

Private Sector Partnerships for SDGs

Monday 06 June 2016, 16:15-17:15

Session Goals

Implementing the SDGs will involve deep engagement from the private sector. This session will illustrate private companies' engagement in innovative partnerships and new forms of collaboration to deliver with speed and scale on the climate and sustainable development goals and targets.

Context

While 2015 was a great year for global commitments through the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Accord, 2016 has kicked off with the important question of how to deliver on these commitments. Already hints at the underlying solutions are evident: Partnership. As the world focuses on the delivery of environmental and social good, the trends of partnership, of collaboration and private sector partnership will be core to the delivery of impactful solutions.

The SDGs were co-created through the biggest consultation in UN history, involving input from 7 million people through 83 national surveys. To deliver on them, an online platform has been set up to encourage "global engagement around multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments" in support of the implementation of the SDGs. Nearly two thousand registered initiatives on the **Partnerships for SDGs** platform demonstrates the global desire to engage in delivering solutions and a level of enthusiasm and energy that has huge potential if it can be harnessed.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Private Sector

If the world achieves the SDGs, this will be the result both of business focusing on shared value rather than just private value, and governments developing a much deeper understanding of how to work with business. It will be a result of an understanding of the incentives affecting investments and will take a genuinely partnership-based approach to policy design. One of the objectives of the newly established **Global Commission on Business and Sustainable Development** is to show how business, government and civil society can come together to create a renewed social contract and to rebuild the trust and partnerships needed to deliver the SDGs.

The challenges of partnership for delivering on the SDGs are numerous. Hurdles are encountered at all stages of the partnership cycle, and may present themselves through difficulties in areas such as matchmaking, aligning objectives, finding appropriate governance structures, and sharing accountability. One potential solution to most of these challenges is the use of a platform that can professionalize the partnership process, i.e. a platform to catalyse, to set up, and act as an accelerator for partnerships.

Dimensions to be explored during this session

1. *How will companies contribute to and benefit from addressing the SDGs?*
 2. *What is the actual experience of companies starting to act on the SDGs?*
 3. *What has been the role of partnerships in making the shift to action possible, and how will this evolve in the future?*
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