

Side-event Delivering as One: Global Partnerships for Global Goals Held in the margins of the Women Deliver conference Copenhagen, 16 May 2016

1 – Welcome Note

Dutch Ambassador of Private Sector and International Cooperation, **Jeroen Roodenburg** opened the event with welcome remarks, reiterating the need for cross-sector collaboration and highlighting the upcoming High Level Meeting of the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#) (GPEDC) that will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in November this year. The GPEDC He stressed the importance of effective partnering in order to match the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda with actions.

2 – Setting the stage: implications of the 2030 Agenda

Mr. **David Nabarro**, Special Adviser of the 2030 Agenda, precluded the panel discussion by providing an overview of the changes that are brought about with the adoption of the new development agenda. Nabarro stressed the need for innovation and noted that staying inside ones comfort zone will not work in achieving the ambitious Global Goals. He also reaffirmed the great efforts that many of the present panelists have already put in partnering, but that these partnering initiatives can improve by learning and growing. To become more effective in partnering, we need to learn from each other, trust each other and develop new skill sets. He reiterated that trust, however, can't be built in a day. We all need to develop skillsets that lead to respect, synergy and trust between partnerships.

3 – Panel discussion

Ms. **Robin Gorna**, Executive Director of the global Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) opened the panel discussion by offering her point of view on the potential conflict of interest that arises in partnering, considering the dual interests in working together while achieving one's own interest. She voiced concerns from the health sector that feared their influence may have diminished as there were previously two MDG's focused on health, where there is now only one SDG focused specifically on health. Robin addressed this concern by stressing that that the health sector should embrace all 17 Global Goals, as health is fundamentally a part of each of these goals. While major improvements have been made in the field of health, these improvements cannot be attributed to health interventions only. Robin mentioned that 50% of this progression was brought about by non-health interventions in other sectors such as education, water and sanitation. Finally, she highlighted the importance of political leadership and governmental support in improving health. She mentioned several efforts such as common metrics to track services across sectors by the Indian government and Zambian legislation to end child marriage, among others, that were brought about by involvement of presidents and political leaders. Robin concluded her remarks by stressing the need for high-level efforts and political leadership in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. **Tedros Adhanom**, Minister of Foreign Affairs to the government of Ethiopia, followed these remarks by opening with the reiteration that we have already globally committed to partnerships, as we have all endorsed SDG 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. The question is not whether we should partner, but how we can make partnerships more effective. The second point Minister Adhanom made was that country ownership and local commitment are essential factors in achieving the Global Goals. National governments need to have the and means to achieve the Global Goals, and domestication of the 2030 Agenda is instrumental. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of offering more attention to national partnerships, as they are crucial in reinforcing and strengthening global partnerships. Minister Adhanom also highlighted the opposite direction of this relationship: a global political push can also help greatly at the national level. He concluded by reiterating the many advantages of partnerships, as they strengthen alignment, reduce transaction costs, increase transparency and increase the value for money by reducing duplication, leading to better results.

Representing Philips, Mr. **Jan-Willem Scheijgrond**, Global Head of Government Affairs B2G, opened by offering a view that many actors have of the private sector: that they are a supplier and merely offer financial means. While Philips is very active in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR), they are not to be mistaken for an organization that only supplies financial means. Jan-Willem reiterated the many

other contributions that the private sector can bring to the table in terms of development, such as innovation for example. The private sector is known for its innovative character and the ability to replicate and scale up great initiatives at a fast pace. Philips has assessed to which goals of the 2030 Agenda they can contribute most, and which goals coincide with their core business. Jan-Willem stressed the importance of local context and ownership, as health issues differ among countries. By co-creating, arranging and adapting activities around dynamic local needs, the private sector can contribute to development and the 2030 Agenda. Global coordination and local focus can be mutually reinforcing, but activities have to be embedded in local structures. He concluded by naming the strengths of the private sector in development, innovation power, capital, flexibility and speed.

Ms. **Susan Myers**, Senior Vice President of the UN Foundation opened by stating that everyone has a role to play in fostering development, an imperative that is successfully underscored in the 2030 Agenda. While *partnership* is critical in achieving the Global Goals, *partnerships* are merely one tool to do so. Susan therefore emphasized that it is important to continue asking questions regarding this tool: when are partnerships essential? And when is it better to take a step back? Further, Susan voiced the unique role foundations play in development, not just by financing initiatives, but also by being able to work faster, being more innovative, taking risks and incubating and shepherding efforts by others. The Millennium Development Goals were at times limiting for foundations, who felt there was no clear connection to the agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals and its broader framework however, offer multiple entry points for foundations to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. New foundations are emerging, and existing foundations have found ways to effectively contribute in ways they had not before Susan closed her remarks by emphasizing the critical role of data in development, that can enhance transparency by finding out who exactly are funding and what the cross-cutting drivers are.

CEO of Oxfam IBIS, Mr. **Vagn Berthelsen**, opened with the observation that there is a lot of rhetoric about partnerships, but asked himself: where is the action? Statistically speaking, 96% of partnerships in Denmark between companies and NGOs were philanthropic, where only 1% was strategic. Vagn gave an example from IBIS in Bolivia of a strategic partnership but raised the question: how can we move to strategic partnerships? He stated that NGO's have a lot to offer, and that working with the private sector can prove complementary. Instrumental to such strategic partnerships are joint objectives and good governance, which can be challenging. To encourage strategic partnerships, it might be an option to add development assistance money to the equation. However, these complementing funds do call for an extra dimension. He further viewed social entrepreneurship may be part of the answer. But it seems as if such initiatives are not given any advantage in commercial tenders. An UK survey shows that currently, there is no reward for combining both commercial interests with social considerations. Vagn closed by remarking that in fragile countries it is necessary to focus on stable societies (rule of law, democracy etc) if private companies are to be engaged.

Mr. **Geoff Adlide**, Director of Advocacy and Communications at the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) opened by stating that investing in girls is the best investment, and also highly needed. He drew upon his experience and time at GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, to illustrate how exactly the themes of the 2030 Agenda are interlinked. For example, education can greatly improve immunization coverage by educating women to vaccinate their children, but can also aid in the distribution of these vaccines by linking them to the school system. Furthermore, young menstruating girls often drop out of school due to issues of water and sanitation, again highlighting the cross-cutting themes of the 2030 Agenda and the needs girls may have in different areas. Geoff mentioned the different ways in which the GPE tackles issues at the national level, such as facilitating 'local education groups' or *legs*. These groups bring together different actors in society with the aim of drawing lessons, sharing experiences and learning about conflict resolution. Geoff closed by emphasizing that one cannot always speak of an equal partnership between donor and recipient countries, as the division of tasks and capacity of both actors is often skewed and unequal.

The final speaker, Mr. **Joe Cerrell**, Managing Director for Global Policy and Advocacy at the Gates Foundation focused mainly on financing the ambitious goals set in the 2030 Agenda and on the importance of data. Country ownership is instrumental in achieving the Global Goals, and development national plans are critical in devising a plan to do so. However, a coordinated approach to find resources efficiently is

needed, in which foundations can play an instrumental role. Furthermore, Joe voiced concerns for the poorest people that are left behind in countries that have graduated from LDCs to MICs. He emphasized the implications this graduation for the poorest population, as these countries are cut off from aid afterwards. Joe underscored the imperativeness of continuing to make efforts to give those citizens what they need in these new circumstances. A second issue he focused on was the matter of Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM), the allocation of resources through taxation. DRM can be the biggest source of long-term financing for sustainable development, but there is a need for organizations that help governments with setting it up correctly, while also maintaining accountability. The third point made concerned private capital; an increasingly important instrument that can be used to de-risk investments that otherwise might not have been made. He concluded by stating that the role of philanthropic organizations is rising, and that they do not just write checks, but are instrumental in the field of risk capital.

Question from the audience: How can women and girls in communities be a part of these partnerships, considering they are drivers of development rather than mere beneficiaries or targets?

The panelists agreed women and girls are drivers of development and can and should be involved in development. Robin reaffirmed the essentiality of youth leadership, as they are part of the solution. The need for women and girls to participate in accountability was also emphasized. Minister Tedros emphasized the importance of not only fast, but equitable growth, in which women and girls are instrumental. Women should not be marginalized, as their success is beneficial to the entire society. However, a change in mindset and mentality has to be brought about to include women and girls more in development.

4 - Wrap-up and closing of event

Bilateral Ambassador to the Netherlands in Denmark, **Henk Swarttouw**, closed the event by offering remarks on the lessons learnt during the event. He emphasized the need for cross-sector collaboration by global partnerships to address the crosscutting themes of the 2030 Agenda. Ambassador Swarttouw concluded that all those present agree on the merits and opportunities that arise from partnering, but that we have to find ways to do so more efficiently and effectively. He closed the session by reaffirming the efforts of the Netherlands to include youth in development and announced the Dutch involvement in the Road to Nairobi, an inspiring bus tour through eight African countries to discuss youth-led solutions to foster youth employment on the African continent.