

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE PARTNERING
An Orientation Session
Concept Note

Thursday, 30 October 2014
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
in Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction:

Over the past decades, increased recognition has been given to the important role played by partnerships in addressing global challenges. The United Nations (UN) Conference on Environment and Development placed partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society as central to achieving sustainable development. It is increasingly apparent that environmental issues are too large to be addressed by any single entity but require the concerted efforts of all sectors of our increasingly interconnected global society. Partnerships offer a mechanism to foster such joint action as well as an opportunity for non-traditional actors to become involved in the work of the UN and to contribute to the international environment agenda. Within the UN, partnerships are commonly defined as voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and private, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task, and to share risks, responsibilities, resources and benefitsⁱ.

Established in 2007, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. This mandate is consistent with the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/215 “Towards Global Partnerships” and will support the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership operates through partnership areas that address issues of priority as identified by Decision 24/3 paragraph 19 of the Governing Council of UNEPⁱⁱ.

This orientation session is an initiative of the secretariat of UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in consultation with the Chair of the Partnership Advisory Group. This session could benefit participants in their work with the Global Mercury Partnership and is linked to the sixth meeting Partnership Advisory Group that will take place on 31 October and 1 November.

Objective:

The objective of this orientation session is to provide participants with a review of the “Principles of Effective Partnering” and the “Partnering Lifecycle” and apply the principles to their work in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Expected Output:

At the end of the three-hour session, the participants will

1. Review the core principles of partnering and key partnering skills (e.g. facilitation, interest based negotiation, relationship management);
2. Be familiar with the “Partnering Cycle” (a framework for the development and management of partnerships);
3. Identify the strategies in moving on and scaling up partnerships.

Methodology:

The session will be participatory with group exercises. A lecture input and discussion on the topics below will be provided with materials drawn from “The Partnering Initiative”ⁱⁱⁱ.

Topics^{iv}:

- Self-introduction
- Cross- sector partnership
- Overview of partnering cycle
- Core principles of partnering
- Relationship spectrum
- Partnering cycle- phase 1: scoping and building
- Partnering cycle- phase 2: managing and maintaining
- Partnering cycle- phase 3: reviewing and revising
- Partnering cycle- phase 4: sustaining outcomes
- Summary and wrap-up

ⁱ Source: UNEP Partnership Policy and Procedures, October 2011

ⁱⁱ Source: UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Overarching Framework, version January 2012

ⁱⁱⁱ The Partnering Initiative (TPI) was established in 2004 as the International Business Leaders Forum’s flagship programme pioneering the theory and practice of multi-stakeholder partnerships to address critical global sustainable development issues. TPI is a non-profit organization based in the UK. More information is available at www.thepartneringinitiative.org and could be contacted at info@thepartneringinitiative.org

^{iv} The topics in this orientation session are drawn from the training that UNEP staff undertook with the TPI. Some TPI training materials are used with permission from TPI, however some materials are modified to suit the needs of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.