

Rio+20 Partnerships Forum: Seeking actions to build-up further cooperation

The Partnerships Forum at Rio+20 will take place from 20-22 June 2012. The Forum will include five high-level and interactive sessions designed to offer an opportunity for Governments and other stakeholders to showcase best practices, practical experiences and concrete contributions in implementing sustainable development; discuss how partnerships can advance, expedite, and facilitate the implementation of the agreements reached at Rio+20; identify successful models and opportunities for replication and scaling up; and promote more effective accountability measures.

Sessions have been developed and co-hosted by registered Partnerships and international organizations with recognized leadership in the following areas of discussion:

Session 1, Delivering Sustainable Development at the Entrepreneurial and Grass Roots Levels: Challenges and Lessons Learned will be co-hosted by UNDESA and The SEED Initiative. Emerging from break-out sessions and dialogue between a panel and the audience, this session aims to develop a more effective mechanism for coordination of support for entrepreneurs and grassroots partnerships at global and regional levels. Additionally, the session will serve as a platform for launching new partnerships and/or launching initiatives to replicate and scale up current efforts.

Session 2, Partnerships for the integration of food, nutritional security, health and gender equality, will be hosted by the Public Health Institutes as lead organizer. Through a moderated roundtable and interaction with the audience, the session aims to highlight the important nexus between food and nutrition security, health, gender equality, growth, resilience and sustainable development. This session will produce a policy brief with key recommendations on how to address these challenges. Key partnerships and actions to advance these issues will be identified.

Session 3, Partnerships for Advancing Gender Equality and Sustainability, will be co-hosted by UNDESA, IUCN, and UNEP. Through an interactive Gender/Partnerships Marketplace, the session will recommend gender-sensitive goals and indicators to be considered as input to the Rio+20 agreements on the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and as a contribution to the post-2015 development agenda. A Knowledge Platform/Learning Circle/Community of practice on gender and sustainable development will be launched.

Session 4, Speed-Brokering for Partnerships: Scaling up and Replicating Best Practices in Sustainable Development, will be co-hosted by UNDESA and REEEP. This session will provide a speed networking experience for senior-level participants focusing on energy, sustainable cities and water. It will offer leaders from financial firms, governments, international organizations and Major Groups an opportunity to forge strategic connections with sustainable development partnerships and other stakeholders to advance, scale up and replicate initiatives.

Session 5, Partnerships Contributing to the Future We Want, will serve as the closing session of the Partnerships Forum. Hosted by DESA, it will offer forward-looking reflection, concrete guidance, and visionary perspectives on how partnerships can be best positioned to

facilitate and expedite the implementation of agreements at Rio+20 as well as contribute to the post-2015 development agenda. Key figures in the development sphere will provide their vision on the future followed by an interactive session for sharing experiences, best practices and guidance to materialize sustainable development. This session will offer the opportunity for Governments, partnerships and other stakeholders to launch new initiatives and collaborations.

DESA is also pleased to announce the launching of a new on-line series entitled "Partnerships Drivers," which aims to recognize key individuals' visions, commitment and leadership to advance partnerships in implementing sustainable development. The series will allow these leaders to share their insight on the partnerships' role in creating a sustainable future, what it takes to commit to sustainable development partnerships, the role that the UN could play in supporting partnerships, and what their hopes are for partnerships following Rio+20.

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