**Relationships and Collaboration in SDGs**

Time: **Overall (1h30m)**

**[Mini Debate (5 mins)]**

You will have a discussion beforehand as a warming up.

Q: What do you think, know or imagine about *‘Relationships and collaboration’* in SDGs?

\*Tips! - Please discuss it for 5 mins (1 min for each.)

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# **[Listening]**

# **Listening 1**

Watch: **0:00 ~ 2:48**

# Title: Sustainable Development Goals Explained: Partnerships for the Goals

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ta8PIPxDR4U>

[Transcription]

**Why do we need a goal on partnership?**

It's important to have a goal in partnerships because realizing the the agenda we want, the agenda 2030 involves all sectors of society, it's a job for everyone not just for governments and this is the idea behind partnerships.

**What are examples for these partnerships?**

one partnership that our department is very much involved in is the higher education sustainability initiative. It's what can universities do to bring about a better world in the year 2030 and this is what this partnership is about. And they can do that through greening their own campuses, teaching sustainability environmental management. They can also reach out to their communities and over 300 campuses have signed up the world or around the world. So it can't be measured in money terms but it will affect a whole new generation of decision-makers as it as it goes forward.

**How are we going to measure the success of goal?**

Certainly there are indicators for this goal, for example the percentage of national income devoted to foreign aid. There is an objective among countries that 0.7 percent of national income should be devoted to foreign aid. We are very far from that where the average is about between 0.2 and 0.3 percent so we're far away from that goal. If we get closer to that goal that will be one indicator and certainly the number of partnerships we're keeping track of them, but more importantly it's the actual achievement of the other 16 goals that will be the the true determine of success for goal 17 also.

**[Questions for Listening 1]**

Q1: What did you think of these videos and why? (opinions)

Q2: Do you agree or disagree with the idea that ‘It’s a job for everyone, not just for governments’ and why? (opinions)

Q3: What is the advantage and disadvantage of having the indicators for this goal and why? (opinions)

**Listening 2**

# Title: SDG 17: Academic insights into partnerships for the goals

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXQmDy2WG04>

Watch: **0:36~**

[Transcription]

In this video, I will tell you more about what is crucial to develop effective cross-sector partnerships. Dealing with the complex SDGs goes beyond the abilities of one single organization or sector. Over the last 20 years, cross-sector collaboration, especially working together with business, has increased significantly. Based on the assumption that combining resources would lead to better results. A classic example is when a business gives some of its profits to an NGO. An NGO that, for example, addresses environmental issues, human rights or provides humanitarian support. Business used to see this kind of funding as their corporate social responsibility. We call this a ‘transactional partnership’. Often based on a contract, one party provides money to another party that delivers. However, to address the SDGs comprehensively, we must focus on partnerships that go beyond these kinds of transactions. To achieve the transformational development the SDGs require, we need what we call transformational partnerships. Partnerships that develop new, transformational value propositions. SDG 17 is dedicated to partnerships for the goals. Why is SDG 17 so important for business? Not only to get access to expertise, knowledge or finance. It is mainly because partnerships allow partners to take on new perspectives, jointly they develop innovative sustainable business approaches. And that is exactly what we need when we want to deliver on the SDGs.

For example, working on ecological and economic viability of sustainable production to contribute to SDG 12; Developing an integrated approach that addresses malnutrition, and food security to support SDG 2; or employing refugees in your factory to advance decent work and economic growth, linked to SDG 8.

These are all challenging issues. And to address these challenges agreeing on a transformational ambition is one thing. Really collaborating together, I mean co-creating a new way of thinking, is something else.

Based on our research, we know that successful transformational partnerships focus on a shared vision and ambition, a common goal as well as shared accountability and risk management. At the same time, successful partnerships take into account the different roles and responsibilities partners have, and they have a clear understanding of mutual benefits. Good leadership, and then I mean pro-active engagement on Board level is important too, based on guiding rather than directing. Of course, our research reveals some challenges too, mainly in the area of relationship management. We found that the quality of the collaboration is a prerequisite for success. The ‘spark’ between partners is vital for the partnership to work. And there needs to be a readiness to collaborate. And that implies: taking time needed, providing sufficient resources to build the partnership, and having an entrepreneurial mind-set. Partners who are not used to work together like a company, an NGO, or an intergovernmental organization do need time to get used to each other’s organisational culture. They need time to build their partnerships. Partnering for change means: having a long breath, have the courage to discuss difficult things, dare to experiment and dare to be vulnerable. If partners are transparent about their uncertainties and concerns, and if they create a common learning environment, then they are able to build the trust that is necessary to do things differently. And that is exactly what we need to unlock the partnering potential for the SDGs.

**[Questions for Listening 2]**

Q1: What is ‘transformational partnerships’ in this video?

Q2: Talk about the examples which stated about the importance of partnerships in SDGs 17 and other goals. (opinions or ideas)

Q3: What changed before and after watching these videos and what did you think about ‘relationships and collaborations in SDGs’ and why?

**Tips!**

\*1

Make sure and understand each other what they watched and what this video was about →share in the main room!

\*2

Think about things from numerous perspectives by discussing!

**[Reading]**

**Reading (1)**

Corporate sustainability has become necessary for an organization's long span success**1**, and it has been studied a lot in academic literature in recent decades2. Corporate sustainability normally indicates integration of the triple line of financial profitability, environmental conservation and social responsibility into an organization's main purpose and activities3. Hense, the notion is carefully related to the concepts of continual progress4 and corporate social responsibility (CSR)5, an outgrowth (e.g., Christofi et al., 2012)6. In this regard, Dyllick and Hockers7, are built based on the definition of sustainable advancement8, defined corporate sustainability as “meeting the needs of a company’s direct and indirect stakeholders (such as shareholders, employees, clients, pressure groups, communities, etc.), without accommodating its capacity to live up to the needs of future stakeholders as well.

According to this study, the authors pursue Dyllick and Hockerts’ definition to cover the concept of sustainable development at the business level and depend on the considerations of current and future collaborator needs as essential elements of corporate sustainability. The 17 SDGs and the related 169 targets announced by the United Nations General Assembly described a shared expression of stakeholder demands at the global level currently9. According to the statement by the United Nations General Assembly10, “[t]he goals and targets are the result of over two years of intensive public consultation and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders around the world, which paid particular attention to the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable”.

Hence, the aim of the SDGs is to inspire the combination of sustainability into organizations running in the most various geographical areas worldwide, undertaking current and future shareholder needs and promoting the achievement of sustainable development for society-wide11.

The corporate sustainability literature has played a role as a reference framework for evaluating corporate sustainability12, improving sustainability engagement13, providing investment opportunities14, and designing sustainable business models15 SDGs have already been studied within the corporate sustainability literature.The corporate sustainability literature also includes studies of the potential role of multinational enterprises16. Advertising and marketing companies17 are also included in them in terms of achieving the sustainable development agenda and the relationship existing between SDGs attainment and organizational justice18. Although many goals might still present issues regarding their performance measurements. These issues still exist when it comes to operationalization and interlinkages\* across sectors, societal actors and countries19. In order to solve these problems the SDGs have already been linked to concepts such as industrial ecology and strategic management to support organizations to positively contribute to the SDGs while building competitive advantage20.

Recently, the contribution of business to achieving the SDGs have been focused on by three special issues. One of them was published in Transnational Corporations21. The other two issues will be published in Academy of Management Discoveries22 and Corporate Governance23. In addition, the number of academic conferences globally are more focusing or including tracks on SDGs (e.g., the 16th Academy of Business in Society (ABIS) Annual Colloquium, the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, the 24th International Sustainable Development Research Society Conference).

Thus, research contributions targeted at supporting and encouraging the incorporation of SDGs into business are growingly provided by the academic debate within the field of corporate sustainability.

\***interlinkages**: the relation of connect

**[Questions for Reading 1]**

Q1: Corporate sustainability refers to various things such as fiscal facets and protection of nature (True/False)

Q2: One of the basic facts of corporate sustainability is the considerations of present and future stakeholders needs. (True/False)

Q3: What is sustainable development at the business level and at the global level?

Q4: What are the advantages and disadvantages of the combination of sustainability with organizations? (opinions)

Q5: Operationalization and interlinkages across sectors are one of the issues that exist in SDGs goals. (True/False)

Q6: What is the disadvantage of encouraging the corporate sustainability literature? (discussion)

Q7: Are there any cons of corporate sustainability? What are they? (discussion)

**Tips!**

\*3 Understand what the materials written about each other while discussing.

\*4 State your opinions actively!

**Reading 2**

At a day’s stakeholders’ (\*5) forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have made it clear that one of the keys to achieve SDGs (\*6) Ghana is an inclusive process and collaborative effort. The organization of a national forum was the Media Foundation of West Africa (MFWA). It was supported by Ghana and in collaboration with such a stakeholder's platform on the SDGs called Chiristian Aid.

In the forum, the professor Kwame Karikari, SDGs’ ambassador in Ghana, discussed the effective ways to implement the SDGs’ challenges, successes and collaboration and how to achieve the goals in the country. Through such forums, the strong collaboration and more comprehensive processes in the implementation and achievement of the 2030 agenda were ensured by the government and stakeholders based on the lessons from the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals.

According to Kwame Karikari who is a chair in the forum, the Government and all relevant stakeholders were called to increase awareness and be included in efforts for the achievement of the SDGs. Additionally, thay added that “We re-affirm our commitment as Civil Society Organisations, Government Institutions and United Nations Agencies to share information, collaborate on monitoring the progress of achieving the goals hold accountable responsible parties, and coordinate efforts for effective implementation,”. After that, for the purpose of spearheading collaboration and inclusiveness in the country, Civil Society Organisations Platform on the SDGs was launched.

**[Questions for Reading 2]**

Q1: What is the essential point to achieve SDGs in Ghana that were reffered in the forum?

Q2: What did the call on the government and all relevant stakeholders in the forum?

Q3: What do you think are the collaborative and effective ways to implement and achieve the goals? (opinions)

Q4: Do you agree with the statement from the chair of the forum about collaboration in SDGs? (discussion)

Q5: Finally, what do you think about the collaboration and relationships in the SDGs after reading two materials? Did some points change before/after reading them or not? (discussion)

**Tips!**

\*5 The stakeholders: Civil Society, government institutions and United Nations agencies in Ghana

\*6 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Overall Tips!**

We would like you to learn about...

1. There are various viewpoints of relationships and collaboration in SDGs.
2. The relationship and collaboration between SDGs and Society.

**References**

**Listening 1**

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**Listening 2**

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**Reading2**

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Text adapted from

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