On 9 to 11 December 2019, the first national workshop of the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator was held in Nairobi, bringing together 40 development professionals from government, various UN entities, the private sector, academia and civil society committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kenya.

The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator is a broad collaboration by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (through its Division for Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)), UN Office for Partnerships, Global Compact, implemented together with The Partnering Initiative, aiming to significantly help accelerate and scale up effective multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the implementation of the SDGs.

A central part of the Partnership Accelerator is the national partnership training workshops which offer hands-on and in-depth training on the set-up and running of effective partnerships, and for building strong understanding of the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs. Workshops are adapted to the specific national context and tailored for practitioners from all sectors who wish to build their knowledge of effective partnerships for advancing the SDGs - both new partnership practitioners and those with some experience who wish to complement their learning with frameworks, practical tools and experiential learning.

At the workshop, which was organized in close collaboration with the office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, participants engaged in a 3-day interactive workshop on aspects for stimulating effective partnerships in Kenya, including understanding the unique roles, incentives and contributions of all societal sectors, partnership governance, relationship and partnership culture, and in-country level mechanisms to support partnerships in Kenya.

Kenya as a first pilot country of the Partnership Accelerator was a natural choice, being a top advocate of the 2030 Agenda and strongly committed to its implementation. In Kenya, partners are collaborating with the SDG Partnership Platform, a high-level collaboration between the government, the UN system, and other stakeholders in pursuit of accelerating SDGs in the country through multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships and contributing to the government’s Big 4 Agenda on Primary Health Care, Food and Nutrition
Security, Manufacturing, and Affordable Housing. The Platform was launched in 2017, the year also Kenya undertook its Voluntary National Review at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, prepared in broad consultation with government ministries, county governments, development partners, civil society, special groups including youth and persons with disabilities, and the private sector. In 2020, Kenya will for its second time conduct their Voluntary National Review at the High-level Political Forum, scheduled for July 2020 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Participants expressed great appreciation for the organization of the timely workshop. Feedback and lessons learned will feed into the finalization of training material and research of the Partnership Accelerator which will be used in upcoming training workshops. By taking part in Accelerator trainings, participants become part of a growing global network of partnership practitioners for the SDGs and will have the opportunity to engage and share their knowledge and insights with Member States and other stakeholders in the various Accelerator global outreach events that are being organized.

In the coming months, the Partnership Accelerator programme will facilitate workshops for building capacity on partnerships among stakeholders in Thailand, Samoa and Maldives.

More information on the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/PartnershipAccelerator

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