

SDG17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

CONCISE GUIDES TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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SDG17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthening Implementation
Through Global
Cooperation

BY

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

This book is dedicated to government and business practitioners who strive to implement partnerships as an effective means to generate economic, social and environmental progress worldwide.

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INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 is an ambitious goal to first, integrate and implement the remaining 16 SDGs within partnerships and second, create public value that simultaneously extends to an interconnected world while encouraging innovation for sustaining the SDGs. Revitalising global partnerships will require rethinking partnership capabilities and revitalising society itself due to how partnerships are interconnected and interdependent within a human and social ecosystem. For instance, current anti-globalisation, free-trade and other institutional shifts and regulatory uncertainty foster market and non-market threats, thereby influencing the role and impact of partnership formation, execution and performance. The book will address business, government and civil society levels of analyses for understanding the impact and role of partnership sustainable development change initiatives.

Partnership concerns are predominately focussed on opportunistic business goals and benefits rather than the systemic partnering process itself. The rationale behind this logic may be related to focussing on the benefits and costs of the partnership goal and purpose. However, partnerships do not operate in a vacuum. Rather, they can drive change. Therefore, it is the intention of the author to convey that current partnership practices may actually impede sustainable business benefits through a disregard for excellence and a lack

for deeper knowledge of how partnerships can affect corporate value and public value. Unsurprisingly, many partnership models and practices are vague and open to interpretation, and may be exploited by competitors because people may prefer to directly compete rather than pursue collaboration on broad and interdependent societal problems such as the SDGs. Hence, a deeper understanding of partnerships is warranted to glean obscure costs and benefits and to improve business profits, practices and partnerships systematically. Overall, the book takes an approach towards partnerships to convey that business concerns are not independent of partnership concerns.

Strengthening the means for implementation of the SDGs require re-examining partnership beliefs, re-defining partnership objectives and risk management with continual monitoring and reporting of partnership performance targets, outcomes and goals. Partnerships vary and lack adequate guidance on how to successfully implement each goal and partnership across sectors at the local, regional, national and global levels simultaneously in the short- and in the long-term. Moreover, creating partnership indicators is a challenge nationally that may prove to be a pyrrhic victory because current partnership interventions lack adequate quantitative evidence to ensure successful implementation and resilience. In addition, contemporary levels of governance fail to integrate across sectors holistically. Accordingly, partnerships are often formed without regard for an ethics of care.

The topic of the book, partnerships, has been implemented without coherently providing the specific concepts, forms and practices. This has led students and practitioners to think about partnerships as simply a collaborative endeavour. However, partnerships are often implemented in various ways, often without considering the impact, process or systemic performance of the partnership itself. The objective

of the book is to teach people, especially students and practitioners about partnerships through comprehensive critical analyses to help readers learn how to formulate, integrate, implement and monitor partnership performance. In addition, the book should be helpful for people intending to research on partnerships, especially practitioners that have competitive advantages based on an understanding of how business, government and society at large drive partnerships globally and nationally to solve economic, environmental and social problems.

There is little published about complex partnership performance logics and multi-level governance across sectors. The book is intended to examine various types of partnerships in making progress towards achieving the UN's SDGs and for improving partnership performance. The comprehensive purpose of the book is to challenge student and practitioners' partnership assumptions, examine various partnership types, trends, models, collaborative knowledge creation processes, activities and patterns. First, the book identifies and integrates important areas that have been overlooked within the pursuit of the higher objectives of sustainable development by 2030 for their successful implementation in SDG 17. Second, the book provides current partnership performance trends and projections of change and transformation across sectors. Third, the book highlights some of the current guidelines for improving partnership performance. Overall, partnerships are examined to address complex systemic gaps within a fragmentation–integration dichotomy.

THE INTENDED AUDIENCE

Each chapter, in linear fashion, creates a foundation for learning and builds upon previous chapters for understanding

partnership systemic complexity. Hence, the book is designed as an integrated learning tool for MBA and MPP/MPA programmes in universities and colleges within the academic sector. A secondary audience could be students, researchers and practitioners enrolled in sustainability or private and public responsibility courses at any level. In addition, the book provides practical tools for business, government and civil society leaders pursuing sustainable development. Readers of this book will be in a better position to manage and develop partnerships more successfully.

OVERVIEW/OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS

The first chapter of the book will begin with an introduction that will clarify conceptual definitions, identify differing partnership logic types, cross-cutting implications, challenges, opportunities, the roles of leadership and risk in partnership performance and the overall importance for readers to understand the democratising aforementioned agenda of varied partnerships broadly. Collaborative value and knowledge creation will be examined in the second chapter, highlighting challenges of collaborative governance performance in private–public partnerships and cross-sector partnerships. The third chapter will provide an examination and implementation of stakeholder tools and policies for influencing regeneration, governing implementation and collective capacity through multi-level partnership performance of the private sector, the public sector and special economic zones to fully implement the goal within local, regional, national and global levels. The fourth chapter will investigate examples from a wide variety of partnerships that have already been implemented, analysing the institutional factors and global partnership development challenges that contribute to partnership

success or failure. Collective intelligence and regulatory practices will be explored through integrated social structures and a multi-actor governance system to develop a broad strategic universal agenda that works systematically across sectors and governance levels within the collective participation of all actors for global transformation in the fifth chapter. The sixth chapter will focus on partnership intervention strategies through innovation, partnership risk management and governance mechanisms. Finally, important areas that have been overlooked within the pursuit of the higher objectives of sustainable development by 2030 are identified in seventh and eighth chapters. Partnership performance and governance will be investigated within changing economies, the common good and cross-border partnerships among government, business and society in the seventh chapter. The eighth chapter will conclude with examination of environmental, social and governance investing through partnership performance and sustainability reporting challenges.