

# UNCTAD Regional Partnership on Sustainability & SDG Reporting

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# UNCTAD Technical Assistance & Intergovernmental Work

- In 2016 UNCTAD launched the Guidance on Core Indicators for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (GCI), it has been revised later and complemented by the Training Manual as well as the Online Course (this is based on work that started in 1992 on environmental accounting, corporate governance, CSR etc).
- Development Account 11<sup>th</sup> Tranche on *Enabling Framework on Sustainability Reporting* (Lessons learned on challenges of sustainability reporting practice at the national level in Africa and LATAM; establishment of the ARP and LRP at the regional scope).
- Development Account 13th Tranche on *Mobilizing and aligning financing with the national sustainable development priorities* (Lessons learned on sustainability reporting infrastructure and capacity-building required in the CIS region).
- UNCTAD performs as a co-custodian of the SDG 12.6.1 on Number of companies reporting on sustainability.
- At the ISAR 39-40 initiation & launch of the Regional Partnership for Asia and Gulf States.

# Lessons Learned (1/2):

## Main challenges faced by countries in preparing their national sustainability reporting infrastructure

- Absence of an **entity responsible** for sustainability reporting;
- Poor **coordination** among key institutions;
- Emergence of **various national** sustainability reporting **regulations and policy measures** in key markets;
- Insufficient **human capacity** among key players in the sustainability reporting value chain;
- Lack of national infrastructure to produce **publicly available and reliable data** on sustainability, particularly regarding climate change;



## Lessons Learned (2/2):

### Main challenges faced by countries in preparing their national sustainability reporting infrastructure

- Not enough balanced, reliable and comparable **information on ESG issues** which can affect SDG investment;
- The need to **raise awareness, build capacity and promote proportional SME standards**
- **Launch of the international standards on sustainability reporting** requires a profound expertise for their implementation at the national level (ISSB, IESBA, IPSASB, IAASB) etc.



# Objectives of the Partnerships (1/2)

The Partnership acts as a **bridge for sharing knowledge among the countries in the region**, as well as between the region and international organizations in the field of sustainability reporting. The Partnership **promotes mutual support among countries in their efforts to achieve the development of national strategies and policies to:**



establish and/or **strengthen the national infrastructure** to prepare high-quality sustainability reports by companies



increase the number of **high-quality sustainability reports** by companies



measure the **contribution of the private sector** to the implementation of the SDGs



promote **sustainable enterprise development**



Share **tools and best practices**, discuss the latest trends and **share knowledge**



# Objectives of the Partnerships (2/2)

## *Other Objectives*

- i) provide support in the **implementation of international sustainability reporting standards**;
- ii) **provide a regional voice** in interaction with international standard setters;
- iii) promote benchmarking activities between actors, give advice, and position itself as a **force of development of national strategies** for dissemination and adoption of reporting methodologies; and
- iv) **promote harmonization in the region** by sharing case studies and peer-reviewed experiences to address national challenges, alongside tools to optimize national infrastructure and mitigate risks that could hinder the economy.



# UNCTAD Regional Partnerships



Africa

58 members  
5 observers  
29 countries

Latin America

31 members  
3 observers  
15 countries



Asia

Launched at  
ISAR 40

Gulf States

Launched at  
ISAR 40

Eurasia

Initiated at  
ISAR 40



# What are the key steps to create a partnership?

UNCTAD prepared a Guidance on *Building Regional Partnerships and Maximizing the Benefits* that summarizes lessons learned during the establishment and early consolidation of the regional partnerships for the promotion of sustainability reporting.

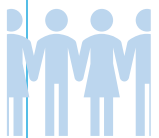
## The key steps include:

1. Outreach to key counterparts from the countries in the region
2. Establish leadership for coordinating the work of the Partnership
3. Establish a Partnership cooperation framework
4. Develop good practices in the Partnership meetings
5. Exchange with other regional partnerships or organize joint events etc.

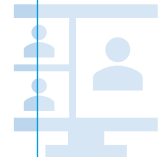




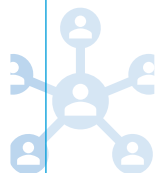
# Partnership Operational Mechanism



Informal arrangement among 'friends of sustainability reporting'

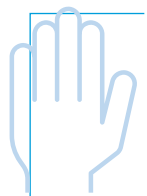


From three to four meetings per year

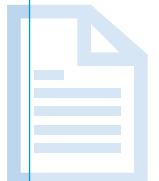


Two to five national entities per country


- the regulators
- standard setters
- entity responsible for sustainability reports,
- government entity in charge of the implementation of the SDGs,
- PAO.




Consensus based Chair or Executive Committee



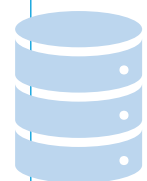
Application letter templates



Working groups



Observer status



Membership platform

# UNCTAD-ISAR support to the Regional Partnership

**UNCTAD-ISAR acts as the original convener of the Partnership,** providing initial support for its creation and continues cooperation by:

- Opening **opportunities in its forums** to listen to challenges and needs of the region, and to monitor achievements and progress.
- Organization of **cross regional forums** to share experience.
- Invitation to **capacity building workshops**, and making available materials, guidance, and tools.
- Identification of **technical assistance needs**.



# Partnership Online Platform

The screenshot shows the homepage of the African Regional Partnership for Sustainability and SDG Reporting. At the top, the ARP logo is on the left, and navigation links (Home, About, Meetings, Members, Resources, Discussion Forum, Edit) are in the center. On the right, there are 'Share' and 'English' options. Below the navigation, there are utility links for 'New', 'Translation', 'Page details', and 'Analytics'. A status bar indicates 'Draft saved 6/15/2022' with 'Edit' and 'Republish' buttons.

The main content area features a large graphic on the left with a map of Africa and the text: **African Regional Partnership for Sustainability and SDG Reporting**. Below this is a section titled 'About the Partnership'. To the right, there are two image-based sections: 'Partnership's Meetings' (showing hands stacked) and 'Terms of Cooperation' (showing two people talking). Below these is a 'Free e-learning course' section with a cityscape background and the text: 'E-learning course on the GCI (Guidance on Core indicators for Sustainability Reporting) - English and French'. To the right of this is a 'UNCTAD Toolkit and Useful Resources' section featuring a grid of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) icons.

At the bottom, there are three columns: 'Upcoming Events' with a '+ Add event' button and a card for 'ISAR 39 Session' on Oct 28; 'News' with a '+ Add' button and a card for 'IFRS Exposure Drafts Open Consultation'; and 'Useful Links' with a '+ Add' button and a card for 'E-learning course on GCI'.



# Partnership Online Platform

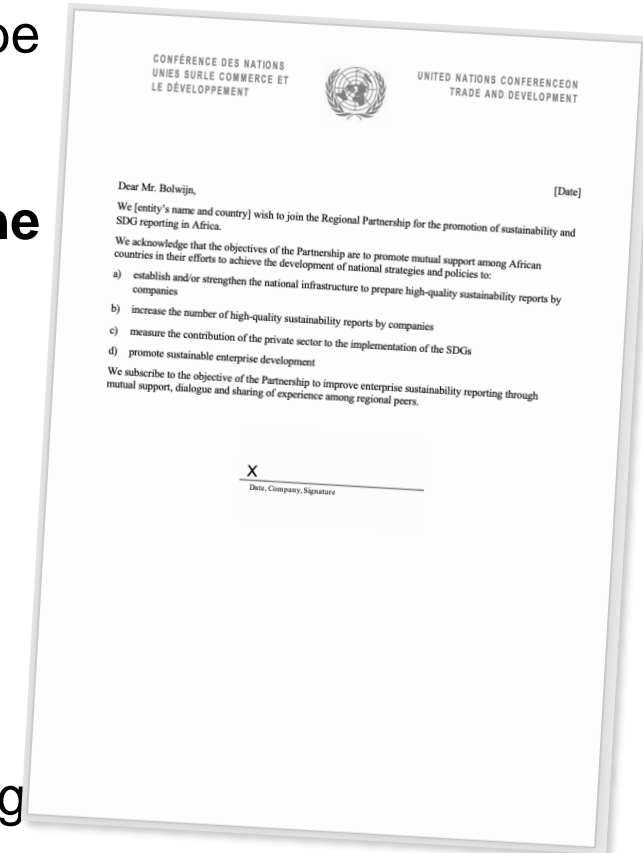
The online platform allows to:

- **Keep track** of the Partnership's **activities** and **meetings**
- Follow **announcements** and schedule of the **upcoming events**
- Enable **continuous communication** between members (contact database of members)
- Allow members to initiate **discussions** (Forum)
- **Share achievements** and **tools** that may be useful to other countries in the region etc.



# Joining the partnership

- Entities interested in joining the Partnership are requested to communicate through the signed application letter (template can be provided by request).
- Every country can be represented **by 5 national entities from the following categories:**
  - Regulators responsible for financial and sustainability reporting
  - Government entities in charge of the implementation of the SDGs
  - Professional accountancy association
  - Auditing organizations
  - Stock exchanges
  - Academia etc.
- International organizations and regional leaders in sustainability reporting can join as observers.



# Eurasian Regional Partnership

- **The initiative to establish the Eurasian Regional Partnership on Sustainability & SDG Reporting** was originally proposed by Kyrgyzstan at the **ISAR 40th Session**.
- **The proposal was supported** by several other member states.
- The decision to launch the ERP was included in the **agreed conclusions of the 40th session (Paragraph 7)** and shared with all UNCTAD member states
- **Candidates nominated for the Executive Committee** according to the initiative expressed at the ISAR 40:
  - State Service of Financial Supervision, Kyrgyzstan, (Chair)
  - Ministry of Finance, Belarus, (Vice-Chair)
  - EICPA, Eurasia (Secretariat)



# ERP Membership Applicants 2023-2024

UNCTAD received **10 applications** from **6 countries** represented by various **types of stakeholders**:

- Government
- Regulators
- Professional Accounting Organizations
- Auditing organizations
- Stock Exchange etc.

**Belarus**



**Turkmenistan**



**Kazakhstan**



**Uzbekistan**



**Kyrgyzstan**



**Russia**



# Thank you!

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