BOOSTING PARTNERSHIPS AND MULTISTAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Promoting inclusive multilateralism

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The implementation of an agenda as ambitious as the 2030 Agenda requires unprecedented engagement of all actors, and NGOs are a key stakeholder for successful implementation. UN DESA supported the engagement of an increasing number of NGOs in the work of the Council and major groups and other stakeholders in the HLPF in an effort to maximize the impact of their contributions. There were some 396 written statements by NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to the 2021 ECOSOC High-level segment, more than double the number submitted in 2020. UN DESA also continued to support the process for NGOs to obtain consultative status with the Council through the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Currently, 5,882 NGOs are in consultative status with ECOSOC; 546 new applications have been received for the 2022 cycle. The Department has stepped-up the advice and support provided to NGOs on how to best contribute to the work of the UN, helping to enrich debates, increase ownership of UN work, and accelerate action towards realizing the SDGs by 2030.

New UN-led knowledge platform on risk-informed and resilient infrastructure asset management

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UN DESA has leveraged its partnerships with UNCDF and UNOPS in the context of its capacity development support on sustainable infrastructure asset management. Over 2020-2021, the three agencies collaborated on the finalization and launch of the UN Handbook on infrastructure asset management. The preparations of the Handbook convened numerous experts and practitioners from around the world and helped establish a new UN-led knowledge platform on risk-informed and resilient infrastructure asset management. The platform brings together central and local government infrastructure experts from local governments, the UN system, as well as experts from the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Institute for Asset Management, the Overseas Development Institute, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and CitiesAlliance.

Building resilient and sustainable national data and information systems

On World Statistics Day 2020, UN DESA launched the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians, a new global professional network for data officers, statisticians, geospatial and other data experts. The Global Network and its webinar series aim to support governments to build resilient and sustainable national data and information systems for the full implementation of the SDGs and for other decision making. The Network serves to improve coordination and collaboration among peers and organizations, to connect existing but not necessarily well-connected networks and initiatives, and to provide and share information on capacity-building efforts globally. The Global Network has a broad and growing participation of 1,600 colleagues from National Statistical Systems, the UN System, NGOs, and Academia.

Assessing the deaths attributable to the pandemic

In February 2021, UN DESA and WHO came together to create the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment,

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bringing together over 30 experts from around the world and from different areas of specialization, including national statistical offices, health ministries, and academia, especially in the areas of demography, epidemiology and statistics. This technical advisory group supports efforts by WHO, UN DESA, and UN Member States to obtain accurate estimates of numbers of deaths attributable to the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic.

National science, technology and innovation roadmaps for the SDGs

National science, technology and innovation roadmaps for the SDGs (STI4SDG roadmaps) are helping chart the way forward for coherent STI policy making in support of the SDGs.

UN DESA has led UN interagency work on STI4SDGs roadmaps, bringing together UN entities, the World Bank and other international partners, such as OECD, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, and the Government of Japan. As a member of the IATT, the Department contributed to a joint Guidebook for the Preparation of STI for SDGs Roadmaps. In November 2020, a Partnership in Action on STI4SDGs Roadmaps was launched, aimed at mobilizing a much wider range of actors for effective and visionary STI4SDG roadmaps.

2030 Connect – a one-stop entry point for technology solutions and STI information

The UN has launched "2030 Connect," an online platform that taps the expertise and networks of the UN system and its partners, to provide access to the latest science and evidence, disaggregated data, and technology solutions. The platform also provides resource for building capacity and fostering innovation for applying STI to development policy and practice.

Strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Synergistic and integrated policymaking and action is more important than ever before. Policy makers seeking to advance climate action will need to identify the most economically feasible and socially acceptable solutions that also generate SDG co-benefits. Similarly, stakeholders seeking to advance economic and social progress towards one or the other SDG will need to anticipate the impacts of such action on future climate emissions. To this effect, UN DESA and UNFCCC continued their joint focus on strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda. Due to the pandemic, 2020 featured a virtual Global Synergies Consultation throughout May and June 2020. The Third Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference will take place in Japan in 2022.

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Bringing diverse voices to the table: Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in the HLPF

In preparation for the 2021 HLPF, UN DESA maintained a close partnership with the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS). UN DESA worked to ensure the participation of MGoS representatives during the informal consultations on the HLPF/HLS Ministerial Declaration and as lead discussants in the thematic official sessions of the HLPF. The Department also secured space for MGoS representatives worldwide to collaborate in submitting questions to countries presenting VNRs.

MGoS constituencies, organisations accredited with ECOSOC consultative status, and organizations on the CSD Roster submit inputs to the HLPF. These organizations can also submit applications for side events and exhibitions, participate in the VNR Labs and Special Events.

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Bringing the business community to the table

With over 12,000 registered participants, the 2020 SDG Business Forum, co-convened virtually by UN DESA, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the UN Global Compact (UN GC), saw a growing recognition of the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships in our response to and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. At the Forum, UNDP, UN GC and ICC jointly announced the COVID-19 Private Sector Global Facility, aiming to mobilize a minimum of 5 billion USD in support of local business communities to enable a resilient rebuild from the pandemic. DHL, Microsoft and PwC are among the first strategic partners to join the Facility.

Mapping UN-system resources and capacities for supporting preparedness

In the context of consultations on recommendations for developing Our Common Agenda, UN DESA and UNDP coordinated a mapping exercise of existing reports, mechanisms and processes in the UN system focused on preparedness, disaster risk reduction, forecasting and other related fields. Forty-nine UN entities participated in the mapping exercise. Entities worked together to assess assets and gaps, identify opportunities for leveraging the UN system's data and knowledge, and co-create solutions for advancing the commitment on preparedness envisioned by Member States in the Declaration adopted on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations.

The mapping yielded more than 800 submissions, addressing one or more of eight broad typologies of risk: biological risks, including epidemics/pandemics; conflict and security risks (social unrest, conflict, violence); cybersecurity risks; disaster risk, including from climate variability and change; economic and financial risk; environmental risks (technological, natech, environmental degradation); risks related to human mobility, including situations of forced displacement; and social risks (inequality, discrimination, lack of social protection, gender-based violence, or similar). The mapping helped to raise awareness of the immense depth and breadth of UN-system knowledge and operations that address multiple forms of risk in both individual and intersecting ways.