



ECOSOC SPECIAL EVENT

27 February 2015

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships: making them work for the Post-2015 development agenda

In September 2015, the United Nations will adopt a new transformative development agenda. It has been agreed in principle that multi-stakeholder partnerships between business, NGOs, Governments, the United Nations and other actors will play an important role in the implementation of the agenda.

Since 2000, there has been a plethora of partnerships within and outside the United Nations, some considered effective and making an impact on development but many falling short of delivering results and incurring high transaction costs.

Partnerships have been discussed at the United Nations in general terms every other year in the Second Committee of the General Assembly and at the informal Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council. However, as the international community transitions from the MDGs to the SDGs, it is important to consider how partnerships should support the new development agenda in the post-2015 era.

In general, there is an emerging view that partnerships must be aligned with the new agenda and its new goals. They should be streamlined and build on already existing and successful mechanisms and processes, have a monitoring and review mechanism with benchmarks and criteria for review and evaluation to determine success. They should also have intergovernmental oversight which would also help to build trust and confidence.

The first dialogue will focus on ways in which multi-stakeholder partnerships could best be aligned to the goals and targets of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the types of modalities required for effective review and where such review should take place.

Questions to be discussed will include:

- Considering that an initial framework for WSSD partnerships was agreed on in 2003, how do we now in 2015 adapt these guidelines to build a stronger, broader framework that would advance implementation of the SDGs and future conference follow-up?
- What criteria are needed to help align partnerships and ensure they match up with the new development agenda?

- As we shape the Post-2015 agenda, how do we build the right architecture and capabilities to track global partnerships that support the 17 SDGs and related targets? What would the architecture look like?

The second dialogue will look at what makes some partnerships effective and the lessons that can be extracted to help define the elements of a new partnership framework for the post-2015 era and the means for their implementation.

Questions to be discussed will include:

- What types of partnerships models have been effective in establishing clear monitoring and review procedures? How were they established and how can they be successfully replicated?
- How do we apply the diverse experiences from these models for the successful implementation of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the Post-2015 development agenda?
- What have been some of the main challenges faced in ensuring the effectiveness of partnership efforts and what structures should be put in place to help meet those challenges?