

Outcome Document on the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) **Webinar on Partnerships for Development**

On 24 June 2023, Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) anchored the second webinar of the World SDG Forum Webinar series. The theme of the conversation was Partnerships to Accelerate the Achievement of SDGs.

In view of the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the irruption of conflicts in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, the already slowing pace of progress towards the achievement of the SDGs has suffered a severe jolt.

We are now at the mid-point of the time-frame for the SDGs. Progress has been slowed if not retarded by the concurrent impact of Covid-19 Pandemic, war in Ukraine, banking crisis in US and Europe and ongoing conflicts in Africa and Middle East and slowdown of growth momentum.

The UNSG Special SDG Progress Report 2023 draft states “... halfway to 2030, that promise is in peril. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are disappearing in the rear-view mirror – and with them the hope and rights of current and future generations. A fundamental shift is needed – in commitment, solidarity, financing and action - to put the world on a better path. And it is needed now.”

The scale of the challenge requires all hands on deck. It is time to now assess how new partnerships (including old ones with new stakeholders) for development can enable speedier recovery and impart fresh momentum for SDGs (and beyond). “It require different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner by pooling financial resources, knowledge and expertise.”

Cross-sectoral and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships will play a crucial role not only for accelerating progress but also catalysing dialogue for post-2030 scenario, including on climate justice and net-zero transitions.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships for SDGs need very large-scale connection between grassroots interventions and local champions for change - going beyond the usual desultory philippics of UN agencies talking to governments, NGOs and select private sector organisations. The conversations between these solution networks could inter alia be around mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources.

Accordingly, the WSF webinar on partnerships triggered a conversation on new partnerships for sustainable development. – with keynote speakers, online and offline interlocutors and attendees from Indian and international CSOs, private sector and UN agencies.

The speakers at the 24th June Webinar included CSR scholar-practitioners, best practice exemplars in remote areas, serving and retired UN officials, UN Resident Coordinator for India, thought leaders on Indic roots of sustainability, and a representative array of civil society in the interactive Q&A.

This hybrid mode confab is inspired by late Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's credo of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manav Darshan) and the Chitrakoot Declaration for a World SDG Forum (WSF) as a platform for practitioners.

The seminar brought together global thought leaders on SDGs and international partners with a countrywide (and global) audience to discuss practical solutions and pathways for their replication and upscaling.

The grassroots to global orientation has been a pillar of the current Indian Development model with its emphasis on 'Antyodaya' – reaching the last man; and Gramodaya se Sarvodaya (From Rural Upliftment to Upliftment for All).

The Chitrakoot Declaration adopted at the Second International Conference on SDGs states: "Realising the inadequacy of the present global economic binaries in the progression towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it is imperative for India and the global South, to initiate efforts for a new and inclusive world economic order, which will hasten the process of fulfilling SDGs in a cooperative economic architecture... the World SDG Forum (WSF) will eventually transform into a global forum for all, with every stakeholder as a partner, participant and beneficiary".

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