

2019 Senior-Level Meeting | 13/14 July 2019, New York (TBC)

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

This concept note serves as basis for discussion to agree on objectives and discuss practical issues related to the organisation of a **2019 Global Partnership Senior-Level Meeting (SLM)** ahead of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (July 2019). This first SLM will be critical to maintain political momentum in between stand-alone Global Partnership High-Level Meetings. Its success depends on inclusive and participatory preparations, and the engagement of target groups currently less involved with the Global Partnership.

PART I – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

1. Background

- Development challenges are pressing, complex and inter-related. Eradicating poverty is our greatest common challenge and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
- The 2030 Agenda responds to this: focusing on **collective actions, measuring progress, and understanding how to deliver** long-lasting, integrated solutions for people and planet at scale, while leaving no one behind.
- The urgency of accelerated efforts to reach the SDGs cannot be under-estimated, with only 12 years to go until 2030.
- The HLPF highlights the need for a ‘gear change’ in SDG implementation: **mobilising more resources and bringing in more partners**. The scale of the ambition has moved from billions, to trillions; and from whole-of-government to whole-of-society.
- Greater attention is needed, to address the practicalities of SDG implementation, and to harness and make best possible use of existing and new resources and partners.
- The Global Partnership speaks to each of these efforts and has a key role to play in facilitating this gear shift, and delivering more effectively:

- As a **solution-oriented, multi-stakeholder** partnership: The Global Partnership convenes across all development actors and fosters critical knowledge exchange to help all partners implement policies needed to accelerate progress on the SDGs;
- As a partnership committed to sharing **data and practices** from the country level: The Global Partnership takes stock of progress alongside exploring new approaches in making development cooperation more effective.

2. Objectives

At the Second High-Level Meeting in Nairobi in 2016, stakeholders agreed to extend the cycle of stand-alone Global Partnership High-Level Meetings and to organise Senior-Level Meetings at the Directors-General level. The Senior Level Meeting, bridging Nairobi and the next High-Level Meeting should therefore pursue two objectives:

- *Display achievements since Nairobi and chart a powerful way forward on effectiveness:* As the closing point of the current programme of work, the SLM will discuss key achievements of strategic priorities. Building on this reflection, and emerging trends and needs by different partners, the SLM will also launch a new work programme, combining current and new areas of work and forging new coalitions of partners.

Reflect on the Global Partnership's work: The SLM is an opportunity to **renew and rotate membership** within the Steering Committee, and hand-over to new co-chairs. The SLM may therefore dedicate time for exchanges on communications and working arrangements within the Global Partnership, to also inform and strengthen the new work programme.

3. Why a 2019 SLM back-to-back with the 2019 HLPF?

The Senior-Level Meeting should send a clear and visible political signal to the 2019 HLPF and the development community to showcase the relevance of the Global Partnership. This could come in the form of an action plan or compact to advance effectiveness for the SDGs, the joining of new members (governments, private sector etc.), or a related announcement, clearly stating the political momentum and action for sustainable development that the Global Partnership is contributing. This could also be reflected in a compelling title for the SLM.

The 2019 sessions of the HLPF will bring a special focus on partnerships, engaging different stakeholders through (i) the theme of *'empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness'*, and (ii) the review of SDG 16, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. The 2019 HLPF sessions will be the first time that heads of government and state will lend their voices to a political declaration in the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly, to accelerate SDG implementation.

The SLM will galvanize governments, civil society and other actors into the 'gear change' needed to accelerate SDG implementation at the country level and globally in three ways that complement the 2019 HLPF:

- a. **Restate the crucial role of effectiveness, by using the latest country-level evidence to enable informed action towards 2030:** New data on effective development co-operation – the 2018 Global Partnership monitoring round, a compendium of good practices and a knowledge-sharing platform – will help partners learn from existing effectiveness successes and lessons, identify shortcomings and propel new solutions to tackle some of the most difficult implementation challenges to reach the SDGs.
- b. **Strengthen and expand the GPEDC's voluntary network, by introducing new context-sensitive tools to improve effectiveness:** Building on work conducted in the context of the GPEDC's 2017-18 work programme, the SLM will present cutting-edge instruments in new areas, including:
 - i. Assessing progress of effective development co-operation in **fragile and conflict affected contexts**, to improve the results of interventions for the 2 billion people living there; and
 - ii. Making private sector engagement leveraged through development co-operation more effective at country level, by fostering an inclusive public-private dialogue, and **partnerships that can help scale a 'shared values' approach:** creating economic value for businesses *and* social value for the achievement of sustainable development for all.

c. Galvanize concerted action and forge new coalitions, by identifying the next ‘frontier’ effectiveness issues:

- i. The landscape of development co-operation continues to evolve quickly. The SLM provides a strategic opportunity for delegations to **reflect on pressing concerns and opportunities** and agree on the next critical areas where the Global Partnership can drive effectiveness and improve development outcomes, including those of particular concern to Africa, LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS, and in middle-income contexts.
- ii. Delegations will have the opportunity to guide the **definition of specific Global Partnership areas of work** related to these issues, discuss how to implement actions toward the gear change and define success, as well as kick-start the collection of relevant evidence and practice at country level.
- iii. Within the context of the voluntary partnership and monitoring framework of the Global Partnership, delegations will also **strengthen and forge new coalitions of partners** committed to responding to these challenges, to make development co-operation more effective, *‘with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders, and all people’*.

These preliminary objectives are subject to discussion in the Steering Committee. Once agreed, they will be driven and shaped by all the alliances of the willing engaging in the Global Partnership, over the next ten months, in preparation of the SLM. To achieve this ambitious, results-oriented set of objectives – making use of country-level evidence to change behaviour, introducing new policy tools for specific contexts, and agreeing on the next frontier effectiveness issues and fostering new partnerships – the presence of decision-makers at Directors-General, Permanent Secretary and Head of Organisation level is critical.

An overarching objective of the SLM, buttressed by the efforts described above, will be **partners’ renewing their commitments to the principles of effective development co-operation, and through them, improving development outcomes**. SLM conclusions should reflect a shared understanding by governments and other actors about the need to enhance the positive impact of development co-operation for all.

Consideration as to how **SLM conclusions should be captured**, i.e. the nature of a formal ‘outcome, if any. The Steering Committee and co-chairs will be invited to decide this (different options are suggested below). Based on previous experience, and pending discussions, a formal summary by co-chairs could be a preferred option. To review options for a SLM outcome, please refer to [Annex A](#).

3. Budget

The primary costs associated with the SLM will be for **(i) venue, (ii) associated costs such as interpretation, A/V, catering, communication, etc. and (iii) any support for daily subsistence allowance** for the weekend prior to the HLPF Ministerial segment, but not costs for travel itself, as participants will already be in NY for the HLPF.

[Annex B](#) lists three scenarios, presenting three indicative options, based on different permutations of the main cost parameters above. The external venue costs are based on an extrapolation (to two days, and expanded anticipated attendance) of five quotes received over the HLPF 2018 period. For the purpose of presenting the options, the venue costs are based on the assumption that the external venue is to be contracted. Depending on the availability, UNHQ venue cost (hosting up to 770 attendees), including various overtime payments and support functions (from publishing to A/V to catering) will be around USD 120,000 of running costs.

The three scenarios are based on the assumption that there will NOT be any travel arrangements required (facilitating tickets, see [Annex C](#)).

Steering Committee members will be invited to discuss the expected attendance, including size and number of delegations. Within a certain range, this will not impact costs significantly, except in the case of DSA payments. A good understanding of this will however be important for the broader planning effort. Some basic parameters include:

- Countries and territories participating in the monitoring (*81 in 2016*)
- Member states presenting VNRs, not already captured above (*42 presenting in 2019*)
- Key providers (DAC and non-DAC, MDBs)
- In-coming and out-going co-chairs and steering committee members, not captured above
- Adequate space for parliamentarians, local governments and non-executive constituency groups, such as CSOs, trade unions, foundations, and private sector representatives
- Main regional platforms, Global Partnership Initiatives, academia, and think tanks

A working assumption of **180-200 delegations** would seem reasonable, depending on how these parameters are approached.

4. Communications plan

A dedicated communications strategy will propose engagement opportunities to help shape the SLM, incentivise broad participation and create political momentum. This is particularly critical given the size and level of expected participation at the SLM, its proximity to the 2019 HLPF and the objective to engage all actors with a stake in development co-operation, including those less engaged in the past, such as Southern partners and the private sector. The Steering Committee will lead the implementation of this strategy.

In conjunction with the communication strategy, and to promote the event and relay its key messages, the following communication tools are foreseen:

Event Publicity

- **Event announcement** on different channels (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, Yammer, newsletter, website, and partner channels, SC, GPI and UNDP global communications) and on relevant SC member online sites/portals
- **Press release and media coverage** (UNCA journalists)
- **Blog** on SLM objectives and purpose (by a high-level SLM speaker)
- **PR video** on ‘what is the SLM & why it’s important for the 2030 Agenda?’ (to be used as a PR tool prior and during the event)
- **Photography and short live clips/coverage** on social media (throughout the event)
- **Live event coverage** and recording side events (via YouTube live streaming)
- **Communiqué/Summary outcome document announcement** on different GPEDC and SC member channels

Event Activities

- **Live Twitter Wall** (displayed on a TV at the entrance)
- **Live painting session** where a painter will live draw a large painting that symbolizes ‘multi-stakeholder partnerships’ (to be completed by end of day 2 and used as a photo backdrop)
- **Mapping exercise** where every region of the world will represent a different colour and every type of stakeholder will have a unique pin/paper logo (participants will be encouraged to identify themselves, e.g. as a CSO representative from the African region, by plotting the right pin on the right region on a large printed map)
- **Interview booth and/or written interviews to be published online** around the topic ‘12 years to go: Reviewing SLM and its key outcomes’ (from 3-5 Ministers and high-level participants)

Annex A: Options for a SLM Outcome

Possible Outcomes	Advantages	Challenges
i. No formal outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No need for negotiated outcome, or committed facilitator ✓ Emphasises 'technical' nature of SLM, less contentious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Hard to secure higher-level engagement – e.g. why does DG-level need to come?
ii. VNR-style collection of individual progress/commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A good way to showcase commitments ✓ No negotiation ✓ Mirrors HLPF process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Will have effectively been captured in monitoring round already × Again – what is the hook for engagement?
iii. Pledging conference-style announcement of forthcoming efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Same as above, with a forward-looking dimension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Same as above
iv. Collective 'broad outline' commitments (based on EDC principles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Can help secure higher-level participation, and provide an output with which to highlight agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Superficial agreement may highlight the lack of greater detail, rather than obscure it
v. Co-chairs' declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lower level of coordination needed (six parties, including outgoing and in-coming parties) ✓ Still a potentially strong statement of leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Same as above × Potentially limited in reach × May undermine the multi-stakeholder character of the GPEDC
vi. Common-but-differentiated commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A good way to highlight multi-stakeholder and country-focused approach ✓ In line with global frameworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Arguably already captured in NOD, to limited effect × Some argue this was already the premise of the GPEDC, and that the South has deliberately demurred
vii. Formal negotiated outcome document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Politically the strongest tool, and message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Headache of negotiations, willing facilitator × Risk of total breakdown × May not be appropriate for 'Senior-Level' – and may be duplicative of HLMs

Annex B: Financing scenarios

Scenario options based on scale	Venue costs	DSA payments	TOTAL	Key costing parameters
Option 1: Scale of attendance (approx 430)	132,156.36	103,615.20	218,307.00	Approx total attendance: 430 - max 2 delegates per country government delegation, regional platforms, GPIs, academia & think-tanks - max 5 delegates per non-executive constituency group DSA payment: (2 days, ICSC DSA rate) - 1 out of 2 delegates per partner country government delegation and regional platforms - 2 out of 5 delegates per non-executive constituency group - No facilitation of tickets
Option 2: Scale of attendance (approx 650)	178,798.10	207,230.40	357,433.80	Approx total attendance: 650 - max 3 delegates per country government delegation, regional platforms, GPIs, academia & think-tanks - max 10 delegates per non-executive constituency group DSA payment: (2 days, ICSC DSA rate) - 2 out of 3 delegates per partner country government delegation and regional platforms - 3 out of 10 delegates per non-executive constituency group - No facilitation of tickets
Option 3: Scale of attendance (approx 900)	225,439.85	212,544.00	405,540.60	Approx total attendance: 900 - max 4 delegates per country government delegation, regional platforms, GPIs, academia & think-tanks - max 10 delegates per non-executive constituency group DSA payment: (2 days, ICSC DSA rate) - 2 out of 4 delegates per partner country government delegation and regional platforms - 4 out of 10 delegates per non-executive constituency group - No facilitation of tickets

Table 1: Venue options and other fixed cost variables

Venue options and estimates	UNHQ venue, up to 770 attendees (depending on availability)	External venue, up to 500 attendees	External venue, up to 700 attendees	External venue, up to 900 attendees
Venue cost	0.00	97,170.30	136,038.42	174,906.54
Support costs, including A/V support and translation	81,000.00	Included above	Included above	Included above
Related comms work	12,960.00	12,960.00	12,960.00	12,960.00
Unanticipated costs (at 20% of total)	18,792.00	22,026.06	29,799.68	37,573.31
Final Total (USD):	112,752.00	132,156.36	178,798.10	225,439.85

Annex C: Travel-related costs (only DSA payment)

Table 2: Options for DSA financing

DSA costing (ICSC DSA rate*, 2 days)	Estimate of number of delegations	Funded delegates		
		Funding 1 of 2 delegates (2 of 5, NEC)	Funding 2 of 3 delegates (4 of 10, NEC)	Funding 2 of 4 delegates (5 of 10, NEC)
Partner countries	100	100	200	200
Development partners (DAC and non-DAC)	40	0	0	0
Regional platforms	5	5	10	10
IOs	12	0	0	0
MDBs	10	0	0	0
Non-executive constituencies (NEC)	6	12	24	30
GPIs	25	0	0	0
Academia, think-tanks	5	0	0	0
	Others attending:	424	651	848
	Total funded:	117	234	240
	Total cost (USD)*:	103,615	207,230	212,544

* Inclusive of GMS