

The United Nations – World Economic Forum

Strategic Partnership Framework for the 2030 Agenda

The United Nations and the World Economic Forum are committed to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the world’s plan for peace, prosperity, and a healthy planet.

Recognizing the ambition of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations and the World Economic Forum seek to strengthen their partnership by focusing on jointly selected priorities and by pursuing a more strategic and coordinated collaboration, by leveraging their respective strengths and broadening their combined impact, building on existing and new collaborations by UN entities.

The partnership envisions for the United Nations (hereinafter “UN”) and the World Economic Forum (hereinafter “Forum”) to help each other increase their outreach, to share networks, communities, knowledge and expertise, to foster opportunities for innovation, and to encourage a wide understanding of and support for priority issues among their relevant stakeholders.

The strategic partnership framework seeks to ensure the consultation, exchange of information and coordination required for effective collaboration. Working together with the agility needed for rapidly changing contexts and requirements, adapting to technology-driven trends, other frontier issues and increasing complexities, as well as harnessing the opportunities presented by multi-stakeholder engagement is critical to accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing inequalities within and among countries, and leaving no one behind.

The partnership will be structured and advanced along the following key focus areas:

1. **Financing the 2030 Agenda** : The UN-Forum partnership will focus on aligning financial systems and accelerating finance flows toward the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Collaboration will seek to build a shared understanding of sustainable investing, especially in small island developing State, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, and identify and take forward solutions to increase the long-term SDG investments, including in areas of fragility; mobilize the

private sector to scale up green, renewable energy and energy efficiency investments; harness the potential of financial innovation, new technologies and digitalization to increase financing for the SDGs and to meet the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; enhance digital financial inclusion; and support inclusive trade and investment as a means to achieve the SDGs.

- 2. Climate Change:** The UN-Forum partnership will focus on achieving clear, measurable and public commitments from the private sector to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and scale-up the services required to adapt to the impact of climate change. Collaboration will seek to increase the ambition of and accelerate commitments and platforms for public-private cooperation in critical high-emitting sectors such as transportation, including land-based transport, shipping and air travel, and heavy industry, particularly steel, cement, oil and gas and aluminum in order to advance the economic transformation necessary to limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degree Celsius. Furthermore, the UN-Forum partnership will increase the ambition of and accelerate commitments and platforms for public private cooperation in critical areas of adaptation such as early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, improving the resiliency of essential services such as water/sanitation, health, education (where the private sector plays an increasingly important role) and in providing livelihood opportunities and skills for the circular economy.

- 3. Health :** Health is both an outcome and a driver of sustainable development, and requires a multisectoral, gender-responsive, rights-based response. The UN-Forum partnership will support countries to realize universal health coverage to achieve good health and well-being for all, within the context of the 2030 Agenda. Collaboration between the UN and the Forum will focus on addressing key emerging global health threats, including antimicrobial resistance, mental health and other issues that demand stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships and action.

- 4. Digital Cooperation :** Collaboration between the UN and the Forum to meet the needs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution will seek to advance global analysis, dialogue and standards for digital governance and digital inclusiveness; and promote public-private partnerships to address global reskilling and lifelong learning for the future requirements for work and preparing the world's 1.8 billion young people for this transition.

- 5. Gender equality and the empowerment of women :** Gender equality is a goal in its own right and fundamental for upholding the commitments of the 2030 Agenda. The UN and the Forum will foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and coalitions for full participation and equal opportunities of women at all levels of decision-making and for productive participation of women in the labour force and will promote equal pay for work of equal value across sectors and occupations as well as within them. The UN and the Forum will advocate for legal frameworks and policies and effective mechanisms for the elimination of discrimination and harassment towards women in the workplace, in public and private spheres.

- 6. Education and Skills:** Education is an indispensable force for reducing inequalities, promoting social and economic inclusion, and driving inclusive green growth to achieve the SDGs. To keep pace with shifting labour market demands, technological disruptions and the increasing mobility of people, education has to transform in relation to the rapidly changing world of work. The UN-Forum partnership will strengthen linkages between governments, business, education and civil society to improve access to relevant education and training, strengthen skills anticipations systems, recognize skills and qualifications within and across-borders, integrate AI in education and empower youth, especially the most vulnerable, with the competencies for life and decent work.

In practice, this should involve, but not be limited to :

- Invitation to the Secretary-General to deliver a keynote at the World Economic Forum Annual Meetings in Davos-Klosters.

- Invitation to the Deputy Secretary-General, together with relevant Heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and UN Regional Economic Commissions, to take part in the Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, different regional meetings and the Sustainable Development Impact Summit and engage with the Forum with a view to identifying a thematic approach relevant to each context.
- The UN's review of the possibility to connect Resident Coordinators with the relevant Forum Hubs of the Global Shapers Community at the national level.
- Utilizing the respective communication platforms of the UN and of the Forum to increase visibility for the agreed key focus areas.
- Early and advanced planning for more effective cooperation and impact.

Subject to their respective mandates, competencies, institutional settings and legal and operational frameworks, the United Nations and the World Economic Forum may inform and consult with each other, as appropriate, on additional issues of mutual interest in which cooperation may foster their respective and collective purposes.

The partnership between the UN and the Forum is well placed to facilitate and encourage multi-stakeholder engagement necessary to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda. The success of the partnership depends of strategic guidance, coordinated and coherent institutional arrangements for planning, collaboration, and a strong mechanism for knowledge development, learning, and accountability.

The leadership of the UN and the Forum will meet annually to review the partnership. In parallel, the technical teams of the UN and the Forum will meet to seek to ensure effective implementation of the commitments assumed under this Strategic Partnership Framework, including by enhancing coordination between the teams at the regional and country levels.

The Strategic Partnership Framework may be amended at any time and is not intended to be legally binding. The UN and the Forum will each bear its own costs to implement this Framework. Neither is the transfer of any intellectual property nor the exchange of confidential information intended; should the case or need arise, a separate agreement will be signed by the UN and the Forum addressing the above and other relevant issues. Any question of interpretation or difference concerning the terms of the implementation of the Framework will be settled between the UN and the Forum by negotiation and in good faith.

Signed at the United Nations, New York, 13 June 2019

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