

SDGs Compacts 2020

#sdgcompact2020

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This concept note proposes a political and operational innovation called *SDGs Compacts 2020* which are envisioned as “mutual accountability agreements” between subnational stakeholders that agree to join forces to adapt and adopt time bound and measurable goals and targets in support of the SDGs, focusing on “Global Goals for Local Impact.”

WHY NOW?

Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, defined the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as time bound, measurable goals and targets, with globally approved indicators. The SDGs, if fully implemented, offer the best chance for all of humanity to join forces to accelerate social, economic, and environmental justice towards creating a peaceful global sustainable community. The “Sustainable Development Movement” is demonstrating the potential to go beyond historical intergovernmental agreements as an unprecedented mobilization is underway by a broad range of partners. At the same time, a digital and data revolution is sweeping the globe, creating remarkable opportunities to connect, improve, and use data and evidence to inform action that can offer unprecedented levels of impact. For example, open data can help unlock \$3.2 trillion to \$5.4 trillion in economic value per year. While there is much opportunity, data-driven commitments-to-action to drive aligned action by diverse stakeholders at the local level is not happening, except for a few exceptions.

WHO?

Urgent and large-scale efforts are needed to catalyze Sub-National Unit (SNUs), such as provinces, states, constituencies, magistrates, cities, districts, counties, etc., to report on SDG baseline data at their earliest possible timeframe and then to make multi-stakeholder commitments-to-action that can be measurably achieved by December 31, 2020---the first interim milestone towards achievement of the SDGs by 2030. These actors can promote effective SDG implementation by joining the efforts of a broad base of stakeholders from the private sector (including both corporations and investors); entrepreneurs; innovators, civil society organizations that promote the democratic, legal, and human rights of women, children, migrants, youth, workers, ethnic or racial minorities, LGBTI people, people with disabilities, or other marginalized populations, and faith-based organizations. Together, they can design, integrate, and align their efforts to achieve large-scale, high-impact at the local level. *SDGs Compacts 2020* are also proposed for stakeholders committed to achieving the SDGs, by those that are addressing internally and externally displaced refugees, responses to natural disasters, humanitarian responses, and in war zones.

WHAT?

SDGs Compacts 2020 is proposed as a local-to-global mobilization campaign, and a rigorous way to implement an innovative political and operational solution to the changes needed for a sustainable future. SDGs Compacts are envisioned as transparent, mutual accountability agreements that are developed and maintained between stakeholders and based on country- and/or local-level priorities. For countries that are developing National SDG Action Plans, SDGs Compacts 2020 could be a powerful opportunity to link federal funding/block grants to subnational plans.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

SDGs Compacts 2020 would have a broad range of immediately useful applications such as signaling to development finance institutions, investors, corporations and civil society that SNUs are committed to taking action towards achieving the SDGs. Each of these stakeholders would have access to a global, certified database of local government actors that are creating transparent policies, infrastructure and government investments in support of achieving SDGs. This would lay the groundwork for aligned financial and strategic investment and service provision. Furthermore, clear and transparent monitoring and evaluation frameworks would support emerging impact related private sector activities such as impact investing, corporate social responsibility, shared value, blended models, and sustainable investing. *SDGs Compacts 2020* will respond to the clear demand from global private sector actors to be more coordinated and aligned towards achieving the SDGs. National and local governments, in turn, would be incentivized to attract smart and sustainable capital by signing up to the SDGs Compacts 2020 framework.

CORE PRINCIPLES

SDGs Compacts 2020 will be locally developed, led and controlled using crowd sourcing and networking methods. Core principles for certification could include:

1. Demonstrate commitment to making progress on all or most of the SDGs;
2. Demonstrate that priorities are locally-determined with inclusive multi-stakeholder representation;
3. Demonstrate commitments-to-action that are bold and transformational, “unreasonable” and ambitious, and that aim to achieve specific targets by 31 December 2020;
4. Demonstrate efforts to harness the data revolution for sustainable development to generate real-time, dynamic, disaggregated, open, and actionable data;
5. Practice transparency, mutual accountability, fact-based monitoring and evaluation, including multi-stakeholder involvement in periodic peer reviews, rigorous & evidence-based joint analysis;
6. Practice multi-stakeholder, consultative design planning and decision-making on alignment, focus, and prioritization of internal and external resources;
7. Demonstrate use of a broad range of tools, programming, and innovation to achieve ambitious 2020 targets, including creating new architecture, catalytic policy change, institutional reform, & integrated programming,
8. Demonstrate alignment of resources from internal and external partners that is clearly linked to measurable achievement of SDGs targets;

SDGs Compacts 2020 could also include a call to action for stakeholders to engage in specific ways with SNU government actors, such as innovation grants, request for guarantees from DFIs, impact investing opportunities and building of sustainable business ecosystems across the value chain.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A multi-stakeholder process is proposed to design and launch *SDGs Compacts 2020* and potentially to offer a certification process for *SDGs Compacts 2020* that meet minimum requirements. Voluntary participation will focus on “Global Goals for Local Impact,” thereby galvanizing participation of cities, districts, magistrates, constituencies, provinces, and states, through a bottom-up mobilization, in tandem with national-level mobilizations and National SDGs Action Plans. The *SDGs Compacts 2020* platform will incentivize “certification” of SDGs Compacts 2020 to mobilize investments made by taxpayers, shareholders, investors, foundations, loans, and grants etc. The *SDGs Compacts 2020* platform will support innovations (e.g. a proposed “Global SDG Blockchain Consortium”) designed to rapidly replicate and go to scale to support local impact. *SDGs Compacts 2020* could join forces and contribute to UN reform, Local 2030, and SDG implementation being catalyzed by the UN Secretary-General’s office.

PROPOSED TIMELINE

- **Design and Launch Phase:** September 2017 – June 2018
- **Round 1: *SDGs Compacts 2020***
First Interim Milestone on SDGs Targets: 1 July 2018 until 31 December 2020
- **Round 2: *SDGs Compacts 2025***
Second Interim Milestone on SDGs Targets: 1 January 2021- 31 December 2025
- **Round 3: *SDGs Compacts 2030***
Final SDGs Targets and Goals: 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2030

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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