

**Concept Note**  
**UNESCO's Partners Forum**  
**A Structured Financing Dialogue**  
**11-12 September 2018, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**

### **Objective**

**UNESCO's Partners Forum** is an invitation to existing and potential partners to engage with UNESCO on the ambitious objectives of its Programme to advance peace and sustainable development through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

UNESCO's Programme was decided by Member States and offers a wide range of different entry points for solid and mutual benefiting partnerships, in areas where the Organization has leadership, recognized expertise and comparative advantage.

Through the eyes of UNESCO partners, the meeting will offer a forum to learn about UNESCO's Programme, and its unique role in achieving the 2030 Agenda, as well as to identify concrete entry points for enhanced cooperation and partnership.

### **Dialogue and transparency**

This two-day meeting places a premium on dialogue and transparency. It offers an opportunity to get an overview on how UNESCO works with donors and partners on the delivery of its mandate, how such donors and partners support UNESCO's programme and going forward, where opportunities for synergy lie. It offers a space where partners can talk with UNESCO, but equally important, where they can talk with each other about partnering with UNESCO.

The Forum will also provide a holistic picture of the way UNESCO's Programme is financed and of the Organization's overall partnership landscape; updated information will be made available on the status of resourcing of each Expected Result under UNESCO's Programme, as well as on donors and partners currently collaborating with UNESCO.

### **Key stakeholders**

Key stakeholders in the event are the UNESCO Member States as well as existing and potential donors and partners, including national development agencies, emerging donors, cities, multilateral Organizations and private sector partners, as well the other regional and national stakeholders who are closely engaged with UNESCO in programme implementation throughout the world.

### **The Agenda**

During the morning of 11 September, following the opening of the event by UNESCO's Director-General, and forward looking talks by the leaders of some of UNESCO's major public and private partners, the Plenary session will make way for the 'Dialogue on shared priorities and future commitments' where existing donors and partners will be invited to share information about their current engagement and possible future focus of support followed by a moderated discussion and questions from the floor.

The afternoon of 11 September and the morning of 12 September will be dedicated to the 'Thematic Forums'. Each Forum will focus on a pressing contemporary topic of relevance to the global community where UNESCO can make a difference, and where it is uniquely positioned to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Thematic Forums are a way of telling the story about partnering with UNESCO from the perspective of UNESCO's partners. Each topic will be explored by a panel comprised of stakeholders drawn from relevant UNESCO partnerships and open to questions and contributions from the floor.

The Thematic Forums will be run as parallel sessions of one hour and 30 minutes. Participants in the event will select the Thematic Forums that they would like to attend in advance at the time of registration.

Thematic Forums will address the following topics:

- The future of education, learning and skills development
- The role of private sector partnerships, south-south cooperation and domestic finance in achieving sustainable development
- The data challenge: UNESCO's role in Monitoring and Reporting on the SDG's.
- Mobilizing Science, Technology and Innovation for sustainable development and gender equality
- UNESCO's response to crisis and transition situations
- Pathways to youth empowerment through peace.
- Fostering sustainable development, peace and security in Africa
- Ocean science and sustainability
- The creative economy
- Responding to opportunities and challenges of the digital age
- A human rights based vision for the 2030 Agenda- results and opportunities
- Shaping the policy and normative agenda at global and country levels – UNESCO's role.

### **Exhibition on 'Partnering with UNESCO for the Sustainable Development Goals'**

The meeting will be accompanied by an exhibition 'Partnering with UNESCO for the Sustainable Development Goals' to show case partnerships, programme results and innovations which contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Networking and side meetings**

For UNESCO and its partners, UNESCO's Partners' Forum will also be an important networking event where all UNESCO Headquarters Divisions, the Directors and Heads of UNESCO's global field network and specialized Institutes will be present. Side meetings can be facilitated by the Bureau of Strategic Planning on request, throughout 11 and 12 September.

### **Registration and practical information**

On-line registration and further details of the Programme of the Forum, speakers, additional information on the event and updates on the status of the resourcing of UNESCO's programme will be available at the following web page: <http://on.unesco.org/partnersforum2018>

In addition to English and French, the present concept note will shortly be made available in Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian.

Contact: Please address any inquiries to [SFDpartnersmeeting@unesco.org](mailto:SFDpartnersmeeting@unesco.org)