



# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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### Event title

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How can multi-stakeholder partnerships address SDG interlinkages?

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### Background and Rationale

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The 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs are integrated and indivisible, creating many potential synergies and trade-offs. Indeed, the 2023 SDG Summit political declaration urges all relevant actors “to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development”. In the declaration, countries also commit to enhance partnerships as a means to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda.

While knowledge on synergies and trade-offs in national policies is advancing, we know less about the role of partnerships in addressing such interlinkages. As member states have committed to address interlinkages and enhance partnerships; the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 recommends the activation of synergies in its six entry points; and a clearer picture is emerging in science on the patterns of SDG interlinkages, this side event aims to shed light upon the role of partnerships therein from a variety of perspectives.

In the session, speakers from academia as well as partnership practitioners will share their experiences about whether and how partnerships address SDG interlinkages and the implications this has for making partnerships building blocks towards transformations and achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The discussion will combine novel research on multi-stakeholder partnerships with examples of partnership practice across the SDGs. A special focus will be dedicated to the theme of eradicating poverty and SDG 17 (partnerships, policy coherence), while interlinkages with other SDGs in focus at the HLPF 2024 will also feature.

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### Session objectives and expected outcomes

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The side event will share insights from recent SEI research on SDG interlinkages, including work featured in the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 on [recurring patterns of SDG synergies and trade-offs](#). It will also highlight findings from the research project [Transformative Partnerships 2030](#), which maps the extent to which multi-stakeholder partnerships are currently interlinked across the SDGs, as well as their legitimacy, effectiveness and transformative impacts. Preliminary findings demonstrate that there are critical gaps where partnerships may play a role.

Combining these scientific insights with experiences from partnership practitioners, the session will address questions such as: where would partnerships be particularly useful to support SDG implementation? Do partnerships currently work across multiple SDGs, and if so, which ones? Going forward, how can partnerships become more effective and legitimate in managing trade-offs and leveraging synergies for accelerated transformation to achieve the 2030 Agenda?



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## Organizers

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**Lead organizers:** Stockholm Environment Institute, Stockholm University

**Contributors:** VU Amsterdam, Institute for Future Studies, Lund university

**Focal points:** Linn Järnberg, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute

**E-Mail:** linn.jarnberg@sei.org

**Funder:** Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (Formas)

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## Agenda and Structure

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### ***Welcoming remarks***

Moderator: Karin Bäckstrand, Professor, Department of Political Science at Stockholm University and the Institute for Future Studies

### ***State of play***

*Governing SDG interlinkages – how can synergies and trade-offs be understood and managed?*

Speaker: Linn Järnberg, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute

*Are multi-stakeholder partnerships addressing SDG interlinkages?*

Speakers: Montserrat Koloffon and Cornelia Fast, PhD Candidates, VU Amsterdam

*Q&A with moderator and speakers*

### ***Making partnerships more synergistic, effective and legitimate***

*Addressing synergies and trade-offs through partnerships in practice*

Speaker: Dave Prescott, Creative Director, The Partnering Initiative.

*Broad-based partnerships for more collaborative, inclusive and multi-sectoral management of SDG synergies and trade-offs*

Speaker: David Horan, Fellow at Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, and Assistant Professor at Trinity School of Business, Trinity College Dublin

*Reflections from Magdalena Bexell, Associate Professor in Political Science, Lund University*

*Q&A with moderator and speakers*

### ***Concluding remarks***



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## List of Panellists

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### *Moderator*

Karin Bäckstrand, Professor Department of Political Science at Stockholm University and Institute for Future Studies, Visiting Professor at London School of Economics and Political Science 2023/24

### *Speakers*

Linn Järnberg, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute

Montserrat Koloffon, PhD Candidate, VU Amsterdam

Cornelia Fast, PhD Candidate, VU Amsterdam

Dave Prescott, Creative Director, The Partnering Initiative

David Horan, Fellow at Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, and Assistant Professor at Trinity School of Business, Trinity College Dublin

Magdalena Bexell, Associate Professor in Political Science, Lund University

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## Sign-up / Registration Link

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<https://buytickets.at/transform2030/1165597>