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A Call for Joint Action to Achieve the SDGs:

Advancing Integrated Solutions to Accelerate Change

On the occasion of the *UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda*
New York, 26 September 2015

Need for urgent and accelerated action

We welcome the ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ that will guide global efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and achieve sustainable development over the next fifteen years. Its universal scope and integrated approach—interconnecting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development—offer an opportunity to drive the transformative change needed for people and the planet to thrive. Attention will now shift towards implementation to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained therein, and to ensuring no one is left behind.

Immediate and decisive action around the globe by all stakeholders and on all levels is required on an unprecedented scale if we are to achieve sustainable development for all. We must accelerate the shift to development pathways that recognize the value of our planet’s ecosystems. Such an approach is essential for addressing the multiple environmental crises that will otherwise undermine past and future development gains and efforts to overcome poverty. The 2030 Agenda provides a unique window of opportunity to change the way we pursue development. We now need the necessary political will and resources to implement this agenda in its entirety and to scale up innovative solutions.

Our commitment to a multi-stakeholder partnership approach

For the new agenda to be transformational, strategies and implementation plans will need to be put into place that are truly integrative and participatory, engaging all relevant groups and stakeholders at all levels. Governments, including local and subnational, need to work together with international organizations, business, academia and civil society toward the implementation of national strategies for sustainable development. Parliaments, as oversight and legislative bodies representing all people, have a key role to play in enabling actors to work together. As highlighted by the UN Secretary-General, this calls for a new culture of “shared responsibility” based on agreed universal norms, global commitments, shared rules and evidence, collective action, accountability and benchmarking for progress.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships that are solution-oriented and inclusive of all groups, including women, indigenous peoples and minorities, will be crucial to realizing these joint aspirations and will be a key element of the 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation. Successful examples of such partnerships already exist and we should build on those which have demonstrated their capacity to deliver significant sustainable development outcomes. At the same time, there is an urgent need to mobilize new partnership initiatives to meet the challenge of accelerating the transition to sustainable and climate-resilient development pathways. New partnerships for implementing the SDGs should bridge the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and bring together, for perhaps the first time, key entities from these different arenas. The effectiveness of such partnerships will depend on building strong links to local, national and regional actors and initiatives; collective long-term commitments linked to SDG achievement; and ensuring transparency and accountability for results.¹

We stand ready to step-up our collective efforts to support SDG implementation, and commit ourselves to engaging in multi-stakeholder partnership approaches—mobilizing collective action to advance integrated, comprehensive and scalable solutions for system-wide change, working across regions and on multiple levels from local to global.

Scaling up action

The work in our respective organizations can make important contributions to SDG implementation. Moving forward, a number of key international fora in 2016 will provide opportunities for continued dialogue and accelerating efforts to scale up action for sustainable development. One such forum will be the High Level Political Forum. Others include the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly under the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 agenda," the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), and the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-13). We pledge to work together in these and other major fora to build, strengthen and scale up multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the SDGs.

Achim Steiner	Joan Clos	Martin Chugong	Inger Andersen	Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias	Gino Van Begin	Andrew Steer	Yolanda Kakabadse
Executive Director of UNEP	Executive Director of UN-Habitat	Secretary-General of IPU	Director General of IUCN	Executive Secretary of CBD	Secretary-General of ICLEI	President of WRI	President of WWF International

¹ See Annex for an illustrative list of such multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Annex – Illustrative Examples of Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Initiatives

The following is an illustrative list of multi-stakeholder partnerships in which the signatories are active, and that are already contributing towards the attainment of the objectives enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but to give a glimpse of the manifold partnerships that speak to the principles outlined above and the potential for scaling up impact to realize the joint call for action.

carbonn Climate Registry (cCR)

Description: The cCR was launched in 2010 and is the world's leading reporting platform to enhance transparency, accountability and credibility of climate action of local and subnational governments, demonstrating leadership in linking up with other stakeholders.

Website: <http://carbonn.org/>

Champions for 12.3

Description: Champions 12.3 will be a high-profile, voluntary, and inclusive partnership of governments, the private sector, international organizations, research institutions, and civil society dedicated to inspiring ambition, mobilizing action, and accelerating progress toward achieving SDG Target 12.3 on food loss and waste by 2030.

Website: [not yet available]

Compact of Mayors

Description: Launched at the 2014 United Nations Climate Summit, the Compact of Mayors is the world's largest coalition of city leaders addressing climate change by pledging to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, tracking their progress and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Website: <http://www.compactofmayors.org/>

Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity:

Description: Established in 2008 with the goal of bringing together all the relevant networks and initiatives involved in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the local and subnational scales, the partnership is a unique model for localizing action and active engagement of local and subnational governmental stakeholders in multilateral agreement.

Website: <https://www.cbd.int/subnational/partners-and-initiatives>

Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)

Description: The GPFLR unites governments, organisations, communities and individuals with a common goal: restoring the world's degraded and deforested lands to deliver benefits to local communities and to nature, and fulfil international commitments on forests including the SDGs, especially SDG 15.

Website: <http://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/>

Greener Cities Partnership

Description: The was launched in 2014 to mainstream the environmental perspective into urban policy-making and incorporate urban perspectives into environmental policy-making, focusing initially on resilient, resource-efficient cities; sustainable transport and mobility; and waste and waste water management.

Website: <http://unhabitat.org/unep-and-un-habitat-greener-cities-partnership/>

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Description: Launched in 2011, the OGP is a multilateral initiative that brings together governments and civil society in 66 countries and aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Website: <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/>

Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (PAGE)

Description: Formally established in 2013, PAGE brings together five UN agencies, working closely together academia and other stakeholders, in order to support nations and regions in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability to foster economic growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies.

Website: <http://www.un-page.org/>

Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR)

Description: Formally established in 2008, PEDRR is a global alliance of UN agencies, NGOs and specialist institutes seeks to promote and scale-up implementation of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and ensure it is mainstreamed in development planning at global, national and local levels, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Website: <http://pedrr.org/>

Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)

Description: Established in 2004, the PEI galvanizes multi-stakeholder partnerships to support country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment objectives into national and sub-national development planning, assisting in policy and strategy development; training and learning; capacity building; monitoring and evaluation; and promoting knowledge.

Website: <http://www.unpei.org/>

Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP)

Description: The 10YFP is a global framework of action to enhance international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in both developed and developing countries, aiming at increasing resource efficiency, decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth, and thus increasing the net contribution of economic activities to poverty eradication and social development.

Website: <http://www.unep.org/10yfp/>

The Equator Initiative

Description: The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize, advance and scale up local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

Website: <http://equatorinitiative.org/index.php?lang=en>

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Description: FSC is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder programme that sets standards for responsible forest management, using a market-based approach to protect forests for future generations.

Website: <http://us.fsc.org>

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

Description: MSC is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder programme that works with partners and fisheries across the world to set standards for responsible fishing, in order to transform the world's seafood markets and promote sustainable fishing practices.

Website: <http://us.fsc.org>