

Concept Note Session 2

Mainstreaming inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships and approaches in development cooperation – policy and legal frameworks

ECOSOC Chamber, Monday, 21 May 2018, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Format

90-minute interactive panel discussion, in plenary and guided by moderator.

Objective

To promote focused, candid knowledge exchange and mutual learning, and to generate concrete messages and policy recommendations on the session's specific themes.

Focus questions

- *What are examples of policies and legal frameworks that support effective multi-stakeholder approaches in development cooperation?*
- *What are key challenges and opportunities at the various levels of development cooperation to create effective multi-stakeholder partnerships?*

Background

The 2030 Agenda demands new types of partnerships, bringing together all actors to advance sustainable development. This session addresses ways to support effective participation of diverse actors in development cooperation and to maximize opportunities at different levels. Done right, multi-stakeholder partnerships can help deliver better and more sustainable development results and can take inclusiveness to a new level.

Governments have the principal role of coordinating and leading development efforts. Yet, to leverage the comparative advantages of the different actors and beneficiaries, they all need to be meaningfully engaged. Development cooperation, in particular through capacity support, can play an important role in helping countries to achieve this, by contributing to an enabling environment for multistakeholder approaches and serving as a catalyst for partnerships.

Developing countries must play a central role in decisions on using ODA to promote multistakeholder partnerships, to ensure alignment with countries' priorities and to secure strong country ownership, backed by broad-based participation. Promoting multi-stakeholder approaches, without a solid legal, regulatory framework and transparent fiscal accounting poses risks, especially for the populations involved, increasing costs and reducing coverage.

Careful design is important to ensure that multi-stakeholder partnerships have optimal impact for sustainable development. Participation, transparency and accountability of key stakeholders and beneficiaries in all phases of programmes and projects needs to be strengthened. Grievance mechanisms should be in place or strengthened to anticipate and effectively address grievances from stakeholders. Quality public consultations throughout the programme/project cycle can provide a more nuanced understanding of the sustainable development impact.

Transparency in the different aspects of the projects such of , in contractual arrangements the extent to which co-funding is provided, as well as in the measurement of development outcomes and results is critical. Detailed planning and risk assessment prior to entering a multi-stakeholder partnership can avoid possible negative outcomes and ensure that benefits and risk are shared fairly. These can include appropriate cost-benefit-analysis and feasibility studies.

Further reference

- Report of the Secretary-General on Trends and progress in international development cooperation, E/2018/55 [[Arabic](#)] [[Chinese](#)] [[English](#)] [[French](#)] [[Russian](#)] [[Spanish](#)]
- Blended financing and LDCs: implications and opportunities for strengthening broad-based country ownerships and leadership – Concept Note for DCF Side Event, 22 May.
- Blended finance in the SDG era – [Summary](#): DESA Technical Workshop
- What is development cooperation? - [No. 1](#)

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