

Reviewing for Results: Preparing for a second generation of Post-2015 Partnerships for Sustainable Development

ACUNS Annual Meeting 2014

Session III, Saturday, June 21, 2014 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Dr. Marianne Beisheim and Nils Simon

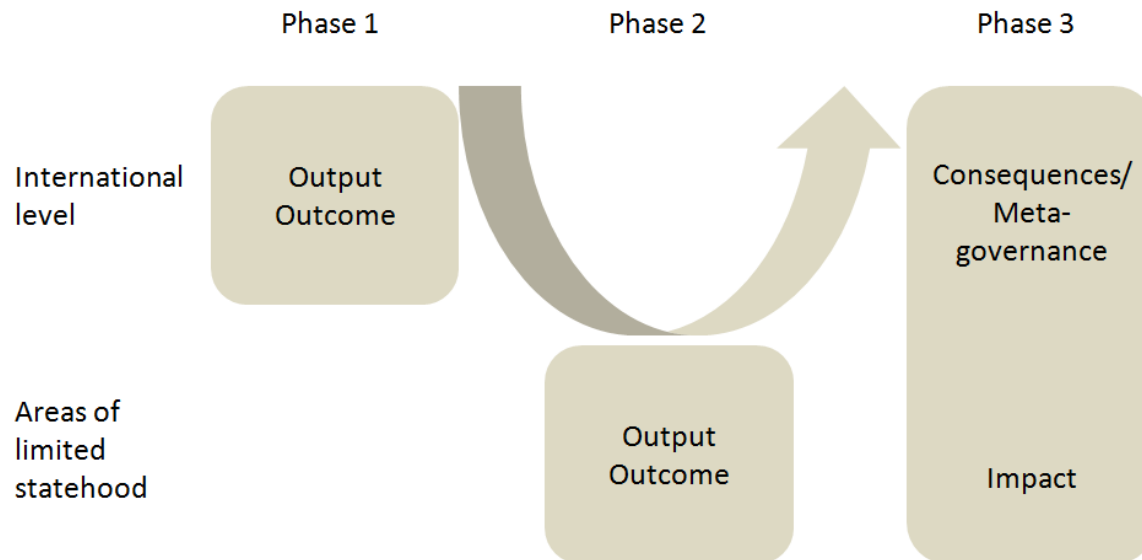
SFB700/D1-Project @ Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik,
German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin



- 2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg introduced **Type II agreements**
- 2012: **CSD Partnership Database** lists 349 SD partnerships
- effectiveness and legitimacy unknown and controversial:
 - up to 70% inactive or useless (see also Pattberg et al. 2012)
 - performance of some quite good (Beisheim/Liese 2014)
- **Rio+20** outcome document *The Future We Want* again lists partnerships as one of the major means of implementation -- also for the future SDGs/Post-2015 Agenda

SFB 700/D1 Research Project: Transnational Partnerships in Areas of Limited Statehood

- *Conditions for the effectiveness* of partnerships (esp. in fragile settings)?
- We investigated *21 transnational partnerships* for sustainable development (water & sanitation, sustainable energy, health, food, social rights) (2006-2010) and *40 of their local level projects* in areas of limited statehood in Kenya, Uganda, India, Bangladesh, and Somalia (2010-13)



Results of Empirical Research: *Local Legitimacy and Institutional Design* Matter!

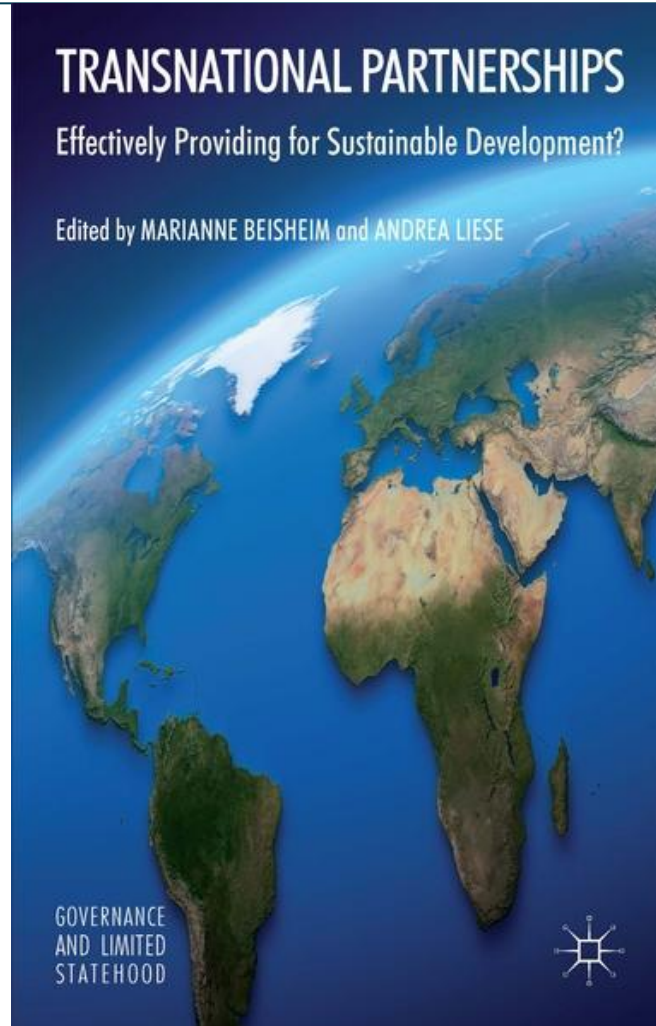
- A high *degree of institutionalization* (of obligation, of precision, and of delegation/monitoring) explains effectiveness in cases of service-providing and standard-setting partnerships, while it is less relevant for knowledge networks.
 - *Good transnational process management:* independent secretariat, excellent communication infrastructure, institutionalized conflict-management, institutionalized learning
 - *Good local project management:* participatory bottom-up approach, continuous monitoring and change management, flexible customizing of services, building sustainable long-term business case for local actors, capacity development measures
 - ... and securing adequate *resources* for all that.
- *institutional design matters:* it needs to fit the task (adaptive best-fit design)

Local level research



Kibera, Nairobi – 2012

Research Results: Book out!



Palgrave Macmillan 2014

Third Phase of SFB700/D1 Research Project on SD Partnerships: Impact and Meta- Governance

- Until 2017, we keep assessing the broader and long-term **impact** and also focus on the **meta-governance** of SD partnerships,
- especially at **UN level**, i.e. activities and provisions for SD partnerships (in the context of the Post-2015 Agenda(SDGs))
- So far no systematic and critical evaluation attempts
 - neither with CSD’s database nor
 - at CSD’s annual *Partnership Fair* or
 - at Rio+20’s *Partnership Forum*

but rather “show-cases” & promotion of concept

Improving the UN-Framework for SD Partnerships

Working hypothesis:

- Better “meta-governance” could improve partnership performance
- A review - prior to replication and scaling-up – would enhance performance

Research Questions:

- Given the experiences of the past 12 years, what “lessons learned” on partnerships did the UN System secure?
- How does the UN system attempt enhance partnership *effectiveness*?

Will this also influence the *institutional design* and the *management* of of new partnerships and existing ones?

First Impressions: Improving the UN-Framework for SD Partnerships

SD in ACTION REGISTRY
ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



UNDESA's info-note on requirements for registration:

“All commitments to be registered should be *specific, measurable, funded, new* ... In order to facilitate *periodic reporting* on progress of implementation, it is important that *at least one tangible deliverable* is specified, along with the estimated *timeline* for completion. *Resources* devoted to the delivery of commitments should also be specified, incl. financing, staff or technical expertise, and in-kind contribution.”

So far (only) 196 Partnerships for SD listed in new registry.

Improving the UN-Framework for SD Partnerships



Ban Ki-moon promotes new
UN Partnership Facility

- Facility will “ensure **accountability, integrity and transparency**; provide common partnership support services; create a **partnership focal point network...**”
- Overcoming (...) operational challenges:
 - Promoting and improving **monitoring and evaluation**
 - Improving **knowledge-sharing**
 - Improving **coordination ...**

High-level political forum



Resolution 67/290, July 2013:

(8) Decides that the forum, under the auspices of the ECOSOC, shall conduct *regular reviews*, starting in 2016, (...) within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews (...)

(c) *Shall provide a platform for partnerships, (...);*

SDG consultations background paper, 11 Nov 2013

Starting in 2016, the HLPF will conduct state-led voluntary country and UN entity review that will include a *platform for partnerships (...)*

Improving the UN-Framework for SD Partnerships

SFB 700



LEADING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE WE WANT

Sustainable Development in Action

SD IN ACTION REGISTRY OF VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES

- Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments
- Higher Education Sustainability Initiative
- Every Woman Every Child
- Global Compact
- Sustainable Energy for All
- Partnerships for Sustainable Development
- Green economy policies

REGISTER
NOW

ANNUAL
REPORTING



High-level political forum on Sustainable Development

.. to provide political leadership on sustainable development in the intergovernmental process;
.. to subsequently replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD);
.. expected to convene its first session at the start of the 68th session of the General Assembly (September 2013)



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Higher Education
Sustainability
Initiative



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL



Green
economy

Improving the UN-Framework for SD Partnerships

“A platform for partnerships” ... = annual reporting to HLPF?

but if so -- how exactly?

- *HLPF Mutual Country Review*: include national/bilateral SD partnerships?
- *HLPF Thematic Review*: include those trans/national SD partnerships with a focus on the annual ECOSOC/HLPF theme?
- *Partnership Forum/Facility*: Review annual reports of all registered SD partnerships → outcome report discussed at HLPF? Mandatory or voluntary? Exclude those who do not deliver annual report from Registry?
- *HLPF political guidance*: Provide guidelines and criteria for new Post-2015 partnerships?

Follow this project :

www.sfb-governance.de/ppp

Beisheim, Marianne/Liese, Andrea (Eds.) 2014: Transnational Partnerships: Effectively Providing for Sustainable Development?, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Beisheim, Marianne 2012: Partnerships for Sustainable Development. Why and How Rio+20 Must Improve the Framework for Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, SWP Research Paper, 2012/RP 03, February 2012. (free download)