

UNGP Partnership Approach- Strategic Direction

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This document provides an introduction and overview of UNGP's approach to partnerships and its strategic direction. It complements and underpins the thinking developed in UNGP's partnerships hub.

At UNGP- we opted to create an internal slide deck that summarizes this strategic document and introduces defining concepts you've already seen in our Innovation Partnerships Guide including: Partnership principles, Types of partners, The partnership lifecycle, and partnership brokering. We also included UNGP specific operational guidance like the role of our team, how to work with us, and information and account management guidance. We use this instead of a more traditional (and longer) strategic document.

Feel free to take a look and get inspired to build your own type of fit for purpose strategic document.

1. Introduction

Partnerships underpin all of UNGPs work and are key to achieving its strategy.

The partnerships portfolio is led by a specialised team (the Partnerships Team). They provide strategic guidance as well as support other network functions in the evolving approach, frameworks, tools, roles and responsibilities related to partnerships.

The team also leads key strategic partnerships for the network in collaboration with the Global services & operations team.

This Guide is for the use of the entire UNGP Network, and accompanies a practical ‘toolkit’ for the partnership journey. The combined materials aim to establish consistent thinking, language and practice-culture, for forming and managing partnerships across the UNGP network. They also aim to empower capability, programme and project leads to be their own partnerships managers, brokers, advocates and champions.

2. UNGP Overall Vision & Mission

UN Global Pulse sees humanity walking into the future with confidence. It envisages a peaceful world where everyone can benefit from the opportunities of the digital age and where innovation brings positive impact to development. The UN Secretary-General's Innovation Lab is where specialists meet to test and share ideas for the benefit of people and the planet.

Innovation for development and beyond: this is our mission. Our lab's mission is to underpin the Secretary-General's ambitious new goals outlined in Our Common Agenda, for the world with innovation. If citizens are to trust it, innovation must be safe and inclusive. With methods from the digital and social sciences, our multidisciplinary team works to anticipate problems and solve them at source. Hindsight may offer lessons but with foresight, we are ready to adapt.

UNGP vision for Partnerships:

UNGP brokers partnerships within the UN and beyond for responsible, inclusive and sustainable innovation. We believe innovation partnerships are key to supporting the UN system transformation. In fulfilling our role of innovation initiative of the Executive Office of the Secretary General, we are best positioned in harnessing the UN unique convening power.

Mission for UNGP partnerships portfolio:

We build and grow holistic partnerships with true value-add to all parties and we secure sustained funding for innovation.

Our Approach:

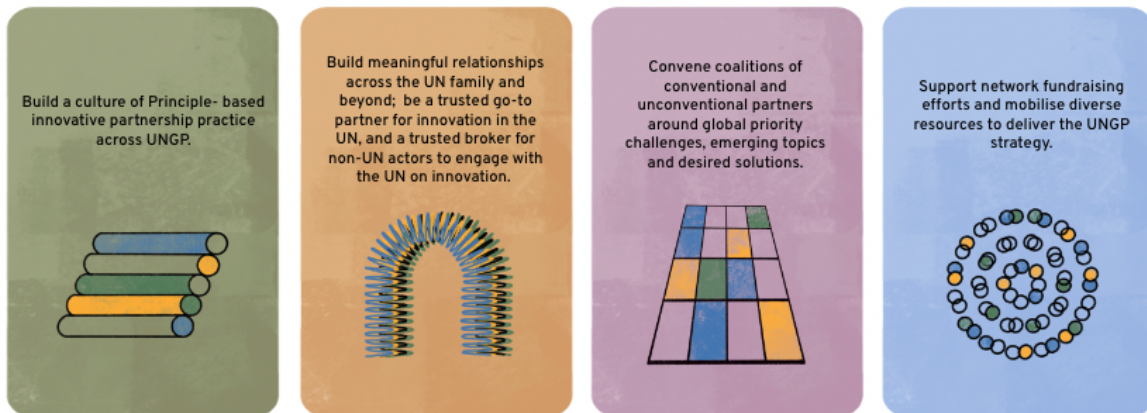
We engage with a broad range of stakeholders, including likely and unlikely partners, in a strategic way with supported infrastructure with the objective to build multi dimensional, meaningful, & sustainable relationships that support our UNGP strategy, mission and vision.

Partnerships are led by clear strategic direction that both reflect (top down) UN leadership priorities and (bottom up) priorities realised through our experiments and engagements with the broader UN. We pilot and scale innovation through co-creation processes with partners and those benefiting from our innovation processes.

The UNGP partnerships team acts as the knowledge centre for partnerships at UNGP. It supports day to day network activities by providing a variety of partnership brokering services, and also leads partner-driven projects and strategic initiatives to mobilise actors.

Our portfolio revolves around 4 pillars and goals: Culture, Trust, Mobilizing and Enabling:

Our Goals

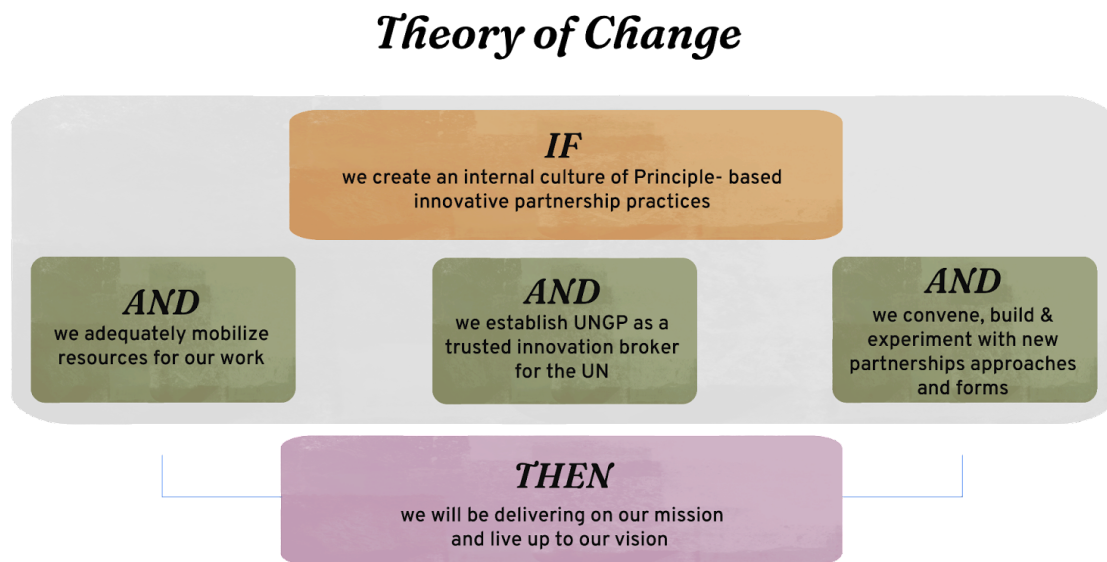


Partner relationships are managed by Partnership Leads, a role which anyone from the network can fulfill, including the partnerships team. Network wide strategic engagements are often led by the Head of Offices and or the partnership team, with technical support and delegation as needed to other teams.

Innovation draws in diverse people, organizations or partners to contribute their special knowledge, expertise or resources to make sure the new thing gets off the ground. This kind of collaboration can be very dynamic, with roles changing across the innovation life-cycle, and partnerships forming and fading.

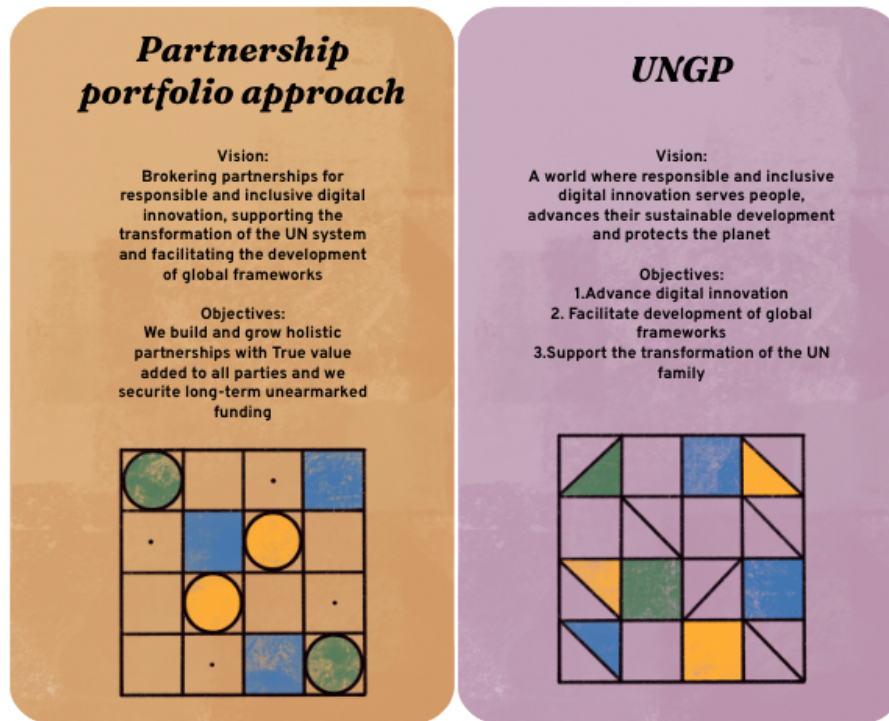
3. Theory of change- for the partnerships portfolio

The theory of change, work plan, and results framework for the partnerships portfolio is derived from the overall UNGP strategy. They can be found in the partnerships team working resources and are visible to the network for use.

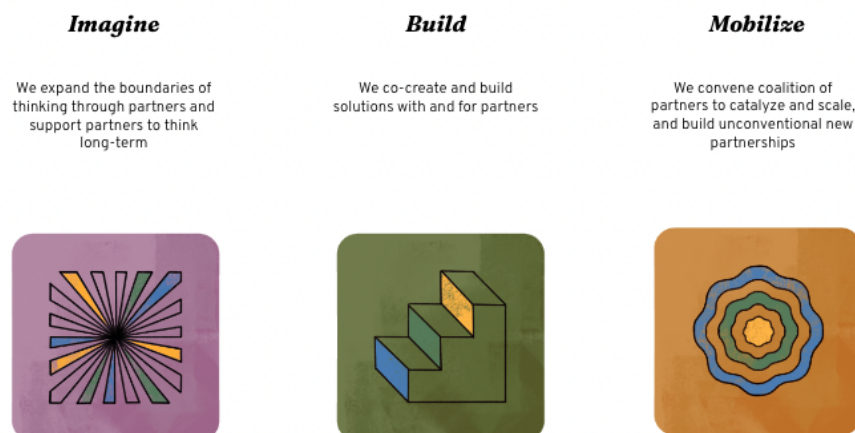


If we do the above THEN we establish UNGP as a trusted partner on innovation for UN and non UN stakeholder, we will build and grow holistic partnerships with true value added to all parties, to support UNGPs vision and mission; BECAUSE we will have the internal infrastructure, culture and capability, external partner trust, space for innovation and experimentation and funding- all four pillars to support our work and achieve holistic, sustainable results.

4. Role of Partnerships in the UNGP Strategy and Operating Model



Partnerships are central to our approach to delivering on the strategy, specifically:



We demonstrate this by:

- Evolving UNGP's global programmes to align with partner priorities, and responding to partner priorities with new emerging programmes.
- Embedding our multidisciplinary, project-based work deeply in partnerships- understanding we can only scale through them. Co-creating and scaling with partners across the UN family, academia, civil society organizations and the private sector.
- Striving to be the trusted go-to convenor for coalitions of partners seeking to catalyze and scale innovative approaches and solutions; operating within, tapping into and stimulating a cross-sector ecosystem of aligned actors at the intersection of digital innovation and human sciences
- Striving to be an entry point for non-UN innovation partners into the UN system.

This network structure enables engagement with the widest span of partners wherever they are, the formation of multi-disciplinary teams drawing on the most relevant capabilities, flexible geographic focus at country, multi-country, regional or global levels, and the opportunity to convene in diverse locations and across time zones.

We regard partnerships as an enabler underpinning the realization of UNGPs vision through the fulfillment of its strategic objectives. We believe that partnerships substantially contribute to the positioning of UNGP as experimentation and digital innovation hub for our common future.