

ENHANCING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS



Deputy Secretary-General Visits Papua New Guinea
- Photo Credit: UN Photo/Andrew Hau

Partnerships are critical to making the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs a reality. In 2019-2020, UN DESA continued to support the engagement of different stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships.

UN DESA...

- Organized annual high-profile global forums and events to mobilize stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropies, and local and regional governments to report and share about their implementation of the SDGs.
- Supported the process of granting 700 NGOs consultative status with the UN ECOSOC in 2019.
- Launched a new 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator capacity-building project, working with partners to build the skills of governments, UN system and other stakeholders to forge strong partnerships in support of the SDGs.
- Continued to train government officials and other stakeholders on how to engage stakeholders in implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.
- Developed the innovative open source tool, **LinkedSDGs**, to help harness data generated by different stakeholders in the monitoring of the SDGs.

Enhancing global partnerships

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda will require an unprecedented level of cooperation and collaboration among all levels of government, civil society, businesses, foundations, academia, and others, and finding new ways of working. Through its normative, analytical and capacity-building work, UN DESA continues to engage diverse stakeholders at all levels around the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to provide platforms – both in person and virtual – to discuss and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the SDGs.



Representatives of the Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance, a regional partnership for SDG implementation, announce their initiative in the SDG Media Zone on the margin of the UN General Assembly on 27 September 2019. – Photo Credit: UNDGC / David McCreery

Facilitating stakeholder engagement around the SDGs

As part of its efforts to mobilize the private sector, UN DESA partnered with the International Chamber of Commerce and the UN Global Compact to co-organize several high-profile events to rally CEOs and other business leaders around the 2030 Agenda. Among

them was the 2019 edition of the SDG Business Forum, held on 25 September, in connection with the 2019 SDG Summit, which provided a high-level platform to support business action and partnerships to achieve the SDGs and to announce innovative business solutions to accelerate sustainable development. UN DESA also organized the Chief Sustainability Officers for the SDGs



During the SDG Business Forum in September 2019, the organization Parley for the Oceans and the President of Maldives announced the Future Island Nation programme to bring solutions towards the achievement of multiple SDGs in the country - Photo Credit: Parley for the Oceans



Participant at the SDG Business Forum 2019 - Photo Credit: UN Global Compact/Chae Kihn for J.S. Photo



SDG Advocate Paul Polman, Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce, the B Team and Vice-Chair of the UN Global Compact, delivers a passionate speech about the need for businesses to deliver the promises of the SDGs, at the SDG Business Forum on 25 September 2019. – Photo Credit: UN Global Compact Photo/ Chae Kihn for J.S. Photo



UN DESA Assistant Secretary-General Maria Francesca Spatolisano (centre) consults with UN DESA staff member, Lotta Tahtinen, in preparation for the opening of the Local and Regional Governments' Forum on 24 September 2019. Photo Credit: UCLG-CGLU/Ege Okal for Joel Sheakoski Photography

virtual event, in collaboration with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, during the 2020 HLPF session. The event served to facilitate dialogue with business practitioners around navigating business risks and opportunities in a post-COVID world to recover better within the framework of SDGs.

Supporting the role of local governments in implementing the SDGs

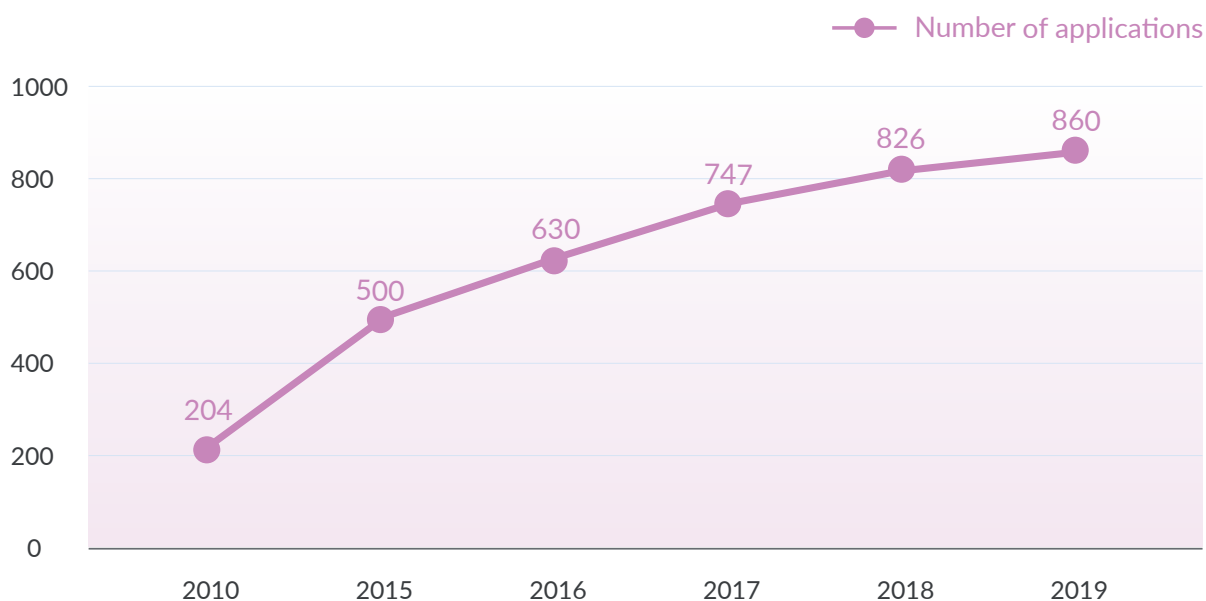
In recognition of the critical role of local governments in implementing the SDGs, UN DESA co-organized the Forum for Local and Regional Governments in connection with both the 2019 SDG Summit and the 2020 HLPF session, in July. Held in partnership with UN-Habitat, Local 2030 and United Cities and Local Governments, the events brought together hundreds of local and regional leaders and other participants to highlight their experiences with implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. UN DESA also organized a Civil Society SDG

Forum in parallel with the 2019 SDG Summit. The Forum was co-facilitated by the civil society constituencies of the HLPF Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS). The Forum allowed civil society and UN Member States, international organizations, and other related constituencies to discuss the possible responses to the challenges exposed by the first four years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also outlined key strategies to move the Agenda forward.

Bringing civil society to the table

Throughout the year, UN DESA's outreach to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) facilitated their greater engagement and participation in the work of the UN. A record number of 860 applications for consultative status with ECOSOC was submitted in 2019, representing a 72 per cent increase from 2015. In 2019-2020, the UN NGO Committee recommended that over 700 NGOs be

2010 - 2019 NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC



granted consultative status. UN DESA further increased its support to the Committee on NGOs, by accelerating the processing of documentation, and strengthened its outreach to the over 5,000 NGOs currently in consultative status, through online webinars aimed at providing guidance to NGOs on their engagement with the UN.

UN DESA also continued to facilitate the active participation of NGOs in intergovernmental debates related to sustainable development, including over 1,500 NGOs in the 2019 HLPF session, in July. NGOs submitted 130 written statements on the theme *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality* and at least 40 organizations that attended the session delivered oral statements. As of 30 April 2020, the Department had received a total of 187 written submissions from NGOs (over 40 per cent increase compared to last year) for the 2020 ECOSOC High-level Segment on the theme of, *Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*.

In addition, UN DESA facilitated the participation of NGOs and other stakeholders in other high-level meetings and conferences, notably, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the

2019 SDG Summit, and the preparatory process for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

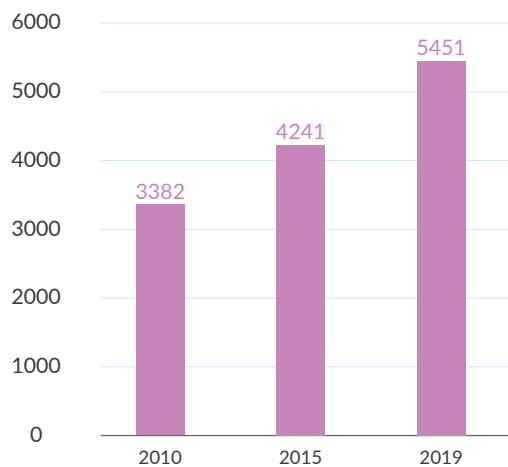
Mobilizing through the pandemic

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, UN DESA convened multiple virtual briefings and webinars for stakeholders, including on policy briefs prepared by the Department on the pandemic and its socioeconomic implications, as well as COVID-19 response and recovery in the framework of the 2030 Agenda through partnerships. It continued to mobilize key stakeholder constituencies, including youth, local and regional governments, and the private sector, around the preparations for the upcoming UN Ocean Conference and UN Sustainable Transport Conference through dedicated online webinars.

Strengthening capacity for effective partnerships

In 2019, UN DESA launched a new capacity-building project, 2030 Partnership Accelerator, in partnership with UN Office for Partnerships, UN Development Coordination Office, UN Global Compact and The Partnering Initiative to foster effective multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the 2030 Agenda and country-driven partnership platforms in support of SDG implementation, and to build partnership skills and competencies of all relevant stakeholders, including through national partnership workshops. UN DESA held the first national workshop of the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2019, bringing together 40 development professionals from government, various UN entities, the private sector, academia, and civil society committed to the implementation of the SDGs in Kenya. Several Partnership Accelerator national workshops are currently in the planning phases with the UN Resident Coordinators in Samoa, Maldives, Thailand, Mexico, and Sri Lanka. UN DESA also worked with the UN Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinator Offices in Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Serbia, and Uzbekistan to strengthen the

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC



multi-stakeholder dimension of national development planning and SDG mainstreaming in these countries.

UN DESA also partnered with UNITAR to launch a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on strengthening stakeholder engagement for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. Over 500 participants from governments and other sectors enrolled in the two editions of the course. Participants of the first edition reported a 100 per cent usefulness of the content and 86 per cent relevance for their work. In addition, the content of the course was adapted into a **Practical Guide on Stakeholder Engagement and the 2030 Agenda** which is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

Developing online tools and knowledge products on partnerships and stakeholder engagement

UN DESA continued to prepare publications and analyses related to multi-stakeholder participation in 2030 Agenda implementation and partnerships, including a report on multi-stakeholder engagement in the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda, as reflected in Voluntary National Review (VNR) Reports (2016-2019); and a new **SDG Partnerships Guidebook**.

It also supported several online tools to collect and disseminate detailed information about SDG-related actions and initiatives. UN DESA's [Partnerships for SDGs](#)

online platform includes over 5,000 partnerships and voluntary commitments from all stakeholders. It also features an online [SDG Good Practices](#) database with over 500 inspiring breakthroughs and success stories that can be replicated and scaled up. It also houses the [SDG Acceleration Actions](#) database launched in connection with the 2019 SDG Summit with over 150 new initiatives by governments and other stakeholders to drive impactful SDG action. The included database of new voluntary ocean-related commitments emanating from the 2017 UN Ocean Conference continued to see new commitments in 2019 and early 2020. The Department also continued to support the ongoing work of the nine Communities of Ocean Action that were established to follow-up on these commitments, including analysing their impact.

In collaboration with the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, UN DESA developed an innovative online tool [LinkedSDGs](#), which provides a common framework and guidelines to improve the visibility, interoperability and usability of supplementary sources of data on sustainable development, including by different stakeholders, to complement the work of national statistical offices. [LinkedSDGs](#) provides all stakeholders with open source tools to make SDG data interoperable for easier data integration, analysis and monitoring.

