

# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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### Event title

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Strengthening partnership enabling factors to foster transformative change – A global campaign towards and beyond the 2023 SDG Summit

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### Background and Rationale

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The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, Partnerships2030 and the Global Forum on SDG Advisory Bodies recently launched a campaign at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum aimed at raising awareness and supporting governments and stakeholders to develop partnership enabling factors that will develop, improve and scale up multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the SDGs and beyond.

An 'essential means of implementation', collaboration across all sectors of society is fundamental to delivering the SDGs and tackling climate change. Only by understanding our shared interest – prosperous economy, thriving society and healthy environment – and by collectively applying the scale and diversity of resources brought by all sectors – from regulation and investment through capacity development and technical innovation – can we hope to deliver widespread transformational change.

While the case for collaboration has been made and won, implementation in the UNECE region and globally still lags far behind the rhetoric. Engaging business, and partnering across societal sectors, are extremely challenging, and in general take far too much time compared with the urgency of the threats and crises our planet faces.

The UNECE region, with its extensive economic power and links to global supply chains is critical to SDG achievement. How UNECE businesses operate, and the policies passed by national government or EU Institutions often have ramifications well beyond regional borders. The questions on the table: What role can partnerships play to strengthen sustainable business practices and inform policy development in support of SDG implementation? What are enabling factors for partnerships?; and how can they be scaled up?

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### Session objectives and expected outcomes

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The side event will zoom in on selected enabling factors, lessons learned and successful multi-stakeholder partnership examples from the UNECE Region to convey through an interactive exchange and learning format how cooperation and partnership between diverse stakeholder groups can tackle the complex challenges. Participants will be able to share their own insights and experiences and discuss what role partnerships in the UNECE region can play in strengthening SDG implementation globally.

The event will aim to raise awareness of the partnership enabling factors; inspire action to build those enabling factors; and gather insights and experiences from various sectors and

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stakeholders. The discussions will further inform the development of a study on the state of partnership enabling factors, including challenges to their incorporation, and what's required to build them up at scale, which will be presented in a Partnership Symposium to be held in the margins of the SDG Summit in September.

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## Organizers

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**Lead organizers:** Partnerships2030, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**Contributors:** UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA); The Partnering Initiative; Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies

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## Agenda and Structure

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### Agenda (15:30-17:00 CET)

15:30 - 15:40 Introduction and short overview of campaign

15:40 - 16:20 Panel discussion

16:20 - 16:50 Breakout-Groups

Topic 1: Partnerships are an essential mechanism to tackle the SDGs and climate change – how can we ensure that partnerships are more fit for purpose and maximise their impact?

Topic 2: What role can multi-stakeholder initiatives/partnerships play to strengthen sustainable business practices, including in support of implementing the [EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) currently under consideration?

Topic 3: What can the public sector do to encourage, catalyse and support multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of SDG implementation?

16:50-17:00 Closing

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## List of Panellists

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Moderator: Darian Stibbe, Executive Director, The Partnering Initiative

Welcome and Introduction

- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Panellists:

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- Susanne Salz, Head of Project, Partnerships2030, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Moritz Blanke, German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (tbc)
- UN Resident Coordinator Moldova (tbc)
- Iris Van der Veken, Executive Director, Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 (tbc)

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Sign-up / Registration Link

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*Please provide us with the link people can use to sign-up / register for your event.*

<https://seu2.cleverreach.com/f/151187-351342/>