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Multistakeholder Partnerships: A Policy Brief for Policy Makers

To address today's most pressing social and environmental challenges, we need to partner across sectors. These challenges are complex, interlinked, and systemic—and cannot be solved by any one sector alone. Multistakeholder partnerships (MSPs) offer a collaborative, long-term approach to address these challenges more effectively.

This brief draws on three regional studies led by WINGS and its partners in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to provide guidance to policymakers on how to enable and strengthen multistakeholder partnerships.

1. Create Enabling Regulatory Frameworks

- Develop policies and legal frameworks that incentivise MSPs, blended finance, and cross-sector collaboration.
- Simplify and harmonise fragmented regulations, particularly in areas like climate, environment, and development.
- Establish clear guidelines and policies that encourage multistakeholder collaboration across sectors.

2. Institutionalise Multistakeholder Approaches

- Embed MSPs into national and regional development strategies, reform agendas, and public service delivery models to address systemic challenges collaboratively.
- Prioritise collaboration between public, private, and philanthropic sectors to deliver shared outcomes.

3. Strengthen Governance Structures for Equity and Inclusion

- Support the design of governance models that ensure equitable power-sharing and decision-making across all stakeholders, including civil society, Indigenous groups, and local communities.
- Institutionalise community consultation and co-design practices in policy design and implementation to ensure contextual relevance and ownership.

4. Invest in Capacity Building and Knowledge Infrastructure

- Allocate public resources to build capacities of local governments, civil society, and philanthropic organisations for effective participation in MSPs.
- Support the development of knowledge-sharing platforms, data systems, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks to inform policy and programme decisions.

5. Facilitate Cross-sector and Regional Collaboration

- Establish or strengthen national and regional MSPs platforms to foster coordinated action, peer learning, and replication of successful models.
- Promote regional policy dialogues to address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate, biodiversity, water security) through shared strategies.

6. Enable and Scale Innovative Financing Mechanisms

- Create policies that support blended finance instruments, concessional loans, and risk mitigation mechanisms to mobilise private and philanthropic capital for public goals.
- Design tax incentives or policy mandates that encourage corporate and philanthropic contributions to national and local MSP initiatives.

7. Invest in Data, Monitoring, and Learning Systems

- Institutionalise robust monitoring, evaluation and learning systems within government programmes to track impact, inform adaptive strategies, and build trust with partners.
- Fund longitudinal studies and evidence generation to demonstrate outcomes and refine policies over time.
- Develop national data infrastructure to address data gaps, enabling evidence-based decision-making and impact measurement for philanthropic and MSP initiatives.

8. Bridge Sectoral and Geographic Inequities

- Direct public support to underrepresented regions and sectors, ensuring that rural, Indigenous, and marginalised communities have equitable access to MSP benefits.
- Address urban-rural disparities in multistakeholder partnership participation through targeted policy and funding support.

Overall Recommendation for Policy Makers

Policy makers have a central role to play in enabling multistakeholder partnerships that are equitable, effective, and scalable. By creating supportive environments and investing in inclusive collaboration, governments can unlock the potential of MSPs to deliver systemic change and locally led impact. As the next step, to turn these recommendations into action, WINGS is working with our members and government partners to:

- Co-develop an “Ideal Enabling Environment” Guide and Playbook of Practices to provide practical policy tools for fostering effective MSPs.
- Identify champion governments to co-design and pilot a capacity-building programme for public officials, deepening understanding of philanthropy’s diversity, expectations, and partnership potential.

Contact Us

If you would like more information on MSPs, or discuss how WINGS can partner with you, please contact **ecosystems@wingsweb.org**.

For Further Reading

- **Strengthening Collective Impact In South And Southeast Asia**
- **Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Latin America for Climate and Biodiversity**
- **TPI report and database**