



Partnerships for Transformation:

Philanthropy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*A Special Event at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
under the auspices of ECOSOC*

Tuesday 16 July 2019, ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ in New York

DRAFT

Version: 24 April 2019

1. Background

Philanthropic organizations are playing an increasingly prominent role in supporting the international sustainable development agenda. Many are early embracers who have started aligning their planning and grant strategies to the SDGs. According to the Foundation Center, the total foundation SDG Funding worldwide in 2016 has reached over USD \$112 billion¹.

Philanthropic organizations can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in many ways². As advocates, they can support awareness raising through the integration of SDGs into their programming efforts and through thought leadership of collective platforms; as impact drivers, they can catalyze change and generate impact through big bets, collective action, cross-SDG partnerships; and as innovators, they exhibit a great willingness to test new ideas, adopt innovative approaches, forge new coalitions³ and help de-risk investments. Yet, there is significant potential to further scale up philanthropic engagement in SDG implementation.

To review and discuss ways to strengthen partnerships with philanthropic organizations to accelerate SDG implementation, in July 2019, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) at the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), in collaboration with the SDG Philanthropy Platform, the European Foundation Center, Synergos and the United Nations Foundation, will host a special event during the ministerial segment of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the special event is to create a dedicated space at the margins of the 2019 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC to discuss current models of philanthropic engagement to implement the

¹ Source: <http://sdgfunders.org/sdgs/>

² Acknowledged by Member States in paragraphs 41 and 45 of the 2030 Agenda, as well as paragraph 42 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

³ Source: <https://oecd-development-matters.org/2016/11/02/the-three-circles-of-philanthropy-taking-a-tiered-approach-to-achieving-the-sdgs/> and https://www.oecd.org/site/netfwd/Philanthropy_Letter_winter2017.pdf

2030 Agenda and identify opportunities to scale up philanthropic leadership and transformational action to further accelerate SDG implementation. The event will also serve as an opportunity to gather momentum from the philanthropic sector in the lead up to the SDG Summit in September 2019, where Heads of State and Government will meet for the first time under the auspices of the General Assembly after the first four-year cycle of HLPF to assess progress in SDG implementation.

3. Date, time and venue

Tuesday 16 July 2019, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ New York

4. Format

Plenary and Davos style interactive sessions. Use of videos and engaging visuals are encouraged.

5. Organizing Partners

UNDESA, UNOP, the SDG Philanthropy Platform (through Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors), the European Foundation Center, Synergos and the UN Foundation

6. Participants

The special event will be open to all participants of the July 2019 HLPF. It welcomes representatives from governments and non-government sectors who are interested in philanthropic contribution to the 2030 Agenda, particularly representatives from various philanthropic organizations around the world, such as philanthropic platforms, individual, global or national foundations, corporate philanthropic and community-based foundations, who seek to create impact on SDG implementation.

7. Registration

All stakeholders who wish to attend the special event must register through the following link by **5 pm EDT on Monday, 8 July 2019 (NY time)**: <https://forms.gle/shxZyWvJevSTNeTq9>. If you DO NOT hold a valid UN Grounds Pass, please make sure to mark this in the registration, so the Secretariat can make arrangements to obtain Special Event Tickets (SETs) for participants who need them in accordance with the rules and regulations of UN HQ security.

8. Outcome

The special event will result in a summary prepared by UNDESA and UNOP in collaboration with the organizing partners.