The MSP Charter: Principles for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Felix Dodds, UNC Global Research Institute and the Tellus Institute
Sept 2018
MSPs, VIs and PPPs: they are not the same!!!

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) for sustainable development are specific commitments and contributions, undertaken together by various partners intended to support the implementation of transformation towards sustainable development and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant sustainable development agreements.

Voluntary Initiatives: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) invited organizations to make individual commitments focusing on delivering concrete results for sustainable development on a voluntary basis.

Private Public Partnerships are contractual arrangements between single or several public agencies (federal, state or local) and single or several private sector entities. Through such arrangements, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared, in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public. Other stakeholders might be sub-contractors in a PPP.
History of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Development

1992: Stakeholder engagement in policy
1996: Emergence of Stakeholder Dialogues
2000: MDGs and the UN Global Compact
2001: First UN Global Partnership Resolution (every 2 years)
2002: Bali Guidelines and WSSD Type 1 and Type 2
2003: CSD/ECOSOC - criteria and guidelines for partnerships
2006: United Nations Office of Partnership created
2008: First Annual UN Partnership Forum within ECOSOC
History of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Development

2009: UNGA first revision of Guidelines between the UN and the Business Community
2012: Rio+20 Voluntary Initiatives
2013: HLPF creates a mandate for a Platform on Partnerships
2014: SAMOA Pathway
2015: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2017: EcoSoc retreat to look at new criteria and guidelines for Partnerships
2017: Secretary-General's Report on Re-positioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda
Elements: existing agreements


- Voluntary nature
- Transparency
- Credibility
- Accountability
- Participation
- Multi-stakeholder
- Sectoral & geographical balance
- Three pillars of SD
- Technology transfer & capacity building
- Genuine, concrete, additional contribution
- Plans & priorities at national level
- Intergovernmental agreed mandates
- Predictable & sustained financial resources
So how did we do in the WSSD MSPs?

- “A thousand flowers bloom” Nitin Desai Secretary General of WSSD
- up to 70% inactive/useless (Pattberg et al. 2012)
- some good/improved over time (Beisheim/Liese 2014)
- Vast majority were NOT in developing countries BUT in OECD countries
- Very little quantification of what they delivered
- Very little funding for the UN to be able to support through capacity building MSPs
Examples of Successful Partnerships

1. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

   Built on the experience of the children’s Vaccine Initiative launched by UNICEF in 1990, has been successful but some criticism that it can push for one approach too much.

   **Polio incidents have reduced by 99%**

2. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)

3. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (R EEEP)

   R EEEP considered to help in achieving the change in renewable energy. SA proposed target for of 5% of total primary energy use with renewable energy resources by 2010. By 2009 IEA estimate 13.1% now up to 19%.

13. September 2018
Integrated architecture and coherent process
Some issues:
1. Types of Partnerships

1. **MSPs for sharing knowledge**: this would be exchanging knowledge between various stakeholders and disseminating knowledge to help deliver the goals and targets (e.g. GWP - Global Water Partnership);

2. **MSPs for providing services to deliver the goals and targets** (e.g. GAVI – the Vaccine Alliance);

3. **MSPs for setting standards** this would establishing standards and norms in areas where there are currently no (or no adequate) regulatory mechanisms to advance the delivery of the goals and targets (e.g. AWS - The Alliance for Water Stewardship)
Issue 2: Due Diligence and Industry

- UN Global Compact: at present the UNGC has voluntary reporting:
  - Corporate Benchmarking on Human Rights
  - World Benchmarking Alliance
  - UNEP Due Diligence
  - UN Secretary General Report

- Pepsi: 20-29%
- Starbucks 25%
- Woolworth 25%
- Shell: 37%
- Coca-Cola: 40-49%
- Gap: 40-49%
- Not UNGC
- Costco Wholesale 0-9%

13. September 2018
Issue 3: Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

- As of July only 409 had reported out of 3,834 only 16 percent [Beisham, 2018] of those partnerships on the UN web site.
- Should they be delisted after one, two or three years?
- UNGC has delisted over 6000 companies for a number of reasons one being not reporting
Goals for the MSP Charter

• Recognizing high-quality MSPs

• Providing guidance for maximizing MSP quality, success and impact

• Creating a quality mark for MSPs that is recognized as something all MSPs should aim to achieve
Idea behind the MSP Charter

- Creating and promoting a shared vision of MSPs
- Articulating key principles and guidance
- Building on existing agreements
- Based on research and practice
- Developed with wide, balanced consultation
- Including a mechanism of signing, monitoring & review
Process

- Advisory Board with members in their personally capacity from governments, UN and stakeholders
- Develop a mechanism for signing up, for follow-up, review and learning
- Link to existing guidance by a multitude of organizations to deliver MSPs
- Implement a follow-up mechanism
- Prepare the Charter to become a certification scheme with an outside body
Thank you for your attention!

www.msp-charter.org

minu.hemmati@msp-institute.org
felix@felixdodds.net