiative that aims to have a positive social impact. For example, an initiative might address corruption, sexual harassment, service delivery, or environmental degradation. CGD initiatives can harness the power of collective intelligence to contribute in areas where key data is missing – like the health of our oceans. Plankton Portal[13], which uses crowdsourcing to locate and classify different photos of plankton to help scientists better understand the function and health of the ocean from small to global scales. This can be used to directly measure progress on SDG 14 on life below water.

Whereas CGD complements official data, there is broad consensus that it cannot replace it. It is, however, useful in plugging data gaps or check the accuracy and quality of government data being produced. In China, for example, Float Beijing[14] gathered citizens in the city to build air quality sensors attached to kites that could produce an accurate, timely dataset on air quality in the city because the Chinese government wasn't publishing sufficient air quality information. Float Beijing could be used to monitor targets and indicators under SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. In other cases, citizens collect qualitative data to raise awareness of a topic that isn't getting enough attention from institutions, like HarassMap[15], which collects experiences of sexual harassment in Egypt to raise

awareness on this important issue and could be used to directly monitor progress on targets under SDG 5.

Sometimes citizens are simply better placed to gather data on a particular topic. Sustainable Development Goal number 5 on “Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women & Girls” sets target 5.4 to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies. This is an example of a target whose data can be more accurately collected through self-enumeration by citizens as data collectors since it may require data to be collected within the home, in real time. Check My School[16] is an example of a participatory public education monitoring program in the Philippines that enables parents to send in feedback about schools via SMS, Twitter and other media – also connecting them with the Department of Education to help inform policy making.

A broad range of approaches and technologies can be used for collecting citizen-generated data. These include:

- Undertaking new surveys (e.g. to measure literacy[17]) whether via more traditional household questionnaire formats or new tech-dependent formats like SMS and radio feedback mechanisms (e.g. to measure attitudes to disease prevention[18]);
- Deploying monitoring equipment – including custom devices (e.g. to map pollution[19]);
- Mapping with “drones” or GPS devices (e.g. to scrutinise land boundaries[20]);
- Combining multiple existing databases (e.g. to count migrant deaths[21]);
- Scraping and aggregating data from official sources (e.g. to monitor official pardons[22]);
- Cross-referencing official, news and social media sources (e.g. to count police killings[23]; to assess public service delivery[24]);
- Creating crowdsourcing mechanism in order to collect individual stories and reports from citizens and civil society groups (e.g. to better measure marine debris[25] to monitor economic conditions[26]);
- Developing micro-tasking platforms to utilise online assistance in performing tasks that require human cognition (e.g. to monitor deforestation[27]) to assist in disaster relief efforts[28]
- Social or community-based auditing which empower citizens to undertake their own inquiries into issues that affect their lives (e.g. National Taxpayers Association social auditing[29] of Constituency Development Funds in Kenya or Community Based Auditing to improve natural resource planning and management[30]).

- A combination of more than one of these approaches (e.g. to map the supply of and access to water at district level[31])
- DataShift’s project with the Open Institute[32] in localising the SDGs at the community level in Lanet Umoja Location, Nakuru County, in Kenya with Chief Francis Kariuki[33], hopes to demonstrate (at a small scale) the sort of effort needed to reach everyone, including the most marginalised, to empower citizens as data collectors.

CGD has been touted as one of the complementary data sources for monitoring of the implementation and tracking progress on national development plans and SDGs. It can provide qualitative data and evidence on the impact of interventions on people’s lives and relay feedback to governments for scaling up or making improvements. As acknowledged, the SDGs agenda is so ambitious that complementary efforts of other data producers may be needed to supply data to meet the demand and catalyze action on the ground. CGD can therefore help to identify and fill inherent data gaps in specific thematic areas, especially those that require physical presence, constant monitoring, or regular submission of data, for example indicators on the environment or life under water. Its other distinct advantages include:

1. Given limitations in resources, capacity gaps, or historical marginalization governments are unlikely to reach all corners of their countries, potentially leaving people behind. CGD can highlight those kinds of populations especially in marginalized and hard to reach areas in order to inform policy decisions and targeted resource allocation.
2. It offers the opportunity to citizens, untrained in formal data and statistics methodologies to be creative and flexible in development and governance interventions; often better understanding and responding to people’s immediate and rapidly evolving needs.
3. The contextualised nature of CGD means it can yield highly disaggregated data to the lowest levels of the communities, highlighting specific needs and priorities for government and other stakeholder’s interventions to support the realization of sustainable development.
4. CGD empowers citizens to better understand their development and governance context, therefore have the ability to hold their leaders to account for the delivery of promises made under national development plans and the SDGs.
5. Related to the point above, CGD is gathered on themes and topics that matter to citizens, potentially flagging up issues of social injustice, economic inequality or environmental degradation that might otherwise be missed.
6. CGD is actively given by citizens, providing direct representations of their perspectives and an alternative to datasets collected by governments or international institutions.

7. CGD can help communities take ownership of their development agenda and engage in the identification of targets and indicators they can take action themselves at the local level, therefore meaningfully contributing to the delivery of the SDGs.
8. CGD can help achieve scale on ideas and interventions that work, especially through the testing of new, innovative ideas, and developing practical models at various levels of development.

One of the key counter-arguments by statisticians about CGD is that does not necessarily adhere to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, therefore posing challenges to policy makers that may want to use it. Despite the immense potential of citizen-generated data, a number of both real and perceived challenges exist regarding its collection and use. DataShift notes these challenges as:

1. Coverage: This refers to the number and geographical distribution of citizen-generated data initiatives, along with the degree to which their thematic focus corresponds with the many SDGs targets and indicators. While citizen-generated data initiatives on new topics are emerging all the time, and a number of projects which have been successful in one location are being rolled out in others, increasing the coverage of these projects across more countries and SDGs-focus areas remains a major challenge, especially to comprehensive shadow reporting.
2. Representativeness: Sparse coverage and the wide range of methodologies and metrics used mean that citizen-generated data projects, such as crowdsourced data or citizen report cards, will often not be a representative sample of the whole population.
3. Credibility: There are currently a lack of standards or agreed good practices for citizen-generated data collection and use, meaning that quality and reliability of the data produced can be variable. This has contributed to perceptions that citizen-generated data often lacks credibility; something which is at times reflected in government attitudes towards using or integrating it into their own datasets.
4. Comparability: At present, there is today no easy method for comparing citizen-generated data collected by different actors and in multiple countries – often collected according to different methodologies and concepts, strategic priorities and cultural and political contexts.
5. Using the data: The raw and unbounded potential of technology holds a powerful allure for both governments and civil society. Challenges around the usability of citizen-generated data also apply to civil society. Many projects can fail to adequately consider how the information and datasets they produce will actually be used, whether this is via civil society campaigning strategies or feeding into local, national or global accountability processes.

DataShift concludes that while these challenges are not insurmountable, and significant progress has been made on many of these issues, considerable and continued effort from government, civil society and other stakeholders will be required to get the most out of this innovative but complex data source. Collaboration is possible between NSOs and CGD initiatives in collecting data and this can be tested in many areas of the national statistical activities.

Case Study Learning from DataShift’s Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Projects

DataShift’s ‘Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’ explored opportunities and challenges with using, among others data streams, CGD in all aspects of SDGs progress particularly related to gender equality in Kenya and Tanzania. A review of country contexts and data sources was conducted through applied data research primarily focusing on gender, assessing gender data availability, accessibility, quality, comparability and gaps. The approach entailed a deep-dive on SDG 5 ^[34](*achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*). SDG 5 was selected because substantive stakeholder consultations revealed that whereas a lot of advocacy work was being undertaken in this area, this was supported by very little data and evidence. Additionally, collaboration among key stakeholders on gender data and information was nearly non-existent.

There are a number of ways that CGD can support tracking progress on SDGs in a more practical sense. This includes applied research, collaboration and partnerships to strengthen trust and facilitate learning among civil society either directly or through coordinating platforms, local government and national government agencies; thematic forums assembling diverse stakeholders, policy engagement, direct capacity support and development of training modules, technical support to civil society and government on SDGs domestication, follow up and review, and outreach and advocacy.

Research

- It is important to conduct research for the specific area of focus on the SDGs. This offers deeper insights into how in concrete terms citizen-generated data could be used to track progress on the specific targets and indicators. The findings support advocacy efforts in promoting CGD for SDGs monitoring at different levels, especially within government. DataShift conducted a number of research pieces including:
- The “*Statistical Perspectives on Citizen-generated Data (CGD)*”^[35] report that delved into the opportunities and challenges involved in using CGD to support government-led efforts to catalyse and monitor progress on

sustainable development. While focusing on DataShift’s pilot locations (Argentina, Kenya, Nepal, and Tanzania), the study also brought in contributions of experts from international organisations – such as Open Data Watch, Paris21, and the UK Department for International Development.

- CGD for SDGs: The “*Acting locally, Monitoring globally*^[36]” report published in partnership with Open Knowledge International, sought to decipher to what extent the SDGs are relevant for CGD initiatives. CGD yields the potential to foreground the issues of disadvantaged communities in under-reported locations. “*From Evidence to Action*^[37]” is a research piece that demonstrates how citizen-generated data (CGD) can support decision-making and trigger action. “*Making citizen-generated data work*^[38]” investigates how citizen-generated data can be used to monitor progress around the SDGs.
- The “*Guide to engaging governments on SDGs*^[39]” is a “live” document that is continually updated and draws on our experiences in Kenya and Tanzania. It provides information about key opportunities, challenges and strategies for CSOs engagement with governments on SDGs.

National Thematic Forums

Since most actors still operate in silos, it’s important to mobilise and facilitate engagements in order to raise awareness on SDGs, gain better understanding of the development landscape, key players, and their priorities. The objective of thematic forums is to assemble organisations and individuals active within their sectors but who rarely interact to share learning or evidence from their initiatives. Through thematic forums we learnt that breaking down the silos will not be easy, however a more coordinated approach through structured collaboration on priority sub-themes like gender-based violence (for SDG 5) and creating/supporting a culture of data sharing, lesson learning, joint-research and common advocacy agenda can help make this possible.

Strategic Positioning and Engaging Government

Several opportunities for partnership and collaboration exist in the national follow up and review processes. Civil society and other non-state actors can work through SDGs coordination platforms to engage in Voluntary National Reviews[40] and contribute evidence from their initiatives. The process presents a key opportunity to build trust and strategically position CSOs to influence other on-going mainstreaming of the SDGs into national and sub-national development plans.

Facilitating Sharing of Learning Among Partners

There are many useful lessons to be learnt from partners working in diverse locations. Variations in strategies, approaches and methodologies enhance learning and avoid the re-inventing of the wheel, particularly in the use of technology to generate and utilise CGD. DataShift, for instance, convened partners from all its pilot countries in Johannesburg in November 2016 for a global gender thematic forum^[41]. The forum took an in-depth look at the possibilities and barriers for improving the coherence of civil society data and CGD on gender, exploring in particular issues of credibility via topics such as methodological rigour and responsible data use. The partners identified practical steps to overcoming challenges as documented and shared in the report “*Exploring the Global Coverage, Credibility and Complementarity of Civil Society Data and Citizen-Generated Data on Gender Issues*”^[42]. This uncovered new opportunities for joint working among partners and across countries.

Convening Multi-Stakeholder In-Country Data Collaboratives

Governments and civils society should explore the formation of multi-stakeholder data collaboratives. Inspired by the health data collaborative^[43] in Kenya for example, the mandate of these collaboratives is largely to mobilise within thematic sectors on data supporting delivery of development outcomes, and developing concepts for multi-stakeholder country reports on the annual status of specific SDGs.

Developing Guidelines for Improving Methodology and Quality of CGD in Collaboration with Government

Guidelines are needed to help CSOs navigate national legal and policy frameworks, identify areas for reforms, and improve their methodologies for production of CGD for decision-making. DataShift has for example partnered with the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics^[44] and Africa Philanthropic Foundation^[45] to develop such guidelines that could facilitate exactly this.

Practically Testing Ideas for Domesticating SDGs at the Community Level

Through the Global Goals for Local Impact project with the Open Institute (OI) in Kenya and a local government administrator in Lanet Umoja, Nakuru County in Kenya^[46], Chief Francis Kariuki (aka the Tweeting Chief^[47]) DataShift explored a model of citizen-local government participation in the domestication of SDGs at the community level. This was a great opportunity to work with the local administration to strengthen the capacity of citizens to generate CGD and use the information themselves to demand for improved service delivery.

The Nakuru County budget making process also presented a clear avenue for the citizens to use SDG 5 targets and indicators as the framework for identifying priority sub-themes. They then used data collected by women groups on mobile phones to visualise and articulate community problems to the county government. This

evidence-based approach to advocate for country budget resources resulted to the county government committing funds to construct a health centre in Lanet Umoja – a public service problem the community had grappled with for many years. The data made available on a dedicated Lanet Umoja web dashboard^[48] supports local government in decision-making.

DataShift further collaborated with Restless Development Tanzania under their *Kijana Wajibika*^[49] initiative to empower male and female youth to generate and use gender disaggregated CGD to power campaigns targeting district youth funds in three districts in Tanzania. The capacity strengthening included support with campaigns that engaged district level decision-makers and has helped the youth to engage in other formal local government decision-making platforms. Constructive dialogues with local government leaders proved that, when supported young people, they could be highly effective drivers of local level accountability on sustainable development, often owing to their ability to quickly utilise new data-related technologies and innovative campaign approaches.

Leave-No-One Behind Consultations

DataShift technical support to the leave-no-one-behind national dialogues in Kenya and Tanzania taught us the importance of localising the SDGs framework and, in particular, the language it uses. It is, however, important to share the approach and learning, including convening side events and engaging in major global forums, e.g. the World Data Forum, UN Statistical Commission, High Level Political Forum, and the UN General Assembly. One of the key messages in various forums was that, a closer look at the SDGs targets and indicators revealed that a substantial number of these could be tracked by citizens and civil society organisations, however this requires the establishment of formal (government supported) frameworks to report on progress in an integrated, sustainable way.

Convening Civil Society

Through the Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)^[50] initiative, DataShift focused on creating a coordination mechanism to unite global civil society efforts around SDGs through working groups on *Monitoring and Accountability*, and *Innovative Solutions*. Progress was made in convening civil society actors to explore joint efforts that could enhance data-driven monitoring of the SDGs. In addition to hosting online webinars, a web space^[51] was created to facilitate sharing of information. DataShift developed and shared knowledge on the practical approach and opportunities for civil society organisations to take advantage of formal government processes to engage on SDGs in their countries through the development sharing of a guide^[52]. Leveraging technologies, network visualisations

were developed^[53] to present a picture of all citizen generated data initiatives in DataShift’s database and their respective connection to the SDGs.

The DataShift Community of CGD practitioners was formalised and grew to over 300 members from around the globe. To inspire innovative action and collaboration on CGD for SDGs initiatives across our community, a DataShift “Community Challenge^[54]” was launched and the winners announced. Through the “data for activists” initiative, learnings were documented and shared (including by video) from an extended capacity strengthening programme that continues to support dozens of CSOs to generate and use data for local campaigns, which will in turn feed into wider SDGs monitoring efforts where possible. This process has culminated in the creation of an online learning curriculum on this topic that is now ready to be rolled out to hundreds more CSOs^[55].

Having learnt that CGD is much more useful for spurring action and tracking progress on specific issues and SDGs targets, DataShift commenced a deep dive into Goal 16.10^[56], since this is an area that CGD has shown potential to add real value. DataShift is also working to support local campaigning to ensure public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms, leveraging CGD and creating direct links with the CIVICUS Monitor^[57].

Supporting the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

DataShift played an active role as an anchor member of the GPSDD, including full participation in Interim Steering Group and in all in-person meetings and regular conference calls. The strategic opportunity here included sharing learning from sub-national, national, and global experiences by consistently participating in the GPSDD strategic planning processes. Technically we provided expert advice to government-led national data revolution roadmap workshops in Africa. During the workshops, we demonstrated how civil society and CGD can support more effective monitoring of SDGs. At the World Data Forum, Cape Town in January 2017 we co-hosted a number of events and participated as panelists in others, as well as engaged in all the side-meetings of GPSDD, while supporting other Partnership members in their side events.

Learning from DataShift CGD for SDGs initiatives

- We can’t track what doesn’t exist. Whereas the SDGs have mobilised political and technical capital, we realise that countries are still grappling with a complicated domestication and mainstreaming process almost two years after their adoption. Therefore, as civil society, we’ve had to spend a considerably larger than expected amount of time nurturing and brokering relationships with decision makers to better understand the process and offer our support, but this has inevitably delayed efforts towards tracking progress on SDGs.

- A detailed analysis of SDGs indicators in DataShift pilot countries finds that disparities in language and definitions between the SDGs targets and indicators and locally available data sources for example the demographic and health surveys. This is further delaying the domestication process as national statistical offices seeks to harmonise the two, and develop methodology for new indicators that fall under Tiers II and III.
- A review of official datasets found that they fall short on disaggregation by gender and other key criteria. It was therefore problematic to determine how government programs were impacting citizens by gender, age and other social economic factors. Tools, methodology, financial, and technical support is needed to improve data quality.
- Despite many initiatives undertaking great thematic gender-related work in health, education, economic development, among others, many CSOs are yet to make the connection with the SDGs and what their potential role could be in implementing and tracking progress. Incentives are needed across the board to demonstrate the utility of SDGs to some of these players.
- We've learnt that donor requirements significantly influencing the way CSOs generate, use and share data. Contract clauses determine how seriously CSOs take the process of production, analysis, use, and dissemination of data. These requirements also determine whether the data will be made available or not. The advocacy efforts around improved methodology, standards and robustness need to target donors and other funders to prescribe quality standards and improved methodologies for collection and dissemination of data among their partners or grantees.
- Breaking down silos is not easy; however, it's possible to harness their power through establishing "data collaboratives" in countries that gravitate around specific thematic sectors in order to harmonise multi-stakeholder efforts. The collaboratives would create platforms that connect initiatives and mobilise collective action and advocacy agendas on cross-cutting issues.
- Political will on the side of government officials, in particular creating opportunities for initial consultative meetings is a critical first step to opening channels for multi-stakeholder collaboration. Through constructive engagement with government, new channels for participation can be opened, however this needs to be backed up by policies and other formally agreed frameworks. Whereas many government recognise the importance of consulting civil society in the Voluntary National Review processes, they don't proactively do so, forcing civil to constantly push for a space at the table.
- The relative novelty and pluralistic nature of CGD means it can be easily dismissed by public officials if they feel it challenges their authority. Thus, greater understanding and trust needs to be built around the utility of CGD for

decision-making. This may stem from genuine concerns about collection methodologies, accuracy, privacy risks, and the compatibility of CGD with established (and often inflexible) official procedures. Additionally, though, CGD may also highlight shortcomings in public service provision or vested interests, giving rise to a less legitimate (but equally, if not more challenging) form of resistance.

- In order to use multiple sources of data, particularly CGD, to monitor SDGs progress, it is important to strengthen and refine data systems, especially the national indicator framework to formally acknowledge and identify new specific data sources. Data standards, however, must be developed and in some instances harmonised if the data is to be made interoperable. The current differences in methodology and approach makes this practically impossible.
- We've also learnt that in order to use CGD for SDGs monitoring, civil society and governments need to work with and build on existing government processes to help align interests. SDGs monitoring projects therefore need to talk to governments. On the contrary, governments should foster openness towards CGD, for instance by installing civic contact points (ombudsmen) for SDGs monitoring, and support CGD initiatives through technical and financial resources. SDGs should be used as the common framework for mutual collaboration.
- Lack of effective government coordination mechanisms, inadequate buy-in from all actors across government, power dynamics, and narrowed interests of individuals or organisations can side-track and delay progress on data initiatives. To overcome these, in-depth political economy analysis and understanding is needed of the contextual power structures and dynamics, key players, and development of strategies that facilitate formal government-led and coordinated multi-stakeholder processes that converge and leverage diverse interests. Two key pillars are needed; 1) political – one that mobilises collective buy-in from across government and the requisite resources, and coordinates multi-stakeholder engagements, and 2) technical – one that acts as the natural home of the data revolution, synthesising multi-stakeholder commitments, translating these into policy decisions and actions, and coordinating technical initiatives within and outside government.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In our focus countries we continue to learn about the complex ways in which government decision-making happens and how it can be influenced. Whereas in theory, improved access to quality data and information can lead to better decisions, the reality we have experienced shows that even when opportunities to fill data gaps using innovative sources like CGD are presented to governments, the factors limiting

collaboration between civil society and government are as much political as they are technical. With this being the case, the ability of CSOs and citizens to play an active role in SDG monitoring is improving but too slowly.

Public pressure will be critical in exerting influence on how some decisions are made, but there is an inherent recognition that narrowing civic space and curtailed democratic freedoms across the world are inhibiting the ability of the public to hold leaders to account. It is therefore important for civil society to pursue a collaborative model in order to open doors and work in partnership with government, but also draw the lines and work with others when we need to exert pressure on governments to do the right things and be more accountable in their commitments on SDGs.

The more technical arms of governments are willing to partner with civil society. This is partly inspired by the rallying call to “leave-no-one-behind,” but more importantly international pressure and specific clauses in agreements for much more inclusive multi-stakeholder national processes. The continued global advocacy^[58] and pressure by civil society on member states to fulfil their commitments under the SDGs, centralise the role of data for sustainable development, prioritise access to information through open governance and data, and facilitate the inclusion of civil society and other stakeholders in governance and development processes is starting to bear fruits – though a lot more is desired on the side of governments to formally appreciate their role as true partners. It is important to fully support multi-stakeholder initiatives on data for example those led the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) to convene, connect, and catalyse; inspiring collaborations among diverse stakeholders, and country engagements that harness the data revolution and CGD for sustainable development – even more importantly spur action to help end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and combat climate change^[59].

Civil society should therefore seek partnerships with citizens, government, other civil society, academia, private sector, and media, among others that allow them to scale impact by improving the way they all generate, process, share, and use evidence to impact the lives of communities for sustainable development (including the SDGs). They should continue to explore opportunities and develop models that strengthen the connections between citizens and their governments at all levels in order to improve the way services are delivered (this should cater for the needs of those most at risk and vulnerable, including women and girls and other marginalised groups). They must also strengthen the ability of citizens to generate and use CGD to demand accountability and take practical actions through advocacy campaigns that push governments to fulfil commitments made under the SDGs. A bottom-up approach that utilises local priorities, citizen voices, language and understanding is the starting point. This will then feed upwards into inclusive multi-stakeholder

frameworks coordinated by governments but jointly owned and shared by other stakeholders – not least CSOs.

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Supplemental indicators for Goal 16[1]: UNDP and the Community of Democracies

By H.E. Dr. Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets are addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. The SDGs cover the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

A core feature of the SDGs is their strong focus on means of implementation—the mobilization of financial resources—capacity-building and technology, as well as data and institutions. Implementation and success relies on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programs, and will be led by countries. Promoting peaceful and democratic societies is an important pillar of the new development agenda. Nowadays, it is indisputable that without peace, there can be no development; and without development, peace cannot be ensured and neither can be fulfilled without respect for human rights.

Looking ahead to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, if we truly want to ensure that no one is left behind, we need to make sure that no right is forgotten. The sustainability of the development results and poverty eradication efforts require rule of law and effective institutions, underpinned by human rights. The UN Development System, especially the UNDP, will continue to support the developing states for the implementation of the SDGs. Romania welcomes the appointment of the new UNDP Administrator and is looking forward to continue working with the UNDP in promoting the achievement of the sustainable development and the SDGs in the world.

Raising awareness to promote and support the implementation of the SDGs is equally important, as much as monitoring and reporting are a prerequisite for keeping governments accountable and on track. Neither can be done in the absence of a good framework of indicators.

Developing a good set of indicators is key

We consider important that efforts within the Community of Democracies are well connected with those of the UN Statistical Commission. The head of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics participated at the Statistical Commission session, in New York, 7-10 March, where the Global Indicators have been adopted consensually. The new Global Indicators are an important instrument that will be used by countries when building national and sub-national indicators. It is essential

to avoid duplicating sets of indicators and overburden national institutions when reporting on their progress.

The Global Indicators provide an adequate framework to start measuring the implementation of the Agenda 2030. It is a flexible framework, open to changes and modifications based on methodological improvements and data availability.

Rule of law and good governance are critically important for monitoring and accountability. Transparency, participation in decision-making, and access to information as well as freedom of speech, association and assembly are crucial elements.

They emphasize that non-discriminatory laws, access to justice and legal identity are essential for advancing gender equality, equitable development and the delivery of basic services, including to the most vulnerable.

Importantly, the targets in Goal 16 aim to deliver improvements for both negative peace (the absence of violence or the fear of violence) and positive peace (the attitudes, structures and institutions that underpin peaceful societies).

The SDG 16 Supplemental Indicators Framework initiative

Within the Community of Democracies, the member countries decided upon the opportunity of having a complementary tool to the global indicators framework, adopted by the UNGA. For this purpose, the Secretariat of the CofD appointed Dr. Havard Mogleiv Nygard to lead the technical research to map out the principal indicators and datasets to inform on the development of the supplemental indicator framework started. He started its work in December 2016 and proposed an initial outline for the supplemental indicators for Goal 16 with criteria that was shared with UNDP and OGP project partners and the Group of Experts prior to the first meeting in January 2017. The first consultation was carried out in New York, 2 February 2017, and engaged a Group of Experts from academia, civil society and development practitioners, in a review of the outline and criteria for the supplemental indicators for Goal 16. With input provided by the Group of Experts during the First Global meeting, the technical lead developed a first draft supplemental indicator framework for Goal 16 and presented this to the PSCD and project partners for feedback.

A presentation was made by the technical lead at the 24th Community of Democracies Governing Council meeting in Geneva, 3 March 2017. Advances on the indicator framework were presented to the GC members and they had the opportunity to comment. The technical lead revised the draft supplemental indicator framework based on the previous consultation and feedback received.

A second one-day consultation was carried out in Oslo, 6 April, with the same group of participants for an in-depth review and discussion of a second draft of the proposed indicators. With the feedback from the second consultation in Oslo and additional feedback received from follow-up conference calls with subject matter

experts, the technical lead worked on a third draft of the supplemental indicator framework, and a third draft indicator framework was shared with the GC members prior to the 25th GC meeting in May.

A discussion on the proposed indicator framework was carried out at the 25th GC meeting on June 14th. A final one-day meeting with a small group of subject matter experts was carried out in Warsaw, on 19 June. During the meeting a final set of proposed supplemental indicators for Goal 16 was discussed and validated.

With final feedback received from GC members and the subject matter experts, including specific input for metadata for each individual indicator proposed; the Technical Lead is working on the final SDG16 Supplemental Indicators. The PSCD will send out the SDG16 Supplemental Indicators Framework to the GC members by August 11th. Once approved, a publication will be made of the SDG16 Supplemental Framework, and reproduced in time for the CoD Ministerial Meeting. The Secretariat of the Community of Democracies envisages some opportunities to highlight the work carried out on the supplemental indicator framework by the CoD at the HLPF in New York, 10-20 July 2017.

A high-level panel with representatives from UNDP, OGP, and pilot countries will convene a high-level panel at the CoD Ministerial, 13-15 September 2017, to present the SDG16 Supplemental Framework and the results of the national-level monitoring of Goal 16 pilot projects carried out in six countries.

As future chairmanship of the CoD Governing Council (2019-2021), Romania will support the SDG16 Supplemental Indicators Framework, aiming to be a tool to help countries in monitoring the implementation of the SDG 16 in a more accurate way.

What is RO doing in implementing SDGs

President Iohannis announced in September 2015, at the UN Summit adopting the 2030 Agenda, that Romania would be reviewing its 2008 National Sustainable Development Strategy to integrate the SDGs. It is a work in progress.

We have initiated a process of reflection to identify the necessary adjustments, including in terms of national coordination of efforts coming from various line ministries. Developing a good set of indicators is part of this process and here the National Statistical Institute plays an important role.

At the national level, the Government of Romania has the primary responsibility for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs; the civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders should have an integral role in this endeavor.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will be in charge with the coordination of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. The PMO will work closely with all ministries, the National Institute of Statistics, as well as the representatives of the non-governmental organizations. The Department of Sustainable Development was set up within the Office of the Prime Minister. The

Head of the Department of Sustainable Development is Mr. László Borbély, State Counsellor.

Nationally owned and country-led sustainable development strategies will require resource mobilization and financing strategies.

Romania adopted in 2008 a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). Its vision is geared towards the 2030 horizon. This is our starting point. It represents the framework that would continue to guide our efforts forward.

The Inter-ministerial Committee (chaired by the Romanian Minister of Environment) that drafted the NSDS in 2008 is called to review whether its objectives are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, to identify gaps and set national goals. It is work in progress which involves all the ministries, national agencies, as well as the National Institute of Statistics and NGOs.

In the case of Romania, *social inclusion* is identified as a major challenge to the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In the future revised Romanian Sustainable Development Strategy, the emphasis will be on supporting the inclusion of disabled people, youth, and women in development policies. Ending poverty also requires decent employment opportunities.

Similarly, *disaster risk and environmental degradation* present an important challenge to our region. Disaster risk reduction and tackling environmental risks therefore need to be part of the revised Romanian Sustainable Development Strategy and its future Plan of Actions. A Romanian ministerial delegation, led by the Head of the Department for Emergency situations, participated at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun, 22-27 May 2017.

At the global level, the annual July meetings of the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development (UN HQs, New York) will play a central role in reviewing progress towards the SDGs at the global level. The means of implementation of the SDGs will be monitored and reviewed as outlined in the July 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, to ensure that financial resources are effectively mobilized to support the revised National Sustainable Development Strategy which will include the SDGs and the national Plan of Actions. Romania will make the National Voluntary Presentation to the 2018 HLPF.

We find it is extremely important that national institutions and ministries work together. This is essential to ensure that the integrated nature of the SDGs is preserved. The 2030 Agenda would only be successful if all SDGs are implemented together.

In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implement the recommended regional-level follow-up and review, the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are encouraged to work in the following areas: (1) aligning the

regional objectives/goals/targets with the relevant SDGs and accelerating the implementation of strategic documents through national and regional action; (2) setting up a regionally coordinated mechanism to assist the member states in developing national reports in a coordinated manner, targeting the shared regional seas; (3) regional partnerships under the global multi-stakeholder partnerships; and (4) assist the member states in applying the coordinated set of regional seas indicators, which are aligned with the SDGs indicators. (5) aligning the regional objectives with the SDGs.

As regards the Black Sea Region, the topic of addressing marine pollution is a very complex one because of different conditions of the marine regions. Regional Seas Conventions have an important role in coordinating implementation of Marine Strategies in all oceans and seas. Increased sea levels and impacts on coastal areas are concerns that are requiring actions towards increasing the adaptation capacity. At the national and regional levels, is necessary to plan and manage the various economic activities that occur in the coastal areas, regulate human behavior and integrate the use of coastal waters into land-use planning.

Romania, represented by the Minister of Waters and Forests, pledged to the Ocean Conference (New York, 5 – 9 June 2017) US\$10,000 to the trust fund of the Conference and a voluntary commitment in order to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 – ”Good environmental status in the Black Sea marine region by 2020.” Our actions will allow us to prevent and reduce marine pollution in order to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Romanian Parliament and the 2030 Agenda

Parliaments are powerful agents of change. They play a special role in promoting a new generation of environmentally responsible citizens.

The universality of the SDGs requires that parliaments in all countries play a role in translating the goals and their targets into national objectives. This process needs to take account of priorities set by citizens, women and men alike, so that national objectives reflect the real needs and expectations of the population. Every attempt should be made to include the marginalized groups. Outreach programmes are also important in engaging public opinion and the media.

Parliaments have a unique role in establishing platforms to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue across thematic issues and interests, across national actors, from institutions, the private sector or the civil society, and thereby help focus and advance the country’s progress on the SDGs.

The Romanian Parliament is strongly committed towards the implementation of the SDGs. On 15 June 2015, in Bucharest took place a regional workshop on the SDGs,

with the participation from the Parliaments from the Central and Eastern Europe, organized by the Chamber of Deputies and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

In the occasion of the anniversary of 125 years of Romania's membership to the IPU, the Romanian Parliament organized the regional workshop on the SDGs, on 18-19 April 2016.

The Romanian Parliament adopted a Declaration on the achievement of the SDGs, in the presence of representatives of parliaments from 27 States, on 18 April 2016.

On 18 October 2016, the Parliament organized the workshop "*Leaders for Sustainable Development.*"

On 12-14 June, the Parliament organized, in collaboration with the IPU and the NGO, the "*Global Rights for Women and Vital Voices*" workshop. The regional workshop focused on making laws work to end violence against women and girls for the parliaments from the Eastern and Central Europe.

References

[1] The SDG 16 aims to *promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

Private Sector Contribution to Financing the Sustainable Development Goals

By Felix Dodds, Associate Fellow Tellus Institute

“We must devise a regulatory system, at both the national and international levels, including an adequate incentive structure, that will make inclusive, sustainable investments also the most profitable investments.” - President of the UN General Assembly (2016-2017) H.E. Peter Thomson

The Sustainable Development Goals represent a unique opportunity for policy makers, companies, investors and others to work together to affect positive change and move capital markets to a more sustainable basis.

Inspired by the Brundtland Report, our aim should be to promote “capital markets that finance development that meets the need of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The SDGs have great aspirations for the roughly \$150 billion worth of official development assistance (ODA). According to the Brookings Report *“Links in the Chain of Sustainable Finance: Accelerating Private Investments for the SDGs, including Climate Action”* approximately **US\$5-7 trillion** of incremental annual investment will be needed to finance the SDGs. Therefore, business and finance in particular have a critical role in ensuring that the Goals are met.

However, there is insufficient focus on encouraging investors to redeploy the **US\$300 trillion** of capital in the global markets in a way that will help achieve these Goals.

Investors can be a catalyst for the innovation in sustainable technologies and entrepreneurialism required to meet the growing demand for goods and services from an ever-growing global population.

This paper outlines the focus in the UN system on, in particular, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting by companies, the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the UNEP Inquiry recommendations and finally on the recommendations put forward for the President of the General Assembly by the 2016 Brookings Report.

A Short History

This paper takes stock of the history of the issue at the UN. It also maps the most important stakeholders that could support this agenda.

“Now a new generation of policy innovation is aiming to ensure that the financial system serves the needs of inclusive, environmentally-sustainable, economic development. These innovations in financial and monetary policies and regulations, along with wider market standards are creating a critical nexus between the rules that govern the financial system and sustainable development.” - The United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System

The role of international business in sustainable development has been debated since the United Nations Conference on Human Development in 1972, which called for “the acceptance of responsibilities by citizens, communities and by enterprises and institutions at every level, all sharing equitably in common efforts”. In the 1992 UN Conference on Sustainable Development included a mention on the “rights and responsibilities” of transnational corporations and the need to embed environmental management and ethics in their operations. Additionally, the conference also emphasized the need to leverage and mobilise financial resources, including from private sources, for the implementation of sustainable development.

Subsequent resolutions and sustainable development conferences such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) which produced the Johannesburg Implementation Plan (2002), underscored the need to align business and private finance with sustainable development principles.

In 2006 UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the UN Global Compact were founding partners for the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). This has become an international network of investors working together to put its six principles into practice.

More recently, a multi-stakeholder coalition played an important role on profiling ESG reporting at the United Nations in the context of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. Non-financial reporting provided a concrete proposal based on actual country initiatives in developed and developing countries and ever increasing international demand for this type of information. The Conference raised the profile of the sustainability reporting agenda as stipulated in paragraph:

“47. We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We encourage industry, interested governments and relevant stakeholders with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity building.” - The Future We Want, 2012

This became an important stage for a more visible and active role of progressive businesses and investors in sustainable development and the multilateral process. It also showed how the private sector and civil society can effectively work together towards a common goal. At Rio+20, four countries established the ‘Friends of Para 47’ (Brazil, Denmark, France and South Africa). This group has grown in numbers

and has working with UNEP and GRI worked to advance the international culture of corporate transparency and accountability.

The issues were also included as part of the Financing for Development's Addis Action Agenda. The Addis Financing for Development Resolution (para. 38) commits governments to design policies which incentivize long-term performance and the use of sustainability indicators in the investment chain.

“38. We acknowledge the importance of robust risk-based regulatory frameworks for all financial intermediation, from microfinance to international banking. We acknowledge that some risk-mitigating measures could potentially have unintended consequences, such as making it more difficult for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to access financial services. We will work to ensure that our policy and regulatory environment supports financial market stability and promotes financial inclusion in a balanced manner, and with appropriate consumer protection. We will endeavour to design policies, including capital market regulations where appropriate, that promote incentives along the investment chain that are aligned with long-term performance and sustainability indicators, and that reduce excess volatility.” - Addis Ababa Action Agenda, 2015

We are now at the implementation phase of the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted in September 2015 – both refer to the role of private sector finance in a number of places.

In the next 15 years, conversations and efforts around sustainable development will be guided by how to achieve this, what progress is being made and how to enable it to scale up both in resources and actions at national and international level.

The Paris Agreement reached at COP21 in December 2015 also included the comment to: *“[make] finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development”* (Article 2.1.c).

The Agreement, by itself, will not move money out of the latter and into the former. Linking climate finance solely to aid is limiting. We should be looking at how we can motivate the trillions in the global capital markets towards sustainable practices. This means that the framework for regulating capital markets will need to support sustainable practices across the financial supply chain, including the way in which Member States should set out a capital raising plan for Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, is developing disclosure guidelines to provide a common reference point for companies, investors, lenders, insurers and other stakeholders.

Principles for Responsible Investment

In 2006, UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) and the UN Global Compact (UNGC) established as founding partners the United Nations Principles for Responsible

Investment. Over 1,500 investors managing around \$60 trillion in assets have committed to the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). However, there remains a failure by a majority of investors to turn these aspirations into action. Recently the PRI reported that only 43% of its signatories integrate ESG into the fundamental analysis of company valuations in equities. So, what is holding them back?

PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

Principle 1: We will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.

Principle 2: We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.

Principle 3: We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.

Principle 4: We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.

Principle 5: We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.

Principle 6: We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.

Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative

The Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how exchanges, in collaboration with investors, regulators, and companies, can enhance corporate transparency – and ultimately performance – on ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) issues and encourage sustainable investment. The SSE is organized by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Global Compact, the UN Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). The first meeting of the SSE was opened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in New York City, USA in 2009.

There is unfinished work around securing a date by which companies listed on stock exchanges should produce their ESG reports and an enabling environment to promote good practice within the investment chain. This was an issue for Rio+20 and Addis. One of the biggest barriers preventing investors from properly incorporating ESG factors into their investment decisions is the inaccessibility of **consistent data** such as carbon emissions, employee turnover or water use. For example, how can an investor be expected to reduce its exposure to water risk when most large companies in most sectors do not report their water usage, or do so using different standards and methodologies? Building a bridge to cross this gap is one of

the most important next steps if we are to harness capital markets to help deliver the SDGs.

It is important to acknowledge that due to the fine work of many companies, investors do have access to some ESG data. Nearly **2,000 companies** report climate change information to the CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) and around **10,000 companies** report ESG data using the Global Reporting Initiative's framework. However, these items are not consistent or global enough to meet investor needs.

And when it comes to global financial architecture, the only actors who can deliver the standardized ESG data which investors require are stock exchanges and their regulators. This work is important in the context of the Post-2030 agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement as many stakeholders believe that the role of the private sector as a delivery mechanism has been expanded without adequate balance. It will be crucial to address this at this point of the implementation stage.

The requirement for companies listed on Stock Exchanges to have to produce their ESG reports as a listing requirement has been led by countries such as South Africa, Brazil and more recently Malaysia, Thailand and India. The European Union is now catching up. A European Union Directive on the Disclosure of Non-Financial and Diversity Information requires ESG disclosures by large companies and groups, beginning in 2017.

The 63 SSE Partner Exchanges and which have ESG as a Listing Rule 2016

	Requires ESG Reporting as a Listing Rule	Offers written guidance on ESG reporting		Requires ESG Reporting as a Listing Rule	Offers written guidance on ESG reporting
Argentina – Bolsa de Comercio de Buenos Aires	No	No	Mexico – Bolsa Mexicana de Valores	No	Committed
Australia – Sydney Stock Exchange	No	Yes	Morocco – Casablanca Exchange	No	No
Bangladesh – Chittagong Stock Exchange	No	No	Namibia – Namibia Stock Exchange	No	No
Belarus – Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange	No	No	Netherlands – Euronext Amsterdam	Soon	Committed
Belgium – Euronext Brussels	Soon	Committed	New Zealand – NZX Limited	No	No
Botswana – Botswana Stock Exchange	No	No	Nigeria – Nigerian Stock Exchange	No	Committed
Brazil – B3 (formerly BM&FBOVESPA)	Yes	Yes	Norway – Oslo Børs	No	Committed
Canada – Aequitas NEO Exchange	Yes	Yes	Peru – Bolsa de Valores de Lima	No	No
Chile – Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago	No	Committed	Poland – Warsaw Stock Exchange	Soon	Committed
Colombia – Bolsa de Valores de Colombia	No	Yes	Portugal – Euronext Lisbon	Soon	Committed
Denmark – Nasdaq Copenhagen	Soon	Committed	Qatar – Qatar Stock Exchange	No	Committed
Egypt – Egyptian Exchange	No	Committed	Romania – Bucharest Stock Exchange	Soon	Committed
Estonia – Nasdaq Tallinn	Soon	Committed	Rwanda – Rwanda Stock Exchange	No	No
Finland – Nasdaq Helsinki	Soon	Committed	Seychelles – Trop-X	Yes	Committed
France – Euronext Paris	Soon	Committed	Singapore – Singapore Exchange	Yes	Committed
Germany – Deutsche Börse AG	Soon	Committed	South Africa – Johannesburg Stock Exchange	Yes	Committed
Iceland – Nasdaq Iceland	No	Committed	Spain – Bolsas y Mercados Españoles (BME)	Soon	Committed
India – BSE India Ltd.	Yes	Committed	Sri Lanka – Colombo Stock Exchange	Yes	Committed
India – National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)	Yes	Committed	Sweden – Nasdaq Stockholm	Soon	Committed
Italy – Borsa Italiana	Soon	Committed	Tanzania – Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE)	No	No
Jamaica – Jamaica Stock Exchange	No	No	Thailand – Stock Exchange of Thailand	Yes	Committed
Jordan – Amman Stock Exchange	No	No	Tunisia Bourse des Valeurs Mobilières de Tunis	No	No
Kazakhstan – Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE)	No	Committed	Turkey – Borsa Istanbul	No	Yes
Kenya – Nairobi Securities Exchange	No	Committed	United Arab Emirates – Dubai Financial Market	No	No
Korea (Republic of) – Korea Exchange	No	No	United Kingdom – Euronext London	Soon	Committed
Kuwait – Boursa Kuwait	No	No	United Kingdom – London Stock Exchange	Soon	Committed
Latvia – Nasdaq Riga	Soon	Committed	USA – Nasdaq	No	No
Lithuania – Nasdaq Vilnius	Soon	Committed	USA – NYSE	No	No
Luxembourg – Bourse de Luxembourg	Soon	Committed	Vietnam – Hanoi Stock Exchange	No	Committed
Malaysia – Bursa Malaysia	Yes	Committed	Vietnam – HoChiMinh Stock Exchange	Yes	Committed

Mauritius – Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM)	No	No	Zimbabwe – Zimbabwe Stock Exchange	No	No
			Western Africa – BVRM	No	No
			Not members of SSI		
			Hong Kong China	Yes	Committed
			China Shanghai Stock Exchange	No	Committed
			China Shenzhen Stock Exchange	No	Committed
			Hungary	Soon	Committed

The work of UNEP in its Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System (2015) has mapped actions for accelerating the financial system's transition in support a green economy. It has pointed the way to mobilizing the capital required and suggested the reforms needed which are in line with the above. The work of UNEP in its Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System (2015) has mapped actions for accelerating the financial system's transition in support a green economy. It has pointed the way to mobilizing the capital required and suggested the reforms needed which are in line with the above.

The share of investment subject to ESG considerations remains small relative to global capital markets, at 7 percent or US\$ 611 trillion of investments in the US\$ 12,143 trillion global capital market in 2010. It is clear that there are trillions in the capital market which could be focused on helping us to move quicker to living on the planet in a more sustainable way.

Member States have over the last four years moved close to agreeing on a set of regulatory instruments such as the requirement that companies listed on stock exchanges should produce their ESG report or explain why not. Building on the excellent work by the Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) and other stakeholders from the investors and civil society community, there is in place support for stock exchanges that go down this path.

The G7 more recently on the 12 June this year joined the G20, other countries and markets in throwing its weight behind a growing movement to turn the power of the global financial system to sustainable development. Responding to this one of the co-Directors of the UNEP Inquiry Nick Robbins said:

“G7 nations hold the bulk of the world’s financial assets and often lead the pack in terms of making environmental and social factors a core aspect of banking, investment and insurance,” he said. “We need to take this positive momentum to scale, so that finance supports the transition to a sustainable economy, particularly the needs of entrepreneurs and small businesses.”

The Brookings Report

In April 2016, due to calls at events the Finance for Development Forum and the Special Event Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the President of the UN General Assembly H.E. Mogens Lykketoft commissioned the Brookings Institute to produce the report *“Links in the Chain of Sustainable Finance: Accelerating Private Investments for the SDGs, including Climate Action.”* In his introduction to the report he said:

“The whole set-up of the financial sector must be adjusted so as to contribute to SDG implementation. Capital flows need to be redirected towards SDG priorities and away from areas that accelerate climate change, deplete natural and human capital, and exacerbate social and income inequalities. This corresponds partly with

experience from the finance sector where some stakeholders have started to rethink their established practice, due to normative reasons and because of risks, instability or the need for more long-term investment. But how to turn this new thinking from the exception to the norm?” - President of the United Nations General Assembly (2015-2016) H.E. Mogens Lykketoft

The report had a number of recommendations I would like to share with you today and which Member States may wish to consider how they take them forward in their deliberations.

The Report made ten recommendations for some specific actions to encourage sustainable finance:

1. For the **International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)** to take a leadership role in ensuring its member bodies adopt streamlined regulatory efforts for “positive” ESG-SDG filters and to ensure SDG-consistency with an expanded Sustainable Stock Exchange initiative.
2. For national regulators of banks and insurances companies to commit to identify and promote incentives that ensure member institutions assess appropriately broad metrics of risk and performance among clients.
3. For the **International Standards Organization (ISO)** to establish SDG-consistent minimum certification standards for private companies.
4. For **credit ratings agencies** to establish “SDG ratings” for individual companies, differentiated by industry, building upon emergent methodologies.
5. For **interested financial institutions** to create “SDG index funds” that track the performance of qualifying companies, building on lessons from efforts like the ESG India Index.
6. For all **large companies to identify** and include SDG-consistent performance standards as part of their annual financial reports.
7. For **governments** to implement sustainable development benchmarks in their own procurement practices.
8. For **national and sub-national governments** to establish timetables for implementing SDG-consistent policy incentives for private investment.
9. For **local, national, and international business alliances and organizations** that promote public private partnerships to celebrate top companies that adopt and report on SDG-consistent ESG processes and performance standards. Prizes could be organized by industry.
10. For **government shareholders** in multilateral development banks to ensure those banks undertake an expanded and catalytic role to leverage and mobilize public and private finance in developing countries—for example by preparing and originating “bankable and sustainable” projects that bring down the weighted average cost of capital and promote improved access to sustainable technologies.

Timetables

The Brookings Report suggested a two-part timetable organized around actions that could be considered for 2019 and others for 2023.

These should be aligned with the annual forum on Financing for Development follow-up:

“First, Member States can establish a set of interim deliverables to be achieved by the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) when heads of state and government will gather to review progress on SDG implementation. These would include the presentation of each country’s “national action strategy” for sustainable finance at the 2019 HLPF.” - Brookings Report for the PGA (2016)

The report argued that countries could then engage in coordination and peer review during the course of the following year, and bring the results into the processes leading up to the 2020 deadline for presenting long-term national climate strategies. This year’s Finance for Development Forum went some way to address this:

“7.....We will expand peer learning and experience-sharing among countries and regions in finding the right financing mixes that match countries’ respective needs, capacities and national circumstances and encourage support for capacity-building to help countries, according to their needs, to design and implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures consistent with national development strategies.”

Follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

If this were to be achieved at the 2019 juncture, all countries would need to initiate a process in 2017 across key stakeholders within their respective jurisdictions.

Regulatory changes can be implemented if Member States give the right push, particularly in light of the ten recommendations from the Brookings Report corporate ESG reporting standards could:

“... establish a 2023 deadline for fully implementing a globally coherent and sustainable finance system consistent with the SDGs. That year will include the next major HLPF summit, and will mark the calendar midpoint between now and the Agenda 2030 deadline. This deadline must be a centerpiece for global collaboration, otherwise the window of opportunity will close—before the right mix of resources can make it to the right places for SDG achievement.” - Brookings Report for the PGA (2016)

A Final Word

We are in interesting times, where old certainties are no longer certain. In these times, it is important to consider where it is possible to create more stability. The UN can and has played a critical role in this since its founding. There is no question

in my mind that 2015 was a once in a generation year. It set out through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement a roadmap to a safer, fairer, more equitable and sustainable world.

In the main ways, that was the easy part – though it didn't seem so at the time. Now it is about implementing these agendas and to do that there needs to be change at the United Nations, in governments at all levels and financial institutions and stakeholders. This paper looked at what could be done to move the financial institutions to align with these agendas. The UN can help and inspire those working in the finance sector to take up the call, but there needs to be clear regulation and this paper suggests some of the elements that might be considered. As I wrote, the paper the Secretary General published his Report *“Repositioning the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All.”*

I will end with paragraph 44 from that report, which underlines much of what was addressed in this paper.

44. *The financing needs for the SDGs call for a comprehensive overhaul in the UN system's approach to financing. As per the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to unlock the trillions of dollars needed to achieve the SDGs, Governments will need more support to attract, leverage and mobilise investments of all kinds – public and private, national and global. Continued Official Development Assistance (ODA) will be critical to leave no one behind and catalyse other financing streams, but insufficient for the achievement of the SDGs. In spite of an increasingly conducive environment, SDGs investments continue to lack scale. Cross-sectoral partnerships and a blending of capital are also proving complex for many Governments. To date, the lack of “bankable” projects has been a major impediment to greater SDG investment.”* - *Repositioning the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All: Report of the Secretary-General*

Suggestions for how to approach SDG targets that fall between 2020 and 2025

Introduction

By Felix Dodds Associate Fellow Tellus Institute

Introduction

To many people, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets are focused on 2030 as the completion date. For twenty-three targets, however, 2030 is not the date of completion. For these targets twenty have the completion date of 2020 and for the remaining three targets it is 2025.

The agreement on the SDGs and their targets was a long process that started in 2011 by Colombia. It aimed to recognize and honor other processes that were either happening parallel to the SDG negotiations, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, or had already happened, such the Biodiversity targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) targets set at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

This raises an important question: should something be done to update these twenty-three targets to bring them in line with the 2030 timeline?

The indicators that have been developed for these targets will give Member States real information on progress towards the targets and baseline data for any discussion on developing new targets. This wasn't the case when the SDGs were agreed to.

This paper looks at a number of suggestions which Member States might be interested in considering.

In the production of this paper, I consulted the relevant UN Agencies and Programmes and a number of Member States on their thinking on what to do with the targets. Many of the targets that will fall in 2020 and 2025 are Tier 2 or Tier 3 indicators. The review of indicators will happen in 2020. The next World Data Forum is in 2018 in Abu Dhabi.

SDG Indicator Tier Classification Criteria/Definitions:

Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.

Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

So, what to do?

Member States could request an update on the 2020 and 2025 targets and if they are likely to be reached.

On the broad overview, there are five suggestions that Member States may want to consider.

1. That no new targets will be added to the SDGs to update those that have fallen.
2. That while no new targets will be added to the SDGs to update those that have fallen, there will be continued reporting on the targets and indicators.
3. That any updated targets agreed upon through whatever process must be endorsed by the UN General Assembly through its Committee Structure.
4. That any updated targets agreed upon by the relevant UN body substitutes the old targets without going through renegotiation in the UNGA. Where there is no UN body that can address the target in question, then it is addressed through the UN General Assembly.
5. That the SDG Open Working Group is reconvened.

The discussion at the Friends of Governance meeting on 3rd of November 2017 focused on options 2, 3, 4 or combinations of them as the most attractive.

This paper looks at each of the options, examining the pros and cons. The paper will not make a recommendation but will hopefully help Member States and others to think through the best path forward.

For the benefit of this paper, I am going to divide the targets into those where it is possible for a UN body to set replacement targets and those where it is not possible. The full list of targets that will fall between 2020-2025 as they appear in the SDGs is in Annex 1 under the relevant goal.

The table below demonstrates my current understanding of the targets. I am sure this understanding will change over time, however, as this paper serves as an initial primer for discussion.

Goal	Target	Process already planned	Suggestion
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve	2.1 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of	Nothing planned	

<p>food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.</p>		
	<p>2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons</p>	<p>Nothing planned</p>	
<p>Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all</p>	<p>3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents</p>	<p>Nothing planned</p>	
<p>Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning</p>	<p>4.a By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and</p>	<p>Nothing planned</p>	

opportunities for all	African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.		
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes		CBD COP?
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.1.a By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	Nothing planned	
	8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms	Nothing planned	

	8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization	Nothing planned	
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020	Nothing planned	
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.a By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels	Nothing planned	
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed	SAICM Conference in 2020	SAICM Conference 2020

	international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment		
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13 a. Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible	UNFCCC Paris text 53. Oceans Conference is 2020?	UNFCCC has a target
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	CDB 8	CBD COP?
	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by	Combined elements from CBD 6,11,15	CBD COP?

	strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans		
	14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	Elements from CBD 2,3,4,6,7,12,19	CBD COP?
	14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	Elements from CBD 5,11	CBD COP?
	14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that	Elements from CBD 3,4	CBD COP?

	appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation		
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	Elements from CBD 4,5,7,11,14,15	CBD COP?
	15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	Elements from CBT 4,5,7,14,15	CBD COP?
	15.3 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and	Elements CBD Target 4,5,15	CBD COP?

	prevent the extinction of threatened species		
	15.4 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	Elements from CBD 11,14,15	CBD COP?
	15.5 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	Elements CBD 5,12	CBD COP?
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated	17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	Nothing planned	

by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts			
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Overall, what are the options that Member States might consider?

Option 1: That no updates to targets will be added to the SDGs to replace those that have fallen.

Pros	Cons
The agreement on the SDGs and their targets was one that had balanced the interests of all member states and reopening this could cause that balance to be fractured.	Some of the targets will be updates by other forums, so there will be reflection of progress reported to the HLPF in line with the new target. This will be particularly relevant to the CBD and SAICM targets.

Option 2: That no updated targets will be added to the SDGs to replace those that have fallen but there will be continued reporting on the target and indicators.

Pros	Cons
The agreement on the SDGs and their targets was one that had balanced the interests of all member states and reopening this could cause that balance to be fractured. It also allows reporting on the targets even if other forums have changed them.	These updated targets will not have been absorbed into the SDG targets and so it creates two classes of targets. In particular, this is true for the CBD and SAICM targets. It may negatively impact the level of commitment to the new targets if they are not absorbed into the SDGs.

Option 3: That any updated target that is agreed upon through whatever process has to be endorsed by the UN General Assembly through its Committee Structure.

Pros	Cons
This option recognizes that the UNGA was responsible for agreeing upon the SDGs and their targets, so is the only 'official body' that can update them.	This could lead to a reopening of the whole agreement unless member states agree to recognize the agreements made in other forums. This still doesn't address the targets that do not have other forums to set new targets. In these cases, option 2 could continue.

Option 4: That any updated target agreed by the relevant UN body substitutes the old target without going through renegotiation in the UNGA. Where there is no UN body that can address that target, it would be addressed by the UNGA.

Pros	Cons
This would address all of the targets that are going to finish in 2020 and 2025.	This would open up the SDG target negotiations to Committee 2 of the UNGA to address those that have no plans to be replaced and this could be a very difficult negotiation process.

Option 5: The SDG Open Working Group is reconvened.

Pros	Cons
As the UNGA process to set the SDGs and their targets was led by the SDG OWG, perhaps this is the body that should be reconvened. It would still have to report to the UNGA for overall approval but would be a smaller group negotiating. Like the original OWG, it would also be a group that wasn't the usual negotiating groups of the UNGA.	Nearly all the original negotiators have moved on as has one of the co-chairs. Whatever positive relationships that were built and achieved the SDGs and their targets would need to be rebuilt. This might not be possible or desirable.

Some Thoughts for Consideration

If Member States are considering options 3 or 4, I have some suggestions how that might be undertaken. In all cases, these options would be pursued through an intergovernmental process.

Goal 2: Updating could be done by FAO Conference 2019 or 2021

Goal 3: Updating could be done by WHO World Health Assembly

Goal 4: Updating could be done by UNESCO Governing Conference 2019 or 2021

Goal 6: Updating could be undertaken by the CBD COP

Goal 8: Updating could be addressed through the ILO Executive Body

Goal 9: Updating could be addressed by the Interagency Expert Group on the SDGs and agreed through the Statistical Commission. The present target is for 2020.

Goal 11: This target is a Sendai target. The next World Conference on Disaster Relief is likely not happening until 2025. The present targets is set for 2020.

Goal 12: The easiest target that can be updated is the SAICEM target as there is a process that is already underway to address that in 2020. The original target is one from WSSD in 2002, which was absorbed into the SDGs.

Goal 13: UNFCCC already has a more updated target for 2025 and update this target in 2020.

Goals 14 and 15: For the CBD related targets, only target 14.1 is taken from the CBD targets. The remaining targets in Goals 14 and 15. are amalgams of different CBD targets.

One approach that the CBD COP could take is to start with the SDG targets and update them within the CBD COP. This ensures that irrespectively of the options above, the CBD COP – a sovereign body made up of biodiversity experts – would have updated targets confirmed.

Goal 17: This could be addressed by the Interagency Expert Group on the SDGs and agreed through the Statistical Commission, which could come forward with an updated target.

Concluding remarks

There are no perfect ways to address the reality that the SDG targets are not all 2030 targets. All five of the options above have merits. As mentioned earlier in the paper, those attending the Friends of Governance meeting on the 3rd of November 2017 favored options 2, 3, 4 or a combination of them.

My main worry is that if the targets are not updated within the SDGs, it will create two levels of targets: those in the SDGs and those outside of the SDGs. By their nature, this outcome would lead to more focus on resources and implementation for those in the SDGs than those outside of the SDGs.

Member States could request, through the GA resolution, for the Secretary General to produce a report for Member States to consider the state of the 2020 and 2025 targets and their indicators for consideration for the HLPF Ministerial Declaration 2018.

This paper is meant to be food for thought. Please do send any comments to me so that it might be improved.

Annex 1

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- 2.1 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
- 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all

- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- 4.a By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- 8.1.A By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and

implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.a By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13 a. Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management

plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

