

Collaboration is key to SDG implementation – but how to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals?

From November 30th to December 1st, 2016 the Second High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

Several thousand enthusiastic stakeholders, mostly from government and civil society in Nairobi, emphasized how development actors can partner to implement Agenda 2030 and realise the SDGs. Even though a definitive answer to the question, “How can partnering become effective and how can the development community ensure that stakeholders have the capacity and knowledge for effective partnering?” could not be found. However, everybody understood that collaboration is key to promote better access to proven partnering knowledge and expertise; and to identify and fill gaps in knowledge! All stakeholders need to work together, and only through partnering can the Agenda 2030 be achieved.

[Petra Kuenkel](#), representing the [The Collective Leadership Institute](#), facilitated a side event in Nairobi on “Raising the bar for effective partnering”, part of the new Promoting Effective Partnering Initiative (PEP)*. The session highlighted that many Partnerships are already in progress, and many people are talking about partnering, co-creation, and collective action, yet there is a very mixed record on performance and results. Ms. Kuenkel emphasized that dialogue and cooperation across institutions, cultures, nations, regions, and continents need to become the norm to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. She discussed responses to the following question: How can partnering initiatives be more successful most of the time?

In her presentation, Petra Kuenkel stressed the issue of learning within partnering endeavours as a vital aspect of good partnering practice. The following questions are useful guidance questions to learning within partnering activities:

- 1) How can the Quality of relationships be measured?
- 2) How can the impact formed by the relationship be measured?
- 3) How can partners learn within the partnership?
- 4) How do we learn across partnering initiatives?

Considering the fact that change comes about fastest in a web of relationships between people who are committed to making a difference the need for collective intelligence and collective action is increasing. Leadership for sustainability requires us to develop our [capacity to engage](#) and building functioning collaboration ecosystems by creating a [culture of collective leadership](#).

In addition to **Petra Kuenkel** (Executive director, Collective Leadership Institute), the following participants took part at this event: **Anne Ellersiek** (Global issues division, The German Institute), **Ernest Muwamba** (National Coordinator, Zambia Business in Development Facility), **Arjan Schuthof** (Special Envoy at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands), **Sitali Muyatwa** (Sanitation and Water for All), **Eddine Sarroukh** (R&D manager at Philips Africa), and **Prof Dr Rob van Tulder** (Academic Director, The Partnerships Resource Center)



From left to right: Ernest Muwamba, Arjan Schuthof, Sitali Muyatwa, Petra Kuenkel, Eddine Sarroukh, Anne Ellersiek

* The [PEP](#) Initiative comprises five expert partnering organisations that are looking to organize knowledge and share it openly. These five PEP partner organisation aim to provide better access to knowledge and partnering support, and create a dynamic online environment to share ideas on good practice and lessons learned.

Over the course of the last year, the PEP partners identified 17 effective partnering factors for the 17 SDGs, each summarised in a series of guiding questions, recommended practices, and key performance indicators.



CLI Contact:
Alina Gruen
alina.gruen@collectiveleadership.com