



# Samoa Partnership Dialogue

29 October 2018, Apia, Samoa

Organized in support of the inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review

## Concept note and programme

### Introduction

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa under the overarching theme of “*The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships*”. The Conference resulted in an intergovernmental agreed outcome document – the SAMOA Pathway - and the announcement of 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS.

A key outcome of the SIDS Conference<sup>1</sup> was also the establishment of a *SIDS Partnership Framework* which is designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS. Guided by an intergovernmental Steering Committee, the framework has ensured that SIDS partnerships have remained high on the UN’s agenda, providing a multi-stakeholder platform for reviewing progress made by SIDS partnerships, and for sharing of good practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders, on an annual basis.

On 27 September 2019, Member States will convene a one-day high-level meeting at United Nations to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway<sup>2</sup>. A robust preparatory process is currently underway, which has featured

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/70/202

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/72/217

three regional meetings of SIDS in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all SIDS to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 30 October to 2 November 2019.

As part of the inter-regional meeting, the **Samoa Partnership Dialogue** will take place on 29 October 2018 in Apia, Samoa. The Dialogue will build on the outcomes of three regional partnership dialogues<sup>3</sup>, with the overall objective to advance the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SIDS by increasing the capacity of stakeholders in forging new, genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships, and strengthening the monitoring and review process of partnerships in SIDS

## Outcomes

The outcomes of the regional dialogues, and the Samoa Partnership Dialogue, which will be presented to participants at the meeting for feedback, will include the *SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms*, a set of proposals for strengthening the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS.

To support the outcomes of the regional dialogues, and the Samoa Partnership Dialogue, UN DESA is developing a *SIDS Partnership Toolbox*, which will be presented for feedback. The Toolbox, which will be available in print and online, will include the in-depth analysis of existing partnerships for SIDS, online learning material based on case studies and best practices of SIDS partnerships, and tools for assisting in the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS.

## Consultations - Regional Partnership Dialogues

The regional partnership dialogues were organized in the margins of the regional SAMOA pathway mid-term review preparatory meetings in Mauritius, Tonga and Belize, with the participation of relevant SIDS stakeholders.

These regional partnership dialogues provided an opportunity to:

- Assess the status of partnerships for each region and identify best practices and gaps around which new partnerships for driving implementation of SAMOA Pathway priority areas and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in SIDS can be forged;
- Raise the capacity of stakeholders in developing genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS;
- Strengthen the review and monitoring process of SIDS partnerships;

The results of the three regional partnership dialogues have demonstrated many commonalities. The dialogues reaffirmed the importance of partnerships as a means for supporting sustainable development of SIDS, and as part of a new and more meaningful development paradigm for SIDS. More information about these dialogues is available in Annex I.

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<sup>3</sup> Organized as part of a project by UN DESA with funding provided by Italy

## Structure of Dialogue

The Samoa Partnership Dialogue will include both a main plenary segment, and a set of Partnership Networking Exchange sessions.

### Plenary segment

The plenary will be structured as following:

- Opening segment, including highlighting commonalities and key messages from regional partnership dialogues
- Implementation of partnerships for SIDS launched during SIDS Conference (2014) and The Ocean Conference (2017)
- Examining best practices and challenges of SIDS Partnerships
- Engaging all stakeholders in partnerships for SIDS, including the private sector
- Capturing outcomes of the Samoa Partnership Dialogue
- Closing remarks

### SIDS Partnership Networking Exchange

The Samoa Partnership Dialogue will include some space for networking among partnership focal points and government officials, for showcasing and discussing partnerships and innovative solutions, and further explore the potential of scaling-up existing, and launch new, partnerships in line with the priorities of SIDS.

A schedule of all networking sessions is now available.

Please indicate your interest in attending **any of the sessions** by clicking on the Sign up-button for each session, which will assist the organizers with scheduling.

**Schedule and sign up** is available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview/inter>



# Samoa Partnership Dialogue - Plenary

10.00 AM - 10.45 AM

## Opening segment

- **Prayer:** Reverend Siaosi Salesulu
- **Master of ceremony:** Mr Tupa'imatuna Iulai Lavea, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Samoa

## Opening remarks, including highlighting commonalities and key messages from regional partnership dialogues

- H.E. Ms. Lois M. Young, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations, co-chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS
- Mr. Mícheál Tierney, Counselor, representing H.E. Mrs. Geraldine Patricia Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, co-chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS

## Keynote address

- Honourable Sili Epa Tuioti, Minister of Finance, Independent State of Samoa

## Remarks

- Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director General for Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate, Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea, Italy

- Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- Ambassador Peter Thomson, SG's Special Envoy for the Ocean (video message)

10.45 AM - 11.30 AM

### **Implementation of partnerships for SIDS launched during SIDS Conference (2014) and The Ocean Conference (2017)**

Genuine and durable partnerships for Small Island Developing States play an important role in advancing sustainable development at the subnational, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS, and by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, businesses, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders.

As part of the support to the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review preparatory process, UN DESA has conducted an in-depth analysis of partnerships for Small Island Developing States, including partnerships that were announced in the context of the SIDS Conference in 2014, the UN Ocean Conference in 2017, and other relevant partnerships. Discussions from the regional dialogues and preparatory meetings have made an important contribution to the analysis.

The session will start with a presentation of the in-depth analysis of SIDS partnerships, including their status and trends, how they have addressed and impacted Samoa Pathway priority areas, potential gaps, challenges, and lessons learned. The in-depth analysis provides an opportunity to take stock of the current status of partnerships, including their role in advancing sustainable development in SIDS, and how the next generation of partnerships might effectively address current and emerging priorities, potential gaps, and overcome challenges to implementation.

#### Guiding questions:

- How do we best ensure that lessons learned by partnerships are documented and widely shared?

- What gap areas should new partnerships address, both regionally and globally?
- How can new partnerships be better designed to overcome challenges?
- How can we facilitate better dialogue between partnerships within and between regions?
- How can we better measure the impacts of partnerships on their beneficiaries?
- How do we ensure better information flow between partnerships and regional and global processes that measure their collective impact on sustainable development in SIDS?

Presentation:

- In-depth analysis of partnerships for Small Island Developing States (Ms. Marjo Vierros, consultant, UN DESA)

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**Respondent:** Mrs. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, MFAT, Samoa

**Moderated** by H.E. Ms. Lois M. Young, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations

**COFFEE BREAK – 15 MINS**

**11.45 AM – 01.00 PM**

**Examining best practices and challenges of SIDS Partnerships**

The regional partnership dialogues have stressed the need to better understand, and define, what is meant by a durable and genuine partnership, to examine the lessons learned from successful partnerships, the challenges faced in implementation, and fostering better stakeholder engagement in partnerships.

The SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms provide a solid basis for articulating what constitutes a genuine and durable partnership for SIDS.

To foster a better understanding of the elements of the SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms, UN DESA has developed case studies on the design and development of existing partnerships for SIDS, which will form the basis of learning material, to be part of the outcome of Samoa Partnership Dialogue.

The session will provide an opportunity to share and engage in a discussion on best practices and challenges around the development and implementation of partnerships for SIDS. The session starts with a brief presentation of the case studies and the learning material.

#### Guiding questions:

- Why chose partnership as approach for more effective implementation of sustainable development?
- What are the main challenges to a SIDS partnership? How can challenges be overcome?
- What are best practices of a partnership? How can we better identify them and ensure continued practice?
- What makes a partnership genuine?
- What makes a partnership durable?
- What makes a partnership effective?

#### Partnership case study presentation

- Case studies and online learning material on SIDS partnerships (Ms. Camilla Borrevik, consultant, UN DESA)

#### Panelists

- Ms. Gina Bonne, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) (tbc)
- Mr. Jito Vanualailai, Pacific Islands Universities Research Network

- Ms. Karen McDonald Gayle, Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)

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Respondent: (tbc)

**Moderated by** Mr. Mícheál Tierney, Counselor, Permanent mission of Ireland to the United Nations

**03.00 PM – 04.30 PM**

### **Engaging all stakeholders in partnerships for SIDS, including the private sector**

The regional dialogues stressed that partnerships must be inclusive of all stakeholders, including NGOs and civil society, youth, women, and marginalized groups, for maximum buy-in from communities, ensuring no one is left behind. Partnerships should strive to be participatory, have agreed-upon objectives, shared responsibilities and undertake joint action towards a common goal, bringing together stakeholders from the the design of the partnership, maintain broad ownership and maintain dialogue with all partners, including communities, throughout the lifetime of the partnership.

Further involvement of academia can improve the scientific, including social science, basis of partnerships, as well in relation to their design and monitoring aspects. Building trust, and providing meaningful engagement by all partners, including the private sector, remains a challenge for many partnerships. This session will consider how to best involve all stakeholders in partnerships, and how to ensure that stakeholders are kept engaged throughout the lifetime of a partnership. The dialogue will aim to draw from the experience of a broad range of partnerships and the people who have been involved in developing them.

#### Guiding questions

- What are the best strategies for engaging different stakeholders in a partnership? Are there different approaches required in the engagement of youth, women and other marginalized communities?



- What are some of the successful strategies for engaging with the private sector?
- How can partnerships stay accountable to all stakeholders?
- What challenges need to be overcome to ensure that all stakeholders feel a sense of ownership in a partnership?

Panelists:

- Ms. Amrikha Devamatee Singh, CARICOM
- Ms. LorMona Meredith, Polynesian Voyaging Society/Promise to Pae'aina Collective Impact Effort
- Mr. Stephen Lyon, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO)
- Kalim Shah, SIDS University and Research Institutions Network

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Respondent: (tbc)

**Moderated by** Ms. Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa & Tokelau

**04.30 PM – 05.30 PM**

### **Capturing outcomes of the Samoa Partnership Dialogue**

The outcomes from the Samoa Partnership Dialogue, as outlined below, will feed into the outcome of the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway.

## **SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms**

The SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms have been developed by the co-chairs of the Steering Committee on Partnership for SIDS, Belie and Ireland, stemming from discussions from the regional partnership dialogues. The Criteria and Norms articulates what constitutes a genuine and durable partnership for SIDS, through outlining elements of the SMART criteria – a partnership that is SIDS Specific, Measurable & Monitorable, Achievable & Accountable, Resource-based on Results-focused with Timelines for implementation & transparency by all parties.

### **Strengthening the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS**

A key request from the outcome of the 2014 SIDS Conference, the SAMOA Pathway, was the establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework, designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

Guided by a member States driven Steering Committee, the activities of the Framework have ensured that SIDS partnerships have remained high on the UN's agenda, providing a multi-stakeholder platform for reviewing progress made by SIDS partnerships, and for sharing of good practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders, on an annual basis.

In 2018, member states called upon (A/RES/72/217) UN DESA and OHRLLS to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support for the work of the Steering Committee, and to ensure an annual action-oriented, results-focused Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue.

Based on the consultations from the regional partnership dialogues, which also emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and review process of SIDS partnerships, a set of proposals for strengthening the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS will be presented for feedback by participants, and form part of the outcomes.

### **SIDS Partnership Toolbox**

To support the outcomes of the regional dialogues, and the Samoa Partnership Dialogue, UN DESA is developing a SIDS Partnership Toolbox, which will be presented for feedback. The Toolbox, which will be available in print and online, will include the in-depth analysis of existing partnerships for

SIDS, online learning material based on case studies and best practices of SIDS partnerships, and tools for assisting in the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS.

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*Followed by Questions & Answers*

**Closing remarks by co-chairs**

**06.00 PM – 08.30 PM**

**Government reception**

The Government of Samoa will host a Reception at the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum at Vailima. The reception will commence at 6:00pm and conclude at 8:30pm.

# Samoa Partnership Dialogue - Partnership Networking Exchange

08.30 AM – 09.45 AM



## Table 1 - Island Resilience Partnership

*Facilitated by Mr. Marty Martinez*

The Island Resilience Partnership is a public-private partnership designed to support communities on the front lines of climate change by accelerating their transition toward renewable energy and resilient infrastructure – at no-cost to governments and island stakeholders. The partnership utilizes

predictive analytics, mapping technology, and a competitive marketplace to design, develop, and deploy distributed energy resources to help islands achieve climate mitigation and climate adaptation goals.

The partnership is looking to scale up its activities, seeking collaborations with all SIDS interested in transforming its national energy infrastructure.

## **Table 2 - SIDS University and Research Institutions Network**

*Facilitated by Mr. Kalim Shah*

The University of Delaware, along with university partners from across all SIDS regions, is launching the SIDS University and Research Institutions Network, with the overall objective to mobilize resources and coordinate research efforts to advance the SAMOA Pathway.

The Strategic Plan for the Network will include mechanisms to create proactive and empowered research partnerships geared directly towards providing a sound scientific knowledge, data and evidence base that supports the progress of countries towards the goals of the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs, by promoting responsive and relevant science, technology, research and innovation to support and underpin sound policy, management and SIDS governance decisions.

The networking session will provide an opportunity for SIDS and others to provide ideas and input to future research activities of the Network. Interested parties are invited to join the Network, which is open to universities and governments from Small Island Developing States.

## **Table 3 - Pacific Islands Universities Research Network**

*Facilitated by Mr. Jito Vanualailai*

The Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN) is a consortium of all universities in the Pacific Islands Countries established in 2012 to enable closer and meaningful collaboration among researchers in the consortium, with the view to identify and address, via Research, Development & Innovation, priority social, and economic development, and environmental challenges for the Pacific Island Countries (PICS). PIURN conducts fundamental and applied research and is currently focused on 4 broad areas that address the Samoa Pathway priorities: (1) Food Security & Nutrition, and Health & Non-Communicable Diseases; (2) Climate Change & Biodiversity, including Land Degradation; (3) Capacity Building, and Data & Statistics; and (4) Social Development, Gender Equality & Education.

The Network is therefore in a strong position to help develop research-based proposals in these areas, seek funding for the proposed projects from international funding organizations and carry out research and development for the successful projects.

### **Table 4 – International Decade of Ocean Science**

*Facilitated by Ms. Serena Heckler, Natural Sciences Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States*

On December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed\* the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The Decade will strengthen the international cooperation (mobilizing partnerships and leveraging investment) needed to develop the scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society. It will provide a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, contributing not only to SDG 14 but also to all SDGs.

More coordinated and consolidated observations will also contribute to the SAMOA Pathway (and other UN processes protecting the ocean and its resources). The Decade will also improve the scientific knowledge base through capacity development and transfer of marine technology to Small Island Developing States.

The Decade will require the engagement of many different stakeholders to create new partnerships and applications, including the ocean science and technology community, governments and policy makers, businesses and industries as well as civil society and NGOs.

*\* Prior to this proclamation, the International Decade proposal was registered by IOC as a voluntary commitment to the UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 and as a SIDS Partnership (#SIDS ACTION15527).*

**02.15 PM – 03.00 PM**

**Table 1 - Sandwatch: A Global Observatory of Changing Environments in SIDS**

*Facilitated by Ms. Gail Townsend, and Ms. Serena Heckler, UNESCO*

Sandwatch is an activity-oriented program, initiated by UNESCO, which has been operational since 2001. Children, youth and adults work together to monitor, design and implement practical activities and projects to address issues facing their beach environment and build resilience to climate change. The key objectives of the partnership are: (a) to expand and enhance the Sandwatch International Database to become a community-based observatory of changing coastal environments; (b) to use new technologies to expand networking between islands to share information and solutions relating to coastal issues; (c) to develop Sandwatch as a citizen science initiative that engages schools and communities through beach enhancement and improvement activities.

Sandwatch is an example of education for sustainable development and contributes to implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (esp. paras 44.a, 44.c); and SDG targets 4.7 (education for sustainable development) and 13.3 (Improve education on climate change). It has been implemented in over 15 SIDS in the three SIDS regions, especially the Caribbean, and it has been introduced in many others, through regional and national training of trainers.

Work to scale up the database continues, and SIDS continue to express interest in integrating the Sandwatch tool into their ESD and community coastal management plans. Partners are sought to step up engagement in all SIDS, especially in the Pacific and AIMS. Partners include: research institutes, education and other relevant ministries (environment, natural resources, fisheries, etc.), schools, universities, community groups, etc.

Sandwatch is also involved in a Citizen Science Global Partnership and a working group on citizen science and SDGs, to assess how citizen science data can serve in SDGs monitoring.

## **Table 2 - ICT4SIDS Partnership**

*Facilitated by Mr. Amjad Umar*

The ICT4SIDS Partnership is focusing on Smart Collaborating Hubs and a Smart Global Village for Rapid and Massive Implementation of the Samoa Pathway, the SDGs, the Sendai Framework, and the Urban Agenda.

Over 50 Smart Collaborating Hubs in over 15 countries have been deployed so far. In 2019, the partnership plans to implement a Smart Global Village with more than 200 Smart Hubs, spanning more than 50 countries, collaboratively supporting health, education, public safety, public welfare, food &

agriculture, entrepreneurship, energy, e-commerce for cottage industries, e-government and other vital services needed by the underserved populations.

To rapidly scale-up the work in the coming 3-5 years, Free Pilot Projects are being offered to interested SIDS.

### **Table 3 - Beyond the Stars (BTS)**

*Facilitated by Tash Tan*

Beyond the Stars (BTS) is a world-first health intervention and education program that uses storytelling and innovative technology to combat non-communicable diseases, combining storytelling mediums, play-based learning, health research, regional agendas and school curriculum to inspire long-term behavior change in children across the Pacific Islands. Through this experience, every child is empowered to decide their own future, and the future of people around them.

BTS uses Virtual Reality to introduce the narrative in first-person. In it, each child becomes the hero of the story as they project their agency throughout the story world, and then the real world.

The initiative is looking to expand the initiative to interested Small Island Developing States.



## **Annex 1 - Commonalities from regional partnership dialogues**

In assessing existing SIDS partnerships<sup>4</sup>, it is noted that there is an uneven coverage of SAMOA Pathway priority areas, including the current largely environmental focus of existing partnerships, uneven distribution of partnerships across regions, the absence of meaningful private sector engagement, and the lack of baseline data and metrics to thoroughly monitor and assess the impact of partnerships.

### *Understanding and defining genuine and durable partnerships*

The need to better understand, and define, what is meant by a durable and genuine partnership, to examine the lessons learned from successful partnerships, the challenges faced in implementation, and fostering better stakeholder engagement, was also stressed throughout the consultations.

The SMART criteria (SIDS Specific, Measurable & Monitorable, Achievable & Accountable, Resource-based on Results-focused with Timelines for implementation & transparency by all parties) that was established by member States in the lead up to the SIDS Conference in 2014 provide a solid basis for articulating partnership norms, but there needs to be better understanding of the components of genuine, durable and effective partnerships.

### *Raising capacity in developing partnerships*

Participants stressed that there is a need to raise the capacity of various stakeholders in the *design* of genuine and durable partnerships, and to enhance the competency in *partnering*. This could be achieved through developing learning materials based on best practices, case studies, and lessons learned from existing partnerships.

### *SIDS Action Platform*

There are many different *types* of partnerships registered in the SIDS Action Platform – the online SIDS partnership platform, [www.sids2014.org](http://www.sids2014.org) - which might need to be categorized differently. The platform should also clearly indicate the status of partnerships, and archive those that have completed their activities.

It was also suggested that the platform should include a library of partnership best practices and innovations, and overall act as a hub for knowledge sharing. Proposals to improve the information flow with existing regional networks and coordination mechanisms, and leveraging existing data sources on partnerships, such as the Aid Transparency Initiative and other relevant initiatives and databases, were also highlighted.

### *Monitoring and review of SIDS partnerships*

Each regional consultation emphasized the importance of strengthening the monitoring and review process of SIDS partnerships.

### Internal monitoring

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<sup>4</sup> Advance copy available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/partnerships2018>

Monitoring and review should be an integral component of designing partnerships. Evaluation of the intended impact of a partnership should be done on a regular basis, including assessing baselines, linkages to SAMOA Pathway priority areas and the SDGs.

#### National, regional and global monitoring

It was suggested that there is a need to improve the information flows and coordination in relation to partnerships between the national, regional and global levels.

Practical suggestions to improve reporting included: (i) keeping reporting light and the process easy to use; (ii) including input from implementing partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders; (iii) linking monitoring and review of partnerships with monitoring that is already being undertaken by existing national and regional processes and frameworks; (iv) providing information about the effectiveness and impact of partnerships; (v) moving away from reporting as a one-way communication *to exchange of knowledge*, with value-added to those reporting; and (vi) developing a strong digital information infrastructure to allow communication among partners and beneficiaries.

When equipped with more up-to-date information on partnership status, challenges, achievements and impacts, the monitoring process could facilitate a more systematic review of partnerships in driving sustainable development in SIDS, both individually and collectively. Better information on intended and actual impact would also shift focus to the quality of partnerships, rather than quantity.

A more thorough and regular global review of SIDS partnerships would enable the annual mandated Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue<sup>5</sup> to focus on sharing best practices, lessons learned, innovations, as well providing a platform for launching new partnerships in line with the priorities of SIDS.

#### *Leaving no one behind*

It was suggested that partnerships must be inclusive of all stakeholders, with an increased effort to include NGOs and civil society for maximum buy-in from communities, as well marginalized groups, ensuring no one is left behind. Genuine partnerships are those that bring together all stakeholders from the beginning, ensuring broad ownership throughout the process. Partnerships need to be accountable to their beneficiaries and maintain dialogue with all partners, including communities, throughout the lifetime of the partnership.

In addition, further involvement of academia can improve the scientific (including social science) basis of partnerships, as well in relation to their design and monitoring. Partnerships must also work closely with national governments to the extent possible. There is also a need to enhance the involvement of the private sector in all regions.

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<sup>5</sup> A/RES/70/202, paragraph 11b