

## Private Sector Mechanism Position Paper

### Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.<sup>1</sup>

The criticality of **partnerships** has been gaining recognition in the context of development strategies and international policy-making. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 17, calls for a revitalized and enhanced global partnership, that brings together governments, civil society, the private sector, the UN system, and other actors, and mobilizes all available resources to achieve the SDGs ambitious targets. The report of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>2</sup> (paragraph 10), and the FAO Strategy for Partnership with the Private Sector<sup>3</sup> also provide clear calls to action for delivering global partnerships for sustainable development, including private sector engagement.

There is no “one-size-fits-all” solution to tackle hunger, and we emphasize that there is **broad diversity** amongst the many successful partnerships with different participants including governments, civil society organisations, academia, international organisations and other stakeholders. PSM recommends the adoption of a broad definition of partnerships that will embrace all possible scenarios and be inclusive of diverse approaches, in addition to Public-Private Partnerships.

Existing contractual forms of multi-stakeholder partnerships have proved their worth for many years in such fields as public services and public infrastructure and continue to offer great potential. Public-Private Partnerships simultaneously contribute to a better understanding by the private sector of public needs and more strategic planning by governments that accommodates private sector and other stakeholders’ needs so governments can better leverage partner capacities, leading to a more efficient allocation of resources. The promotion of consensus-building through stakeholder engagement and dialogue – notably amongst governments, business and civil society – is vital for designing and implementing effective solutions and for a shared sense of accountability and responsibility.

#### 1) HLPE Report

- The report should focus on **best practices** to improve the implementation of partnerships of varied types.
- The report should include sections on the **many forms of partnerships** including: contractual partnerships, joint ventures, memoranda of understanding, and collaborations noting the variety of formality and best practices to improve their utility.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

<sup>2</sup> Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. 2015. [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization. 2013. *FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector*. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3444e/i3444e.pdf>

- The report should explore how multi-stakeholder partnerships can **help to implement policy** at local, national or international level.

## 2) Context-specific partnerships

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships have more than one stakeholder, but they will not necessarily have all types of stakeholders. Acknowledging that governments, multilateral institutions, private sector (including farmer organisations), science organisations, not-for-profit bodies and others may partner in different ways and combinations, the report will need to identify the need and means to **encourage the engagement of each group**.
- Partnerships occur at various points in the **value chain**. They can include infrastructure, research, market access, and value addition. The entire agri-food system needs partnerships to achieve food security and nutrition goals.
- The involvement of people with solid technical expertise will contribute to a productive of partnerships that can deliver data-driven and evidence-based outcomes.

## 3) Enabling Environment for Partnerships

- Goal 17 of the SDGs underpins all success on partnerships. All stakeholders must work together and contribute to the solutions to build credible institutions based on the **rule of law, good governance, accountability, and transparency**.
- Mutual trust and respect will ensure an environment where partners can share ideas, concerns and potential solutions in confidence to solve problems together.
- Partners need to find common ground and synergies to achieve their goals and deliverables, which should be actionable, measurable and clearly defined.

## 4) Best Practices for Partnerships

- The success of a multi-stakeholder partnership will need to reflect not only the importance of **transparency and accountability**, but to highlight other necessary attributes for successful durable partnerships, such as: **capacity building, scalability, institutional infrastructure, and sharing of good practice**. Without due account of the full picture of enabling factors, partnerships will not emerge in the numbers and at the scale needed for impact.
- Successful outcomes of partnerships in the next future should involve greater collaboration and more cooperative dialogues among all the partners.

## 5) Conflicts of Interest

- **All actors may be concerned with conflicts of interest:** governments, private sector, research bodies, NGOs, among others. This issue can impose a plethora of challenges for all actors, affecting the most vulnerable groups, and hindering any real progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Preventing conflicts of interest requires all parties to work together and contribute solutions to build **credible partnerships based on trust and respect, rule of law**, good governance, accountability, and transparency.

- The private sector has demonstrated its commitment to join **anti-corruption** efforts implementing company-wide anti-corruption policies and practices, increasing transparency and accountability through public reporting, and promoting integrity through the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and the UN Global Compact's 10<sup>th</sup> Principle against Corruption.
- The private sector encompasses, for sure, all for-profit businesses. However, they often undertake non-profit driven actions. Many companies are part of multi-stakeholder partnerships, that do not entail any direct return on investments for them, but have a positive impact on other beneficiaries.