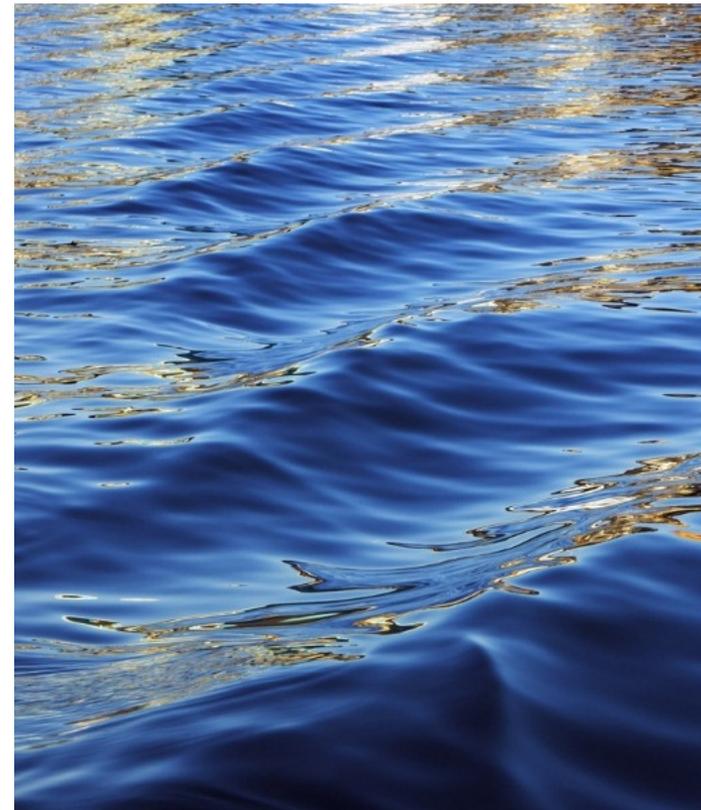




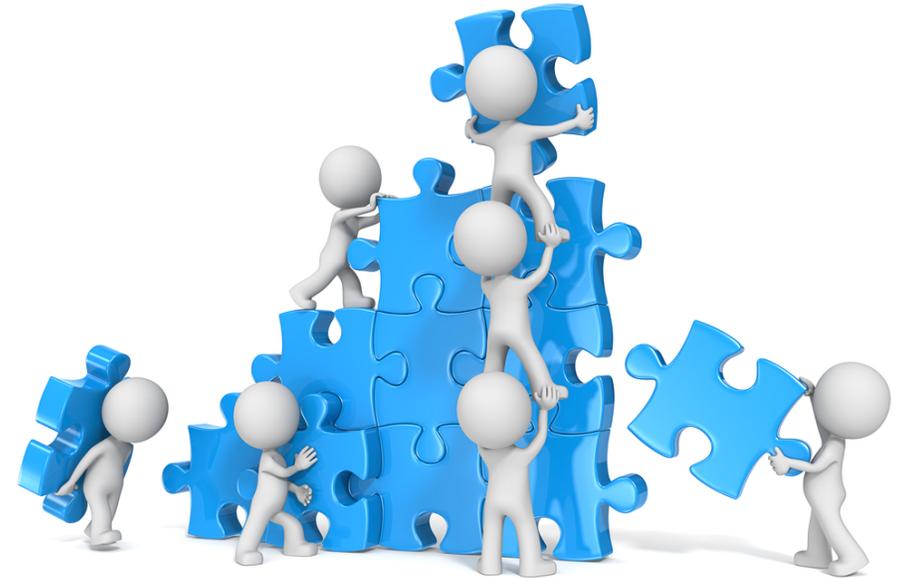
# A history of the UN's involvement in Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

Time to do better



1992: Stakeholder engagement in policy  
1996: Emergence of Stakeholder Dialogues  
2000: MDGs and the UN Global Compact  
2001: First UN Global Partnership Resolution  
2002: Bali Guidelines and WSSD  
2003: CSD - criteria and guidelines for partnerships  
2006: United Nations Office of Partnership  
2008: First Annual UN Partnership Forum  
2009: UNGA first revision of Guidelines between the UN  
and the Business Community  
2012: Rio+20 Voluntary Initiatives  
2013: HLPF creates a mandate for a Platform on Partnerships  
2014: SAMOA Pathway  
2015: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
2015: Partnership resolution  
2017: EcoSoc retreat to look at new criteria and guidelines for  
Partnerships  
2017: Secretary-General's Report on Re-positioning the UN  
Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda

## What I will cover



# Stakeholder engagement in the UN

1992 Earth Summit

**Agenda 21** the first UN document to give 'rights and responsibilities for stakeholders' to engage in the development and implementation of the UN Action Plan.

There were **nine chapters** representing different sectors of society which were called '**Major Groups**'

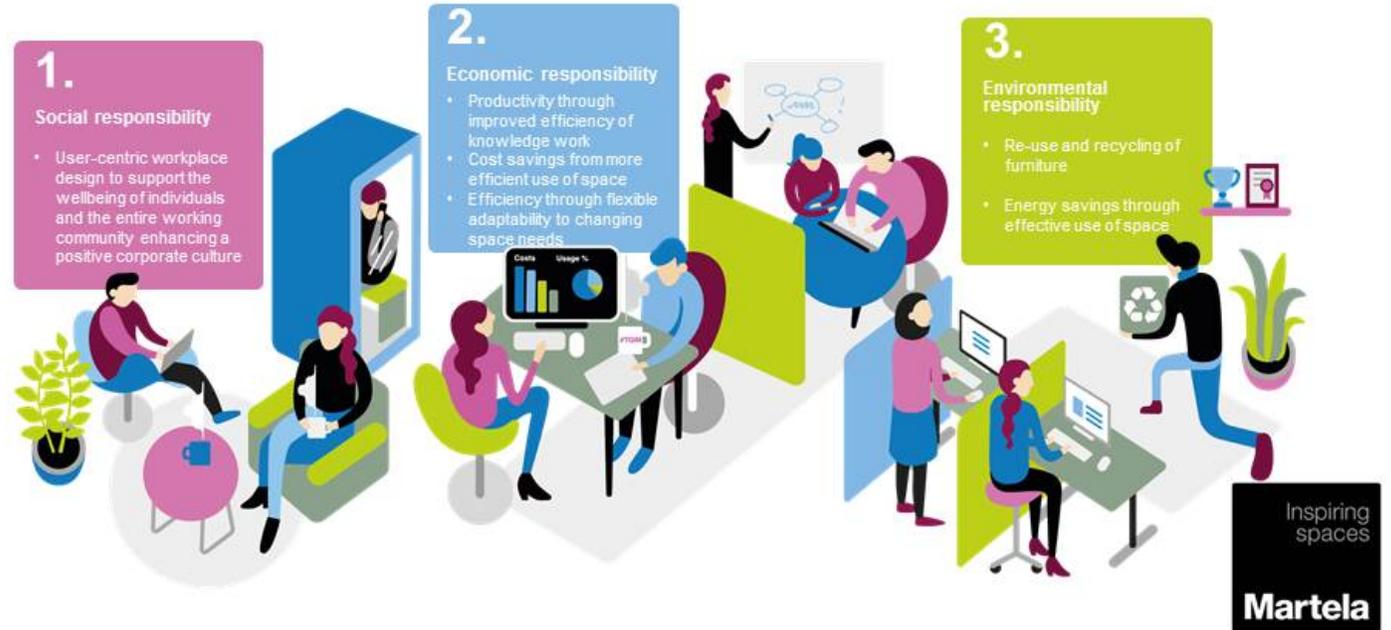
1. Youth and Children
2. NGOs
3. Women
4. Indigenous Peoples
5. Local Authorities
6. Trade Unions
7. Business and Industry
8. Science and Technological Community
9. Role of Farmers



# Commission on Sustainable Development 1993-1996 Days of



## Responsible workplace



# Rio+5 and the Commission on Sustainable Development 1997-2001

1996 the **UN General Assembly** agreed that at Rio+5 each of the nine major groups would have half a day to present on what they are doing to implement Agenda 21

1998-2001 – **two days** of the Commission on Sustainable Development (**4 sessions of 3 hours – 12 hours in total**) were given over to a **multi-stakeholder dialogue** with **member states** which drew experience on what has happening on **implementing Agenda 21** and what **policy changes might be needed** to enhance implementation

**1998 – Industry**

**1999 – Tourism**

**2000 – Agriculture**

**2001 - Energy**



# Definitions

- **Multi-stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) for sustainable development** are specific commitments and contributions, undertaken together **by various partners** intended to support the implementation of transformation towards sustainable development and help achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and other relevant sustainable development agreements.
- **Private Public Partnerships** are principally **contractual arrangements between single or several public agencies** (federal, state or local) and **single or several private sector entities**. Through such arrangements, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared, in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public. **Other stakeholders might be sub-contractors** in a PPP.
- **Voluntary initiatives** are activities or contributions made by **single governments or organisations, or groups** of them, towards a certain goal, and above and beyond legally binding or UN-agreed commitments.

# Millennium Development Goals 2000

2000 **Millennium Development Goal (MDG8)** kind of mentions MSPs – but mostly partnerships are envisaged between governments.

## MDG8 Global Partnership Government to Government

2000 **UN Global Compact** launched as a **voluntary initiative** based on CEO commitments to **implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support UN goals**: promotes ten principles – now over **8000 companies** and 4000 non-business participants

2000 **Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and the Business Community** issued to enhance the cooperation between the UN and the business community.



# General Assembly resolution – Towards global partnerships (2001)

The first **General Assembly resolution** on “**Towards global partnerships**” was included on the General Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee and adopted in 2001 and then relooked at every two years.

It stressed the need for **member states** to further **discuss partnerships and consider ways and means to enhance cooperation** between the UN and all relevant partners including from developing countries to give them greater opportunities to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization



# Bali Guidelines for Partnerships 2002 WSSD

In 2000 and 2001 stakeholders explored with the UN, & member states through a series of workshops the idea of **World Summit on Sustainable Development** having as a major outcome **multi-stakeholder partnerships** to be a mechanism to deliver the political commitments

**Bali Guidelines on Partnerships:**

1. Objective of Partnerships
2. Voluntary in Nature/Respect for fundamental Principles and Values
3. Link with Globally Agreed Outcomes
4. Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development
5. Transparency and Accountability
6. Tangible Results
7. Funding Agreements
8. New/Value Added Partnerships
9. Local involvement and international Impact



# World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002

This developed into:

**Type 1** – policy agreements and commitments

**Type 2** were commitments and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platforms focused on deliverables and would contribute in translating political commitments into action.



# Commission on Sustainable Development 2003 Decision on Partnerships

Decides the **criteria and guidelines for partnerships.**

## **Partnerships:**

- **voluntary initiatives** undertaken by Governments and relevant stakeholders
- **contribute** to the implementation A21, JPoI;
- **not** intended to **substitute commitments** made by **Governments;**
- bear in mind the **economic, social and environmental** dimensions;
- **predictable and sustained resources** for their implementation, should include the **mobilization of new resources**, and where relevant, should result in the **transfer of technology** to, and **capacity-building in, developing countries;**
- designed and implemented in a **transparent and accountable** manner;
- should be **consistent with national laws** and national strategies
- providing **information and reporting** by partnerships registered with the CSD



A report on Partnerships for Sustainable Development was produced in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010. This was for the review years of the CSD. Partnership fairs were held at all CSD in the 2000's

# United Nations Partnership Office 2006

In 2006 the United Nations Office of Partnership (UNOP) was **created to strengthen system-wide coherence** in the establishment of operational relationships with global partners of the United Nations;  
to provide support for **the United Nations Democracy Fund**; and  
to support **partnership initiatives** from **non-State actors or United Nations** entities in the light of General Assembly resolutions on the importance of **engaging public and private sector stakeholders** in the **implementation of the Millennium Declaration**, as well as the achievement of the **Millennium Development Goals**.



# ECOSOC and UNGA

ECOSOC 2008 starts its annual Partnership Forum around the delivery of the MDGs



2009 UNGA first revision of Guidelines between the UN and the Business Community – impact, transparency and accountability



# UN Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20

*Rio+20 focused more on voluntary commitments some 700 were announced during the conference, rather than partnerships though some 207 were announced.*

283. We welcome the **commitments voluntarily** entered into at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and throughout 2012 **by all stakeholders and their networks to implement concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and actions to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication.** We invite the Secretary-General to **compile these commitments and facilitate access to other registries that have compiled commitments, in an Internet-based registry.** The registry should make information about the commitments fully transparent and accessible to the public, and it should be periodically updated.



# High Level Political Forum and SAMOA Pathway



2013 The High Level Political Forum established mandate includes a 'platform for partnerships



SAMOA Pathway -The SIDS Action Platform has been developed to support the follow up to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference), including through a **partnerships platform, a partnerships framework, and a UN Implementation Matrix.**

# 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2015

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships



# Partnership Exchange

- Sustainable Development Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - "**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**" - recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries.
- **The Partnership Exchange** provides a platform for multi-stakeholder partnerships, government officials, United Nations, major groups and other stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **SMART** criteria - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-based, with Time-bound deliverables.



# 2015 UNGA Revision of the Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and the Private Sector

The purpose of these **Guidelines** is to **provide a framework** to facilitate the formulation and **implementation of partnerships** between the **United Nations and the business sector** while **safeguarding the integrity, impartiality and independence of the United Nations** and preventing and mitigating potential risks of adverse impacts on people and the environment.

Only apply to the **UN** and separately administrated organs, Funds and Programmes – they are intended to serve as a common framework for the whole UN.

For this workshop the sections that are relevant are the sections on General Principles: Integrity, advance UN Goals, delineate clear responsibilities and roles, ensure no unfair advantage, secure adequate partners, establish due diligence, accountability, transparency.



## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURES

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



# Towards global partnership 2015 resolution

**Stresses** the need for the **United Nations system to develop**, for those partnerships in which it participates, a common and systemic approach which places greater emphasis on transparency, coherence, impact, accountability and due diligence, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements;

**Recognizes** the contribution of partnerships to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, and in this regard **requests the Economic and Social Council** to hold during its partnership forum to be held in **2016** a discussion on the best practices and ways **to improve, inter alia, transparency, accountability and the sharing of experiences of multi-stakeholder partnerships and on the review and monitoring of these partnerships**, including the role of Member States in review and monitoring;



# Secretary-General's Report on Re-positioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda

“can only be realized with a **strong commitment to partnerships at all levels between governments, private sector, civil society** and others.

It goes on to say:

“With this recognition, we must harness the **convening power of the United Nations through platforms where stakeholders** can meaningfully engage, build trust, exchange know-how and technologies, strengthen relationships and bring synergy and coherence to achieve results.”

And then pitches:

“We will also need to embed **multi-stakeholder partnerships into the core business model of the UN development system**, pooling system-wide expertise across the partnership spectrum.”



# NGOs, constituent, civil society, or major groups?

“Major Groups” is a term that was introduced in Agenda 21, agreed by governments at the Rio Earth Summit. It describes nine sectors of society identified as having a significant role in sustainable development:



1. Women
2. Children and youth
3. Indigenous people
4. NGOs **(Civil Society Organizations)**
5. Local authorities
6. Workers and trade unions
7. Business and industry
8. The scientific and technical community **(Research and Academia)**
9. Farmers
- 10. Grass roots organizations**
- 11. Parliamentarians**
- 12. Foundations and philanthropies**
- 13. Professionals**
- 14. Media**
- 15. Older Persons**

# The immediate Future

1. Attend the Partnership Exchange on Monday and take whatever you get out of this workshop to enrich that session of the HLPF
2. Link with other partnerships that are working on the same issue as you
3. Input to the discussion on the Secretary Generals Report and subsequent UN General Assembly Resolution this year in **October on Partnerships.**
4. Help us build an MSP Charter to help guide and evaluate MSPs





Kader Asmal (2000), who chaired the World Commission on Dams:

“A parting warning: doing so [conducting an MSP] is never a neat, organized, tidy concerto. More often, the process becomes a messy, loose-knit, exasperating, sprawling cacophony. Like pluralist democracy, it is the absolute worst form of consensus-building except for all the others.”

# Felix Dodds

Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute

