

National College of Ireland

Project Submission Sheet

Student Name: Shreya Kalekar

Student ID: x22208682

Programme: MSc International Business **Year:** 2023-2024

Module: Research Method and Dissertation

Lecturer: Robert Macdonald

Submission Due Date: 10th August, 2024

Project Title: 17th GOAL OF SDG- PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Word Count: 18,294

I hereby certify that the information contained in this (my submission) is information pertaining to research I conducted for this project. All information other than my own contribution will be fully referenced and listed in the relevant bibliography section at the rear of the project.

ALL internet material must be referenced in the references section. Students are encouraged to use the Harvard Referencing Standard supplied by the Library. To use other author's written or electronic work is illegal (plagiarism) and may result in disciplinary action. Students may be required to undergo a viva (oral examination) if there is suspicion about the validity of their submitted work.

Signature: Shreya Kalekar

Date: 10th August, 2024

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please attach a completed copy of this sheet to each project (including multiple copies).
2. Projects should be submitted to your Programme Coordinator.
3. **You must ensure that you retain a HARD COPY of ALL projects**, both for your own reference and in case a project is lost or mislaid. It is not sufficient to keep a copy on computer. Please do not bind projects or place in covers unless specifically requested.
4. You must ensure that all projects are submitted to your Programme Coordinator on or before the required submission date. **Late submissions will incur penalties.**
5. All projects must be submitted and passed in order to successfully complete the year. **Any project/assignment not submitted will be marked as a failure.**

Office Use Only		
Signature:		
Date:		
Penalty applicable):	Applied (if	

AI Acknowledgement Supplement

[Insert Module Name]

[Insert Title of your assignment]

Your Name/Student Number	Course	Date
Shreya Kalekar/ X22208682	MSc International Business	10 th August, 2024

This section is a supplement to the main assignment, to be used if AI was used in any capacity in the creation of your assignment; if you have queries about how to do this, please contact your lecturer. For an example of how to fill these sections out, please click [here](#).

AI Acknowledgment

This section acknowledges the AI tools that were utilized in the process of completing this assignment.

Tool Name	Brief Description	Link to tool
Grammarly	Used for Grammatical errors	https://www.grammarly.com/
ChatGPT	To understand the basic structure of the framework of any sub-topic	https://chatgpt.com/

Description of AI Usage

This section provides a more detailed description of how the AI tools were used in the assignment. It includes information about the prompts given to the AI tool, the responses received, and how these responses were utilized or modified in the assignment. **One table should be used for each tool used.**

ChatGPT	
To understand the basic structure of the framework of any sub-topics under individual chapters	
give me a framework for a research methodology for thesis research	Creating a research methodology for your thesis involves outlining the systematic process you'll follow to gather and analyze data. Below is a framework you can adapt for your specific research topic:

Grammarly

Used for Grammatical errors	
In order to	To

Evidence of AI Usage

This section includes evidence of significant prompts and responses used or generated through the AI tool. It should provide a clear understanding of the extent to which the AI tool was used in the assignment. Evidence may be attached via screenshots or text.

Additional Evidence:

[Place evidence here]

Additional Evidence:

[Place evidence here]

17th GOAL OF SDG- PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Abstract

Background: SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals, emphasizes an urgent need to reinvigorate global partnerships to effectively implement them. The integration of SDG-17 in business operations has a significant impact on organisational regular functioning and/or operations. The current study aims to explore the notion of SDG in the global business context, covering its significance, adoption challenges, strategies, and policy implications.

Purpose: The purpose of this research is to explore the notion of SDG-17 in the context of business organisations and industries around the world, emphasising its impact, strategies and policy frameworks.

Methodology: A primary qualitative methodology, followed by a structured interview, was adopted to collect data from seven representatives from different organisations around the world that used to show interest in sustainability decisions. Using the thematic analysis method, the interview transcript was analysed to generate findings.

Findings: The integration of SDG-17 influences business functions through environmental responsibility, technological application and collaboration with stakeholders. Organisations also respond with strategies, such as partnering and mentorship initiatives in shared projects to fulfil SDG-17; yet there are valid issues like limited resources & IP sensibility. Overcoming the barriers requires effective communication and can be supported by government training programs. In terms of the adoption for SDG-17, meaningful uptake would depend on accompanying supportive policies and innovation platforms as well as a robust monitoring framework.

Conclusion and Recommendations: Global business organisations, for better practical implementation of SDG-17 and countering the various challenges identified from this research, need to take concern over certain strategic recommendations. By undertaking multi-stakeholder partnerships, having a strong resource mobilization plan, fostering institutional communication, and ensuring capacity building, firms can tackle the challenges.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction.....	10
1.1 Background and context.....	10
1.2 Research Problem.....	11
1.3 Aim and Objectives.....	12
1.4 Research Significance.....	12
1.5 Dissertation structure.....	13
Chapter 2: Literature Review.....	15
2.1 Introduction.....	15
2.2 Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).....	15
2.3 The Role and Importance of SDG-17.....	17
2.4 Collaborative Strategies in Achieving SDG-17.....	19
2.5 Impact of SDG-17 on Business Performance and Sustainability.....	21
2.6 Policy and Frameworks Supporting SDG-17.....	23
2.7 Theoretical understanding.....	25
2.8 Gaps in the Literature.....	27
2.9 Conceptual framework.....	28
2.10 Summary.....	29
Chapter 3: Methodology.....	30
3.1 Introduction.....	30
3.2 Research Philosophy.....	30
3.3 Research Approach.....	31
3.4 Methodological Choice.....	32
3.5 Research Strategy.....	33
3.6 Data Collection and Sampling Techniques.....	33
3.7 Data Analysis Technique.....	34

3.8 Research Ethics.....	36
3.9 Methodological Limitations	36
3.10 Summary	37
Chapter 4: Analysis and Findings.....	38
4.1: Introduction.....	38
4.2 Analysis of Interview Responses	38
4.3 Summary	45
Chapter 5: Discussions	47
5.1 Introduction.....	47
5.2 Data Analysis and Presentation of Research Findings	47
5.3 Discussion of Key Findings.....	53
5.4 Summary	55
Chapter 6: Conclusion and Recommendations	56
6.1 Concluding Remarks	56
6.2 Limitations of the Study and Direction for Future Research.....	57
6.3 Recommendations.....	58
Bibliography	60
Appendices	64
Appendix A: Interview questions.....	64
Appendix B: Interview transcript	65

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background and context

The Sustainable Development Goal 17, shortly SDG-17 calls for collaborative partnership for achieving the prior 16 goals. The goal highlights how collaboration is central to achieving sustainable development. This goal exemplifies the need for strong cooperation involving governments, civil society and the private sector - and is an "anchor" or foundation to achieve many of the other goals. These collaborations are important to resource mobilisation, knowledge sharing and innovations through enhancing sustainable development (Cruz, 2023). This research is intended to compare how different organisations are applying SDG-17 at a global level, and what the consequences of these initiatives in terms of contributions (and mechanisms) may be.

SDG-17 has seen a broader acceptance among organizations across all sectors, who have realized the importance of sustainability and investment in economic growth for future. Strategic partnerships are essential to achieve the ambitious goals for sustainable development and help unlock different expertise, resources with a potential larger impact (Cruz, 2023). Despite these statistics, many organizations have fostered successful partnerships to ensure improved equity and equality for people groups throughout the region. This study aims to explore dedicated measures of efforts and actions that organizations have demonstrated in fostering partnerships for the goals, including preclusive examples where one step may ideally take precedence over another (Dada, 2023).

An important part of this research is to examine what organizations attract SDG-related funding (blue ocean) and who or why we decide to support various projects in a sustainable development perspective. Ensuring quality resource mobilization is essential for the sustainability and success of development efforts. Funding is secured through a mix of channels: public-private partnerships, international grants, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives among others (Castillo-Villar, 2020). This research will identify best resource mobilisation practices and highlight some of the obstacles that organisations face in resourcing collaboration through exploring these mechanisms.

Technological change and innovation are two major drivers of sustainable development goals (Dzhunushalieva, 2024). This study looks at how technology is used to better work together and solve emerging problems by organizations. It is essential for organisations to stay up-to-date with new technology and trends, in order for them to be competitive and effective at partnering (Rozhnova, 2021). In doing so, this study helps to clarify what might be pushing some organizations away from innovative practices despite the potential benefits and constrains a more holistic model of organizational dynamics within SDG-17

Transparency and accountability are two core principles that drive the achievement of successful sustainable development partnerships. Transparent communication and accountability in collaborative activities will enhance stakeholder trust and engagement, which facilitates a sound operating environment (Ansell, 2022). This research is devoted to how mechanisms of communication are used by organizations in order to ensure that stakeholders remain informed about the process and progress, regarding collaborations. It looks at transparency challenges and how organizations manage these hurdles, to ensure accountability in their collaboration efforts (Bäckstrand, 2022)

This study is unique as it explores the different dimensions of SDG-17 implementation especially in organizational context. Through an examination of modes and mechanisms, technological applications for resource mobilization, interoperability with the same stakeholder operating across borders (autonomy), as well transparency practices , this research sheds light on the capacity organizations may have when convening partnerships seeking to contribute towards sustainable development. Findings are intended to inform a broader conversation surrounding sustainable development, and provide practical suggestions for organisations looking to further alignment with the global sustainability agenda.

1.2 Research Problem

The world has made tremendous progress towards the achievement of various SDGs; however, a lot of improvement is still needed with respect to SDG-17, focussing on partnerships for goals. In the concurrent literature, there is a discussion by (Ansell, 2022) (Bäckstrand, 2022) (Dada, 2023) on how best SDGs can be achieved; however, they do not give that much focus into the specific strategies organizations have therein

to support SDG-17. There has been widespread call by (von Schnurbein, 2020) for the special focus on SDG-17 as several evidence suggest that this could enhance sustainability; yet very little empirically work have emphasized how these partnerships operate with various other organizational types. An insight into this may help reveal a crucial gap in terms of understanding how these partnerships operate across a variety of organizational formats.

Prior studies, for example, (Cruz, 2023) (Dada, 2023) emphasise the need for collaboration and partnerships. However, they lack in providing a detailed picture of how those collaboration or partnership can be achieved by global businesses. Given all these gaps, it is noteworthy to mention that more work is needed to understand the realities of SDG-17 implementation with research that aims at identifying barriers and strategies on a pragmatic level including resource management. The current, with the aim of conducting a sophisticated exploration of these areas, can make a strong contribution to the debate by addressing multiple levels of evidence for building partnerships intended to adopt SDG 17.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this research is to explore the notion of SDG-17 in the context of business organisations and industries around the world, emphasising its impact, strategies and policy frameworks. In doing so, the following objectives have been persued:

- To understand that impact of SDG-17 on business operations
- To explore the strategies adopted by organisations around the world to support their adherence to SDG-17
- To identify typical barriers associated with the adoption of various strategies that may affect organisational adoption of SDG-17
- To suggest supportive strategies, including policy frameworks to promote and strengthen the adoption of SDG-17 among business organisations across the world

1.4 Research Significance

The current research is highly significant in terms of exploring the notion of SDG adoption among global business organisations. To be specific, a key facet of this research is based on identifying the role/importance of SDG for business

organisations. The knowledge to be developed from this investigation may help research audiences (e.g., business organisations) understand the interconnectedness between SG 17 adoption and transformation in concurrent business practices and/or operational approaches. Additionally, this study lays a focus on the barriers that real-life organisations have been facing in adopting various SDG-related practices (e.g., partnership, transparency, stakeholder involvement). This understanding is crucial for business organisations to become aware of the limitations of SDGs, so that they can understand the necessary strategies and/or policies to be adopted to effectively implement SDG 17-related initiatives.

1.5 Dissertation structure

The structured followed to breakdown the entire dissertation is shown below:

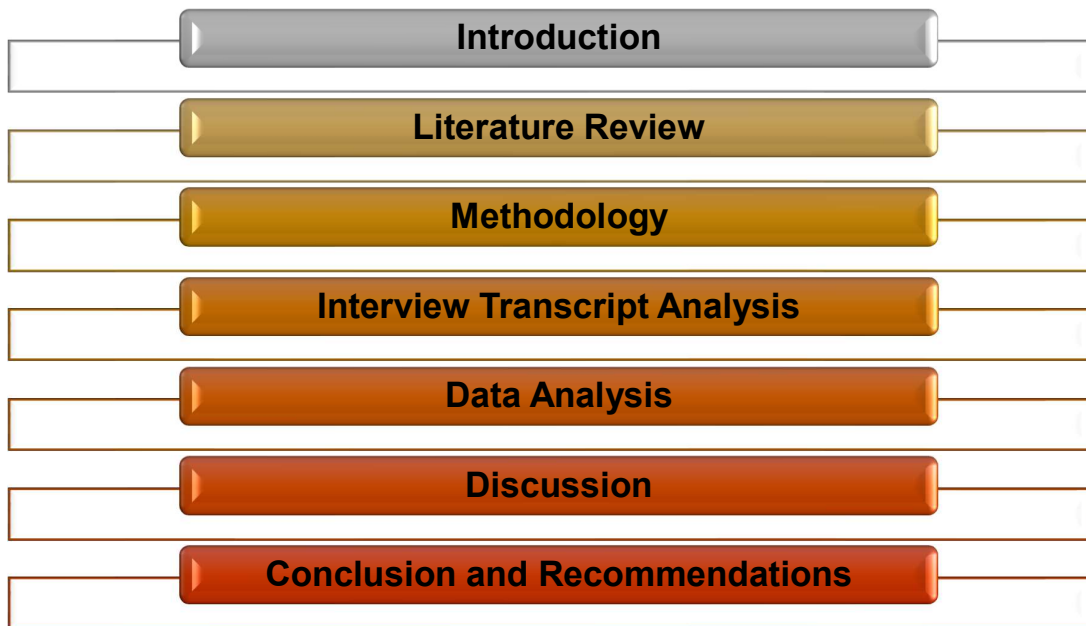


Figure 1.1: Dissertation Structure

(Source: Author)

As shown above, this dissertation has a total of seven chapters, among which, the first chapter offers a precise view of the research background, problem, aim & objectives, as well as significance of this study. Meanwhile, the second chapter offers a rigorous review of the existing literature to identify any viewpoints, debates, arguments made in prior studies in relation to the current research. In addition, the third chapter offers a sophisticated view of the methodological framework adopted in this research,

highlighting the chosen philosophy, approach, strategy, techniques, and procedures. After that, chapter 4 and 5 analyses the interview transcripts, showcases the research results using the thematic analysis method, and highlights the implications of key findings. Conversely, the sixth chapter, using a data triangulation technique, offers a thorough discussion of the key findings in relation to the conducted literature review to identify any consistency or inconsistency in the current research result. Finally, yet importantly, the seventh chapter, with the aim of concluding this study, highlights the ways this study has achieved its objectives, or left limitations, alongside pinpointing some strategic recommendations for better adoption of SDGs across global business organisations.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on presenting a rigorous review of the concurrent literature on SDG 17, paying attention to both dependent and independent variables of the study. In doing so, the chapter draws on key concepts, views, arguments, and debates made by scholars, researchers, and academic practitioners on SDG-17 and how adoption of the goal affect business operations. Here, studies published within the last five years are reviewed.

2.2 Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a buzzword among scholars, researchers, and academic practitioners, especially belonging to the fields of business management and environmental science. The initiation of SDG occurred when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 (Roorda, 2020), which includes a set of seventeen goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda called SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) (Nations, 2024). The 17 SDGs and their 169 targets are contained within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which extends on several successes and learnings from its predecessor Millennium Development Goals (MDG) (Bali Swain, 2020) (Nations, 2024). The five goals will be balanced with the three dimensions of sustainable development, the economic, social and environmental (Halkos, 2021). Emerging literature underscores the fact that these SDGs are broader and more holistic than those set by their predecessors, seeking to tackle the drivers of poverty



Figure 2.1: The seventeen SDGs in a nutshell

(Source: (Nations, 2024))

The universality of the SDGs is quite a departure from previous global policy, given that all countries are treated equally irrespective of their level of development. This universality is a reminder of the very necessity for international solidarity and cooperation, as found in the research by (Fonseca, 2020). As stated in scholarly studies, the (MDGs) were directed specifically at development countries, whereas the newly approved goals mdgs 2.0 are for both developed and developing to achieve sustainable human kind together (Servaes, Cham)). Sustainable development is based on the idea that economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection are interlinked (Mensah, 2019), providing space for holistic approaches to goal setting.

One of the key leaps forward on this journey that business organisations should all be grateful for is SDGs promise inclusivity and not to leave anyone behind. This principle is particularly relevant in the context of addressing inequalities and guaranteeing that marginalized and vulnerable populations are included in development processes (Nations, 2024) (Bulmer, 2023). Such an all-inclusive strategy, as argued by studies like (Roorda, 2020), must be based on powerful data as well as tracking mechanisms that can allow business to follow closely whether they are making headway in sensing precisely those envelopes for which more efforts might still seem necessary. In

addition, the SDGs have motivated states to integrate their national development plans and policies with international goals, which has made them own up for obeying by this framework.

The prior literature seems to have lend a positive focus on SDGs'. However, there are contradicting thoughts regarding the difficulites associated with the adoption of various intiatives under specific SDGs. For instance, according to (Zhan, 2021)the implementation of SDGs by 2030 remains a daunting task. The literature also highlights the significant financial resources, valued at trillions of dollars annually required for an effective achievement thereof. Finally, there is wide-spread agreement among academic researchers that innovative financing mechanisms, for instance, public-private partnerships and co-investments with the private sector are essential to mobilise funding. The COVID-19 Pandemic has deepened the complexities, threatening to turn back decades of progress towards sustainability and development as its socio-economic repercussions have ripple effects on countries at every level. (Rozhnova, 2021)state that efforts to aid recovery should be guided by the principle of sustainable development if they are going to make resources more resilient.

Therefore, SDGs are a generic and inclusive call for action from developing world, which converges development agenda to universality on the sides of international priorities. The importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, adequate financing and effective data systems have recently been accentuated in the literature toward achieving these goals. However, the SDGs start to look like a game changer in that - even though challenges remain substantial and are likely undervalued as reported by CEO Blueprint survey- they provide a complete framework for addressing some of these complex interlinked issues requiring action from everyone.

2.3 The Role and Importance of SDG-17

A lynchpin of the SDGs framework is SDG-17, "Partnerships for the Goals," emphasizing an urgent need to reinvigorate global partnerships to effectively implement them. A substantial amount of studies, including the likes of (Castillo-Villar, 2020) and (Bulmer, 2023) have emphasised SDG as the fundamental one as it empowers arrangement of assets, ability and innovation over the segment limits notwithstanding nations advancing the global collaboration towards manageable

development (Nations, 2024). Recent research alludes to the fact that achieving perceptive SDG targets is practically hardy with unsatisfied kinship (Franco, 2020) (Cruz, 2023). SDG-17 is an important goal, as it emphasises enhancing the means of implementation. Built up engagement across the full spectrum of finance, technology, capacity building and systemic issues; In the financial realm, literature emphasizes that both public and private financial resources must be mobilized. New types of financing solutions, such as blend finance, green bonds and impact investing are currently being tested to close the financial gap needed for reaching SDG (Bulmer, 2023). Research shows that partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society can greatly increase both domestic resource mobilization (DRM) and efficiency in allocation of resources (Roorda, 2020).

SDG-17 includes other key elements such as 'Technology and Innovation.' Technology can be a transformative force, and the scholarly research proving its potential to address sustainable development challenges is often pointed out. For example, the new wave of technological progress founded in renewable energy technology and perhaps also in digitalisation or biotechnology can help to reach many SDGs (von Schnurbein, 2020). Developing countries need partnerships that enable technology transfer and capacity building in order to take advantage of these innovations. While there is a clear literature stressing the importance of international cooperation to promote technology access and sharing best practices (Lindsey, 2021).

Under SDG-17, Capacity building is another crucial area. Research suggests the need to support capacity development of governments, institutions and communities in working towards sustainable outcomes. This includes capacity building, education and the implementation of rules that assist sustainable practice (Lindsey, 2021) (Terzakis, 2021). Partnerships that support knowledge exchange and collective learning can build the capacity of stakeholders from local to global. SDG-17- including trade and systemic issues. This goal holds the aspiration of promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system (Nations, 2024). The importance of fair trade practices and the need to lower barriers in order for developing nations to have sustainable economic development has been noted by developmental researchers worldwide (Bulmer, 2023). Furthermore, systemic issues

such as policy coherence; institutional coordination and multi-stakeholder partnerships are critical for sound implementation of the SDGs.

In short, SDG-17 is critical in the overall framework because it underscores partnerships - so important to achieving sustainable development. The broad scope of cooperation includes financial resources, technology development, the institutional building process, trade and systemic issues covered in recent literature. It will require collaboration between governments, the private sector and civil society ensuring that all resources are brought together. With the world facing complex global challenges, SDG-17 offers an important guide to collaborative and collective approach in reaching a sustainable future..

2.4 Collaborative Strategies in Achieving SDG-17

SDG 17, "Partnerships for the Goals," being a SDGs that seeks working together among different actors and sectors requires to implement effective collaborative strategies. This is in line with more recent literature from 2020 to date, which emphasizes the complexity and vital importance of collaborations between governmental bodies dealing with this issue that are effective on how collaboration between organisations can help. According to (Cruz, 2023) (Dada, 2023), effective partnerships are considered fundamental in the world scale ambition of SDG targets. In this regard, a substantial amount of studies, for example, (Terzakis, 2021) (Vassileva, 2022) have argued that the most frequent inter-organisational strategy applied to combat antibiotic resistance consists of setting up a public-private partnership (PPP). They are partnerships with others the public and private sector to respond meaningfully to development challenges. The public is able to provide the regulation and resources needed, while at the same time private innovates efficiency. PPPs are known to have had positive effects on infrastructure development, healthcare delivery and educational services (Terzakis, 2021). For example, successful PPPs in renewable energy projects represent the power of combining governmental policy support with private sector investment to speed up a change towards cleaner and more sustainable sources of global public goods (Vassileva, 2022).

In addition, the study by (Bulmer, 2023) note that organisations should adopt multi-stakeholder partnerships of governments-business-civil society organizations-academic institutions, through which various SDG issues, especially the climate change issue can be tackled. These partnerships are especially successful in tackling complex, cross-cutting concerns like climate change or poverty and inequality. Multi-stakeholder Partnerships should be used to gather up a broad pool of diverse expertise and perspective, otherwise solutions are likely in only one sector or will not endure (Eweje, 2021). The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), for example, has successfully tapped resources and expertise across sectors to help increase vaccination coverage in lower-income countries, an illustration of what multi-stakeholder co-operation can achieve. This shows their collective effort to tackle SDG issues related to health.

Moreover, many studies, for example (Roorda, 2020) (Dada, 2023) have pinpointed the significance of community-based partnerships in realization of SDGs. These are strategic partnerships intended to engage local communities in the choices and decisions being made over development interventions so that they respond more effectively, efficiently and sustainably. Recent reviews of the effectiveness and sustainability of development projects have increasingly argued that community-based approaches deliver better economic, environmental, and social outcomes by increasing local ownership and accountability (Roorda, 2020). Community-led conservation projects have, for example, been successful in mitigating biodiversity loss and providing rural sustainable livelihoods. An international partnership is an important aspect of all approaches and activities proposed under SDG-17. This includes partnerships between particular sets of countries, and also global efforts at the knowledge exchange level that can lead to institutional capacity development. The literature stresses the need for a North-South and South-South cooperation that may facilitate sustainable growth in both sides. North-South relationships entail the repayment of technology and financial support from richer to poorer nations, whereas South-South cooperation relies primarily on exchanges in experiences or findings between the same groups.

As it is, the spotlight has also been focused on digital platforms and networks to play a catalyst for partnering efforts over the last few years. Digital technologies can lead

to improved communication and coordination between partners, thus improving the efficiency of collaborations. For instance, the study by (Ansell, 2022) (Beisheim, 2022) have pinpointed that platforms such as the United Nations Global Compact and the World Economic Forum's Platform for Public-Private Cooperation offer forums for exchange of opinions and cooperation on sustainable development. It helps partners line up efforts and monitor progress, learnings & innovation.

In addition, cooperation strategies are necessary to reach SDG 17 and hence all the other goals in the framework (Terzakis, 2021) Many studies, cited in this literature discussion reinforce this conclusion by showing that partnership models (i.e., public private partnerships, multi-stakeholder collaborations [MSHs], community-based approaches [CBAs]) were never effective while some other studies including international cooperation interventions or digital platforms have been the most elusive to address. They use these strategies to leverage the unique capabilities of different stakeholders, resulting in innovation and resource mobilization for sustainable development. In a world with changing global challenges, the critical role of strong and dynamic partnerships has never been more evident in advancing progress towards a fairer, healthier planet.

2.5 Impact of SDG-17 on Business Performance and Sustainability

Prior research implies a significant impact of SDG-17 on Business Performance in terms of sustainability execution of operations. Recent Research, especially within the past five years indicate a significant business impact of partnering, and discusses its benefits as well as challenges to be consider during these collaborations. Businesses practices incorporating principles of SDG-17 not only help make the business sustainable but also foster innovation and competitive advantage (Dzhunushalieva, 2024) Much of the opportunity for business provided by SDG-17 partnerships is new markets or customer segments. Additionally, companies can reach new markets and capture more customers when they partner with governments, NGOs or other sectors of the private industry. As mentioned earlier and seen sharply in renewable energy, healthcare and education partnerships have been crucial for both market entry as well as growth For example, collaborations between multinational corporations and local businesses within emerging economies have facilitat (Franco, 2020) (Ansell, 2022) led

the provision of low-cost as well as sustainable products and services which has helped in expanding market access while encouraging inclusive growth.

More importantly, through the partnerships supported by SDG-17, businesses can actually drive further business innovation and technological development. Collaboration often results in combining resources, knowledge and expertise that fuel research and development efforts. Research investigations suggest that joint ventures and scientific collaborations by companies with academic institutions, have systematically resulted in substantial technical developments (Cruz, 2023). Pharmaceutical partnerships, for instance have significantly hastened the development of vaccines and treatments. (Starikova, 2020) proves as to how collaborative innovation can be leveraged. It is also favorable for business sustainability performance as it aligns with SDG-17. This in turn, leads to the generation of partnerships that focus on sustainable development goals which encourage companies to adopt environmentally and socially responsible practices. This pro model ultimately results in more efficient use of resources, lower environmental footprint and greater social impact. Research suggest that firms involved in SDG-17 partnerships can improve their ESG linkages reinforce those with other stakeholder to become more obliging following the allegations of environmentally offensive activities (Hossin, 2024). For example, firms have established very high ESG rates in this regard by partnering with environmental NGOs to adopt sustainability supply chain practices (Medina, 2023).

SDG-17 partnerships are also risk and resilience mitigants for businesses. The combination of these environmental challenges is referred to as systemic risks, including factors such as climate change; resource supply and scarcity issues, or social inequality. Exercising in concert, organizations can prepare strategies that are more sturdy and pliant to deal with turbulences. (Cruz, 2023) reveals these types of collaborations for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation have supported business continuity amid disruptions by enhancing the companies' adaptive capacity. One such example exists among partnerships between the private sector and local communities of coastal regions (Bali Swain, 2020), which have enabled successful climate adaptation measures to be de-risked; leading this reduction in vulnerability and building resilience.

Nonetheless, the literature also identifies several obstacles linked with SDG-17 partnerships. The primary difficulty lies in the intricacy of balancing stakeholder diversities and multiple expectations. An operating model that supports effective partnership management is necessary, including good governance processes to oversee partner performance; communication strategies to support a strong working relationship with partners and conflict resolution mechanisms (Bulmer, 2022). Building trust and transparency with their partners is essential for successful collaboration, new studies recommend businesses to invest in (Beisheim, 2022). This could be created by a variety of factors, but it often requires ongoing discussions around common goals and the need for fluidity to adapt as opportunities emerge.

Therefore, most of the recent literature regards these partnerships as opportunities to increase scale, break through innovation ceilings and deliver new sustainability practices that would otherwise be too cost or risk prohibitive. Yet making this ecosystem function well also involves addressing challenges of stakeholder alignment and governance that managing partnerships effectively can tackle. With businesses starting to appreciate the importance of strategic partnerships, incorporation of SDG-17 principles in business strategies is essential for sustainable and inclusive growth.

2.6 Policy and Frameworks Supporting SDG-17

The success of the SDG 17 which is "Partnerships for the Goals" would depend on enabling policies and frameworks in fostering collaborations across different sectors. Literature review was also carried out which includes scholarly literature published from 2020 to 2024 highlights the regulatory environment, institutional mechanisms and international agreements that support and will sustain cooperation partnerships in promoting sustainable development (von Schnurbein, 2020). Policies and frameworks can provide this enabling environment that is fundamental not only for the implementation of partnerships, but to push their effectiveness and inclusiveness ensuring a strong alignment with sustainable development objectives

It is governments that wield the levers to foster such SDG-17 partnerships through establishing enabling policy frameworks. Public-private partnership policy in the country has been key to enabling private sector involvement in sustainable development intervention (Starikova, 2020). Meanwhile, (Roorda, 2020) has

demonstrated the potential of supportive legislation and incentives (e.g. tax breaks, subsidies) in fostering private sector investments for green projects based on latest studies. One is policies that incentivize solar and wind energy projects used in the clean energy transition, such as those related to renewable energies; these have dramatically increased participation of private sector actors.

Institutional mechanisms are very important to forging partnerships under SDG-17. The creation of special agencies or units in charge of supervising and coordinating the work associated with partnership can also further strengthen it. According to the literature, institutions can support and guide the formation of partnerships as well as their implementation and evaluation (Cruz, 2023) (Halkos, 2021). A good example is the establishment of national SDG coordination bodies, which was found to help matching efforts and actions across various stakeholders with widely accepted targets but also securing harmonization in sustainable development policy. A similar role is landed by international frameworks and agreements, since these are also crucial building blocks for more effective global partnerships that promote sustainable development. An obvious example of this is the Paris Agreement on climate change, a framework that promotes cooperation between countries in order to solve fundamental global environmental problems (Nations, 2024). This suggests that broad international agreements may offer a base where nations can pool their resources, savoir-faire, and technologies to enhance the collective capacity in pursuit of SDGs. International organisations such as the United Nations further provide essential capabilities for dialogue and cooperation between member states, and with a range of other stakeholders (Bulmer, 2023).

Recent literature lays stress on the part played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society in supporting SDG-17 partnerships as well. NGOs frequently advise or campaign for governments, businesses and communities to implement rules on corporate behaviour that involve explicit social responsibilities. The inclusion of civil society in partnerships has been found to increase the inclusiveness and transparency of such collaboration, enabling partnership foregrounding marginalized voices (Hossin, 2024). Environmental NGOs are also proven advantageous allies for the promotion of sustainable practices and environmental issues (Franco, 2020).

Furthermore, the private sector progressively understands that programs and organizations grounded upon SDG-17 principles are integral to business strategy. As the business perspective cannot solely be considered as a profit-making machine, it also has to consider how its policy matches with sustainability and corporate social responsibility policies driving shared-value partnerships for achieving SDGs. The research evidence suggests that companies with established CSR strategies tend to engage in better collaborations addressing social and environmental challenges (Frank Biermann, 2017). For example, many multinational corporations that embed sustainability in their business model work with NGOs and local communities to deliver community-based sustainable development projects.

To conclude, appropriate policies and frameworks to support SDG-17 partnerships are key. Current literature emphasizes the importance of national policies, institutional frameworks and international accords-along with appropriate mechanisms to facilitate collaboration in combination with stakeholders such as NGOs and private industry-to effectively establish that connection. They offer the key operational framework for facilitating partnerships: supporting partnership practice to be inclusive, transparent and aligned with sustainable development objectives. At this critical juncture when the world is hard-pressed to realize its commitment on SDGs, it becomes imperative for us all that supportive policy and framework are in place to null partnerships.

2.7 Theoretical understanding

The Stakeholder Theory

Stakeholder theory, first proposed by R. Edward Freeman in 1984 argues that the interests of all stakeholders-not just shareholders-should be reflected simultaneously within an organization's decision-making processes (Freeman, 2020). It has implications for the current research on SDG-17, focusing specifically on partnerships and collaboration in sustainable development. Stakeholders, in this context refers to employees, customers, suppliers, communities where the activity performed relevant statute operates as implemented Government and non-Government bodies influencing such operation (Freeman, 2020). The theory recognises the necessity of involving multiple stakeholders to advance common objectives, echoing SDG-17's appeal for inclusive partnerships.

Applying the Stakeholder Theory into the notion of SDG-17, Organisations can strategically address their stakeholders needs and manage their expectations better. This strategy increases the impact of partnerships in building trust, transparency and a win-win platform. For instance, one can easily get insights on the sustainability measures already in place and what is needed by stakeholders to better improve our society. This coalition is important for the mobilization of resources and for the longevity of a collaboration (Freeman, 2020). Moreover, it suggests why some organizations may consider individualized rather than collective efforts as much more important. This reflects the potential for a dualism in stakeholder interests and points towards good practice in relationship management between stakeholders.

Resource dependence theory

Resource Dependence Theory (RDT) specifies that organizations rely on external resources out of their periphery which are beyond the control endowment (Barney, 2021). This dependence requires creating relationships and partnerships so that these important resources can be secured. With the context of SDG-17, a goal that centres on through partnerships mobilizing and accessing resources to invest in sustainable development, RDT is particularly relevant. As (Freeman, 2020) conclude in their classic work on organizational dependence, organizations are dependent upon the availability of other entities for those financial, human and technological resources that firms need to complete their SDG-related project.

Through partnerships, organizations minimize their reliance on any one resource provider and in turn improve organization stability and flexibility. This theory adds more weight to the problems from organizations perspective in resource mobilization. When resources are scarce, partnerships face difficulty to remain together underpins the salience of negotiating and resource management capabilities (Barney, 2021). RDT also offers an overarching framework for thinking about technological and innovation partnerships that can help organizations transform to address unfolding issues in the environment, which is consistent with SDG-17.

Therefore, the Stakeholder Theory, as well the Resource Dependence Theory provide perspectives to address mechanisms and impediments of SDG 17 implementation. For example, the Stakeholder Theory advocates for mutual and open-ended

engagement across sectors; whereas the Resource Dependence Theory underscores that alliances are often a matter of strategic need to secure critical resources. In unison, these theories provide a robust theoretical foundation for the current study by unpacking how organisations successfully negotiate their way through sustainable development using collaborative partnerships.

2.8 Gaps in the Literature

While the concurrent literature on SDG-17 in organizations and businesses has focused on progress and challenges, it also highlights significant gaps. The lack of empirical works in the literature that would have determined over a sufficiently long time if partnerships are effective at achieving SDG 17 objectives is striking. The majority of existing research into language-in-education policy functions at the level of short-term outcomes or descriptive case studies, neither providing access to understanding best understood as a sustained impact achieved over. Moreover, the extant literature does not explore as fully or richly the many barriers to good collaborative performance encountered across cultural and economic diversity. Even in studies that recognize these barriers, most do not examine the difficulties of organizations regionally specific or suggest how to overcome them.

The contributions of technology and innovation to encourage SDG-17 partnerships is third-hand. While recognizing the potential of digital tools and innovative practices, it qualitatively examines how these technologies are being met within partnerships recognition exist literature detailing they make their ways into partnership strategies there a need context-specific knowledge about effectiveness. Last but not least, the literature does not pay enough attention to transparency and accountability mechanisms in relations between partners. In this context, though the principles are widely documented, there is a lack of evidence on what practices organizations use to achieve transparency and how those contribute towards SDG activities being more successful. It is therefore instructive to address these gaps in order to create a more nuanced and operationalizable understanding of SDG-17 implementation.

2.9 Conceptual framework

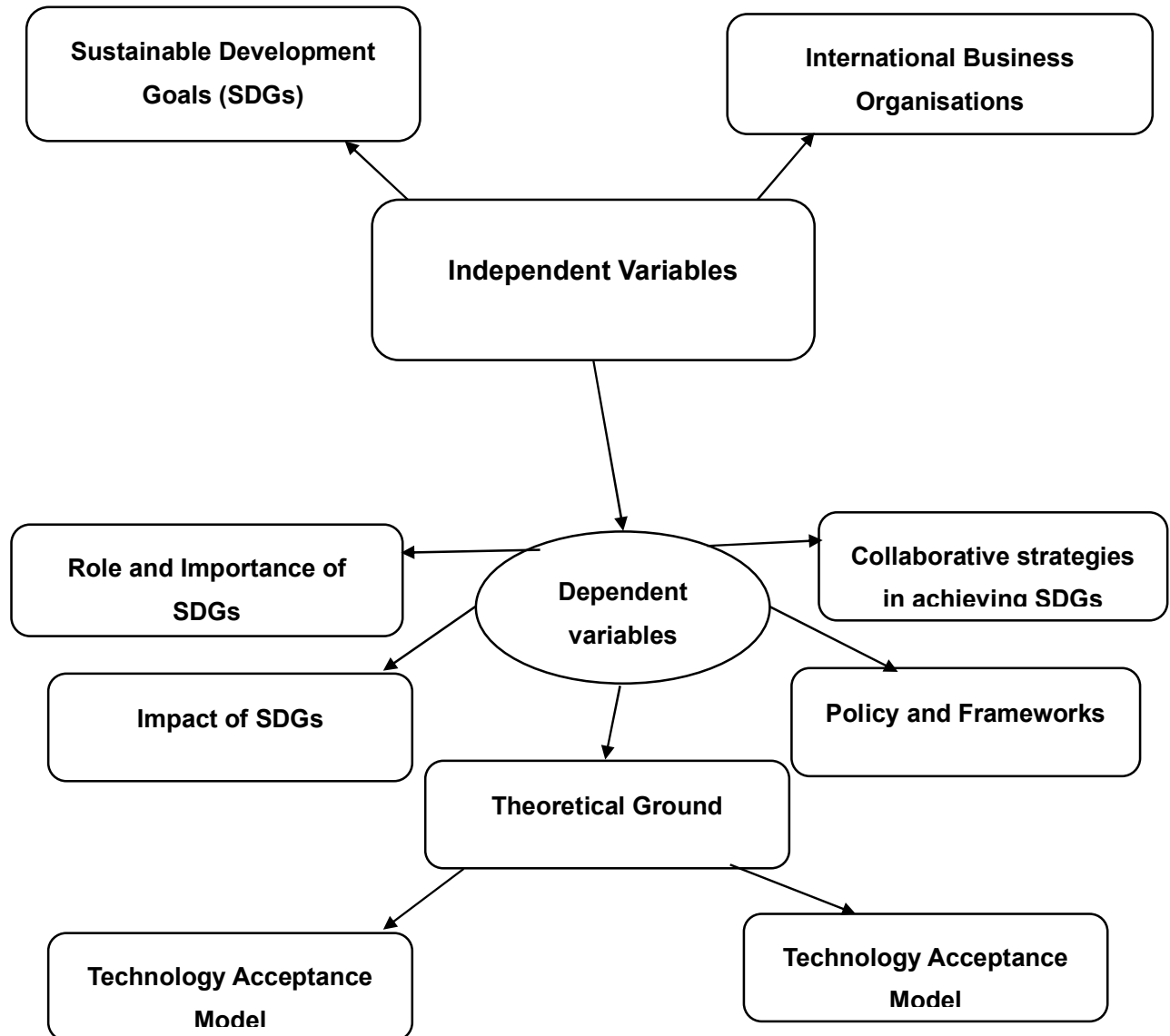


Figure 2.2: Conceptual framework

(Source: Author)

2.10 Summary

The literature review discusses the significance of SDG-17 in supporting sustainable development partnerships and uses stakeholder & resource dependence theories as basic frameworks. Research highlights the need for global, transparent and creative collaboration to realize the SDGs. Nevertheless, areas of need persist such as additional empirical investigation focused on long-term impacts of ownership partnership; barriers at the cross sector level and embedding technology into these efforts. Second, there is little detailed literature on transparency and accountability mechanisms within partnerships. By filling these gaps, the greater effectiveness and understanding of SDG-17 initiatives can enable organizations to cut through that complexity by working together more strategically in moving sustainable development objectives forward.

Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter elaborates on the research method that was used to uncover the influence of SDG-17 regarding business operations and strategies employed by organisations globally, standard issues with adoption and how further approaches including policy frameworks, have supported this endeavour. It details the research philosophy, approach and methodological choice strategy proposed; how data will be collected, processed (or analysed) considering ethical considerations -and indicate any limitation. These elements assure the research objectives and earn trust in the veracity of findings.

3.2 Research Philosophy

The interpretivist philosophy of this research focuses on trying to understand the subjective meanings and social phenomena from their perspectives. Interpretivist perspective is especially advantageous for interrogating how SDG-17 influences the ways in which business operations and strategies are implemented, as their lived experiences/interpretations potentially offer useful details that another paradigm may lack (Alharahsheh, 2020). This philosophy allows the complexities and variations in implementation agency culture to be captured by focusing on how SDG-17 is situated and interpreted within different organisational contexts of practice from the point of view(s) involved. The need for interpretivist philosophy is crucial to this research as it allows an in-depth review of the strategies and barriers related adoption of SDG-17. By knowing the various narratives of industry state holders and extracting those issues, research would be able to find out exactly within each sector that falls under SDG-17. The study was informed by the need to understand conventional obstacles, assess likely avenues and recommend mechanisms in support of adherence to an SDG-17 option which paper this intent.

Finally, research paradigms like positivism and pragmatism were rescinded due to a poor fit for this inquiry. Positivism seeks to explore observable and measurable facts while testing hypotheses through quantitative methods (Alharahsheh, 2020). It is not the best way to systematically and mechanically get at exploring those subjective and interpretative aspects of organisational strategies and barriers related to SDG-17. Likewise, the former was more pragmatic in nature as it looked at both subjective and

objective views. Yet this was considered somewhat inappropriate because here research focuses mainly on why and how experiences of business leaders or experts are interpreted from a subjective viewpoint, rather than just mixing quantitative with qualitative data.

In line with the research aim, an interpretivist perspective fits most aptly to recognise social phenomena as a subjective and inexact process. It enables a deeper explanation how SDG-17 is to be understood and lived in businesses that would guide the practical implementation, with insights regarding strategies as well as hindrances which firms meet. C This guarantees that the research is able to get hold of and understand sufficient depth in addition to richness from the individuals experiences as a result leading into significantly structured familiarity with typically the impact involved with SDG-17 using organisation business technique.

3.3 Research Approach

This research has adopted an inductive approach, which is concerned with building theoretical knowledge by identifying and making sense of patterns or insights gleaned from empirical evidence rather than testing pre-specified (Okoli, 2023). This is especially helpful when studying novel and multi-factorial phenomena such as SDG-17 uptake in a global corporate environment. Given the extent to which businesses are interpreting and implementing SDG-17, the inductive approach that allows data-driven theorising provides a more flexible way of unfolding human actors responses. This would dovetail well with the objectives of our research and so an inductive approach has been followed to probe what strategies were successful, and why some actors did not adopt SDG-17 as per UNDP recommendation. This allows researchers to uncover idiosyncratic patterns and themes that might fall under the radar of more prevalent theories. This will be an important step in developing a more nuanced knowledge on how businesses across sectors and geographies engage with SDG-17. And an inductive approach could help to ensure that the results are more grounded on how participants experience it by keeping attention directly on data and allowing themes appear independently.

Due to the exploratory nature of this research, an inductive approach can be employed as opposed to a deductive methodology testing existing theories and hypotheses (Okoli, 2023). The deductive approach often used predefined frameworks which could

result in a low granularity and support not covering all the complexity of reading behavior. Conclusion The flexibility required to consider multiple influence of SDG-17 on business type and operation, is more carried out in the inductive approach. This research also ensures the exploration of new insights and theories regarding SDG-17 adoption through empirical data. The induction is an approach in which the data leads to conclusions and ensures that the study reflects complexity and nuances of experience. Thus, both are critical for capturing the full impact of SDG-17 on business practices, what strategies businesses employed and hurdles faced during this path.

3.4 Methodological Choice

For this research a mono-method qualitative choice has been preferred by collecting in-depth, quality data to understand the influence of SDG-17 on business operations and strategies. This is a previously wise methodological choice, as it permits in depth and rich data which leads to full description of subjective experiences and strategies associated with the SDG-17 among businesses (Aurini, 2021). Given the complexities and subtleties of organizational practices and related SDG-17 adoption barriers, more appropriate qualitative methods are needed. Furthermore, the mono-method qualitative approach is congruent with our research objectives to provide a nuanced understanding of how firms experience and operationalize SDG-17. With a qualitative approach this research will obtain the fine-grained experiences and perceptions of business leaders and others instead, revealing detailed dynamics over some specific strategies they follow or encounter. This technique is used to ground this research in the realities of those involved and therefore deepens our perception of SDG-17 adoption.

The use of mixed methods and quantitative studies were considered, but some methodological decisions had to be made due the nature of this study. While mixed-methods approaches that augment qualitative data with quantitative may be insufficient for producing the kind of deep insights possible in a purely qualitative design. (Hennink, 2020). Because quantitative modes are engaging research, the discussion of thematic content and individuals was provided more modulation to capture perceivable aspects. Ensuring a single method qualitative approach allows for an in-depth examination of the research area highlighting not only explicit but also tacit details dependent on the determination to provide deep understanding with respect to

how and why businesses implement SDG-17 strategies or what need be overcome at unsuspected level through adoption of it. This could cause the interpretation of results to be more subjective and biased than using a mono-method qualitative approach ensuring that data collected is rich, in-depth and comprehensive explanation of participants experiences. This allows funders to discover new and different approaches unlike those which might be detected from quantitative methods. This methodological approach is crucial for gathering the detailed information required to determine why and when assisted reproductive work in SDG-17 is adopted, providing important lenses that can be applied more broadly throughout this area.

3.5 Research Strategy

This research found that ground theory is effective in structuring a narrative for understanding the impact of Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG-17) on global business operations and strategies. Its qualitative approach facilitates the collection and analysis of data from participants themselves, serving as a basis for real-world theory building (Hennink, 2020). Grounded theory enables the discovery of patterns and themes around implementation in practices within organizations, with a close-up lens on social processes and interactions. Ultimately, this approach also allows for flexibility in how researchers can ask questions based on the participant feedback and growing findings. In this respect grounded theory has enhanced our appreciation of how firms conceptualize and operationalise collaborative partnerships for sustainability, thereby enabling a richer investigation into the problems and possibilities that SDG-17 presents. The adaptive approach which increases the generalizability of these conclusions to an array of organizational contexts.

3.6 Data Collection and Sampling Techniques

This research utilized structured interviews as a primary method of data collection. As they allow you to collect more detailed data and it is consistent between participants (useful when systematic bias might confound interpretation), structured interviews tend to be particularly efficient. In a way, this gives the opportunity to cover what people experiences and sees within SDG-17 in terms of conducting (Aurini, 2021). Structured interviews were planned with business leaders and experts that have been involved in implementation of SDG-17. The study employed a purposive sampling method which focuses on a subpopulation of interest to the researcher. Purposive sampling is a

special form of non-probabilistic sample in which selection of sample participant is based on researchers' assumptions and judgement. On a similar note, the current study has also taken around 7 business people from different organisations & industries around the world who have knowledge about SDG 17 implementation in their organisations. This is why this sampling method has been found optimal as it assisted the study to select participants with specific knowledge about research topic. The rich, detailed data obtained from this convenient type of survey sampling method will lead to a deeper understanding in the participants' experience.

In the structured interview, the researcher used a pre-defined list of questions and were designed to enforce accuracy, thereby ensuring that all participants are asked and respond in an unbiased way [see Appendix A]. Such an approach makes possible systematic research of the participants' experiences, which would lead to great input into strategies and lessons learnt in connection with SDG-17. Interviews were done face-to-face or over online platforms depending on the availability of participants and their preferred methods. Interview data were recorded and transcribed, which allowed to have a precise account of the information collected for thorough examination. The use of structured interviews and purposive sampling also ensures that the data is deep, rich specific to study objectives. This approach provides a rich description of the participants perspectives but also gives unique insights into how SDG-17 will have practical consequences for business and organizational practice.

3.7 Data Analysis Technique

Data collected from the structured interviews were analysed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is especially useful for mapping data patterns and themes in qualitative research, which can facilitate a nuanced exploration of the participants' experiences. (Braun, 2007). This technique implies the coding of data and recognition patterning themes thus offering a systematic procedure to examine research data. Thematic analysis was conducted and followed a systematic approach which included immersion in the data. This included reading and re-reading the interview transcripts to develop a holistic understanding of participant experiences at-variable points. This was followed by coding of the data, where important statements were identified and named. This helped in organizing the data and to find out common themes.



Figure 3.1: Stages of thematic analysis method

(Source: (Braun, 2007))

The related codes were then combined into larger themes, which we reviewed and refined to ensure our ability to map them consistently onto the data. We did this by checking the relationship of themes that they are coherent and salient with in research objectives. The eventual themes were then identified, named and presented in an orderly fashion which represented the data well (Braun, 2007). The thematic analysis shed some light on the strategies and barriers associated with adopting SDGs-17. The study identified patterns and trends among the data, elucidating a full picture of participants. To be specific, the datasets collected from the interview were first familiarised by studying the content. During the study, a set of codes and/or phrases emerging from the patterns in the datasets were identified. By merging those codes and phrases, a set of overarching themes were developed pertinent to the current research objectives. This approach helped to ensure the trustworthiness of results and a rich representation of participant perspectives. In short, with the adoption of the thematic analysis method, results of this research have been analysed systematically and rigorously, ensuring a holistic appreciation of SDG-17 on the business operations and strategies.

3.8 Research Ethics

In this research ethical concern was kept into focus and great strive have given to maintain the credibility and integrity of the study. The research complies with the ethical guidelines and standards, therefore relevant institutional review board approved this. Participatory components were shared to all human subjects and written informed consent was obtained, with the goal of making human subject participants aware that they have been enrolled in research work. Participants were notified that their data would remain confidential and anonymous to ensure the protection of personal information (Aurini, 2021). Data was collected confidentially from the interviews and stored securely with access restricted to members of the research team, ensuring participants' privacy. They were also notified that they could at any time during the study withdraw participation without, consequences. This study contributes to protecting the rights and well-being of participants by addressing ethical issues. This strategy reinforces the reliability and authenticity of a study so that the outcomes are morally based, and dependable.

3.9 Methodological Limitations

This study has some limitations that should be recognized. The main limitation is that a qualitative methodology was used which may limit the generalizability of results. The qualitative data harvested from the structured interviews gives all users a deeper understanding at an individual level of what happened, although does not necessarily represent every business or industry. This restriction suggests that conclusions should be more accurate and could not actually apply to all conditions. There is also the risk of bias in data collection and analysis. Structured interviews are based on self-reports of experiences that, by nature, may be inherently subjective and subject to participant perceptions or biases. Moreover, the final step of thematic analysis is themed formation; as this is part of analysing data, it likely also introduces bias since its from researches interpretation. This was minimized by the fact that this research process would be detailed step-by-step, but it arrives directly and objectively from a rigorous professional processing of data.

Despite these limitations, the study may be useful for understanding how SDG-17 affects business practices and strategies. The results would help the likewise policy makers in grasping and meshing up with business sector interpretation of SDG-17,

challenges they face while putting it into practice as well strategies being shaped. These insights are important to inform interventions that will increase the implementation of SDG-17 across industries.

3.10 Summary

This chapter has provided the detailed approach used in this study to investigate its main question related to how SDG-17 influences business practices and strategies. The study adopts an interpretivist philosophy, inductive approach, mono-method qualitative option and performs a case-study to provide detailed exploration of the research topic. Rich, relevant data are gathered and analysed from structured interviews utilising purposive sampling technique thematically aims to identify the patterns or themes within it. Concerns of ethics and constraints were also allayed to ensure validity within the study. The approach makes an illustrative and useful contribution to the domain showing the influence of SDG-17 on business practices.

Chapter 4: Analysis and Findings

4.1: Introduction

This chapter focuses on analysing the interview responses recorded as a transcript during the primary data collection session. In doing so, this chapter analyses the responses of each participant to highlight their viewpoints. Later on, the implications of their responses with regard to the current research phenomenon are given here.

4.2 Analysis of Interview Responses

Question 1: What are examples of some specific initiatives or programs that your organisation has put in place to foster the desired partnerships for SDGs?

With regard to this question, Participants shared their wide array of interventions illustrating how they are collaborating to achieve SDGs in organisations. For example, Participant A brought up an example of a global partnership platform that literally built and connected an ecosystem of stakeholders globally (e.g. their work with UNICEF around providing clean water access). Meanwhile, Participant B referred to an annual summit that encouraged the sharing of best practices and encouraged new alliances to be formed as a result of a renewable energy partnership. On the other hand, local universities could also play a role in these innovative sustainable solutions through solar irrigation projects, as responded by Participant C. In addition, Participant D adds that a mentorship program linking start-ups with established companies (e.g., their experience working on green tech startups) is the fundamental initiative that his/her organisation has undertaken to foster partnership in achieving SDG 17.

In the meanwhile, Participant E stated that his/her organisation had collaborated with various international organisations (names were undisclosed) to support renewable development such as a wind farm in rural Africa. Unlike all these initiatives, Participant F mentioned that their organisation runs a grant program for combined projects of small enterprises and non-profits, such as the urban cultivation initiative. On the contraParticipant G stated that they have formed a consortium with other organisations to address climate change as evidenced by collaborative ventures intended to reduce the carbon footprint.

From a theoretical perspective, the initiatives outlined by participants, despite being different from each other, align with the collaborative governance model, which

emphasises multi-stakeholder partnerships in addressing complex social and environmental issues. Practically, these partnerships enhance resource mobilisation, knowledge sharing, and innovation, leading to more effective and scalable SDG initiatives. Varieties approaches ranging from mentorship programs to working through coalitions suggest organisations are capitalising on individual strengths in order foster partnerships for the greater good.

The responses suggest a shared dedication to embracing different and creative initiatives aimed at building partnerships. There is a different focus on areas and strategies to target; however, these mostly depend on the context within which their operations take place as well as the capabilities of such an organisation. It illustrates the diversity involved in promoting on-the-ground SDG partnerships. In a nutshell, the findings derived from participants' responses to question 1 highlight not only that successful partnerships for SDGs are contingent upon strategic alignment with an organisation's vision and mission but also flexibility to adapt to varying contexts and stakeholder's diverse needs.

Question 2: When does your organisation prefer the individual to collective sustainability change? If so, why?

All participants' answers regarding this question indicate that their organisations sometimes value individualism more than collectivism. For example, Participant A said that their organisations have been very quick in responding immediately, for instance, they got into eco-friendly packaging. Meanwhile, Participant B pinpointed that their organisation went through their proprietary waste management technology and the niche expertise necessary to execute said business process. In addition, Participant C noted how they have been able to employ resources in-house for quicker turnaround (as witnessed by their higher recent success rates with their internal energy efficiency program). On the other hand, to contribute from a unique perspective, Participant D expounded upon his/her experience of protecting the intellectual property around innovative water purification systems. Conversely, another participant (E) made reference to trying feasibility experiments in pilot programs, such as their vertical farming attempt. Additionally, Participant F's organisations undertake immediate intensive responses such as their emergency disaster response. Lastly, Participant G

commented that his/her organisation preferred smaller projects with measurable results such as their river clean-ups.

From a theoretical perspective, such a preference of individual action can be connected to the resource-based view (RBV) of firms that highlights internal resources and capabilities for competitive benefits. Functionally these individual endeavours enable organisations to move quickly, defend proprietary innovations and accomplish discrete goals without necessary hierarchies of collaboration. However, this method somewhat restricts the range and effectiveness of any sustainability initiatives. When the responses are combined, it is clear that organisations know they need help and will likely use more of it in the future, alongside the understanding that individual action can be as fast or faster than collective actions due to the participation of multiple stakeholders or parties. These other cases usually deal with urgency, specificity in a vague market or industry, ownership of a solution and feasibility-checking action. This balanced approach enables organisations to effectively leverage the strategies that are best suited for each situation. These findings, in a nutshell, suggest that some work will require individual effort to succeed while others seek for collective, which indicates the need for a hybrid approach to reach sustainability targets.

Question 3: How does your organisation get funding from all sorts of unique sources for projects related to the SDG?

This question required participants to share their views on various sources from where they secure funds for running projects related to all SDGs. In this regard, organisations of all participants seem to have relied on varied sources for funding. For instance, Participant A stated that his/her organisation applies for international grants and works with foreign foundations (such as receiving a grant from the Green Climate Fund). Meanwhile, according to Participant B, the way they get funding is through a corporate sponsor or partner, described through their partnership with one of the top tech companies. Moreover, Participant C mentioned that government subsidies and innovation programmes are their primary sources of fundings for their projects. In addition, Participant D has indicated the use of crowdfunding and social impact bonds specifically in relation to their Kickstarter campaign for clean energy as their fundamental source funding. Conversely, Participant E spoke of the possibilities to cooperate with financial institutions to avail green loans, speaking on behalf of an eco-

friendly bank they agreed upon working with. Another participant, namely F, talked about public-private partnerships and SDG investment funds with a collaboration apart from the World Bank. Finally, Participant G discussed philanthropic contributions and sustainability investors such as an investment they just took from a global philanthropy network.

These funding strategies theoretically are consistent with the stakeholder theory which highlights involving multiple stakeholders in acquiring various resources (Freeman 1984). Operationally, having a multitude of funding streams contributes to financial sustainability by mitigating risk and limiting an organisation's reliance on one source, making possible more robust partnerships. In sum, this study implies that mobilising resources successfully for SDG 17-related projects involves alignment with a broad suite of potential funding sources, regular interaction or engagement with local communities and innovative resource strategies.

Question 4: How do your organisation manage to keep getting resources for the long time SDG work your organisation does?

With regard to this question, all participants have actively shared their experiences and strategies utilised for long-term resource mobilisation. To be specific, Participant A underscored the idea of staying with committed stakeholders for extended periods. Meanwhile, Participant B highlighted sustained mobilisation and reporting to advocate ongoing support, which was manifested in their e-newsletters that provided monthly progress updates. On the other hand, diversification of key funding resources, for example, involving multi-year contracts with various foundations, have been noted as the strategy undertaken by Participant C's organisation. Conversely, Participant D emphasised spending plenty of time on their top recurring donors and sponsors by hosting an annual retreat with major supporters, when asked about his organisation's funding sources. However, Participant E discussed his organisation's funding approach that involves smoothing projects to fit the donor's interest, and customising reports for their priority areas, which results in nurturing the donor's satisfaction level, thereby securing funds. Undertaking strategic plans and impact assessments reported annually to stakeholders and gaining their funding support was the fundamentals of the funding strategy adopted by Participant F's organisations. Finally, Participant G

explained that they proved impact by publishing annual reports on measuring their impact and transparent detailed reporting.

In theory, these mechanisms are in line with principles of sustainable finance as they encourage long term strategies, stakeholder involvement and transparent reporting. In practice, these ensure fiscal soundness and lay the groundwork where stakeholders can have trust and show results of initiatives which are key to continued support. The banners of individual strategies can also be seen as signs of changing funding landscapes and stakeholder expectations. The responses allude to a shared priority in stakeholder outreach, and maintaining transparency & accountability towards meaningful outcomes. Additionally, these strategies are necessary to endure when it comes to mobilising resources over a big picture for SDG activities. In sum, the results are consistent with a notion of long-term resource mobilisation in which extensive planning, constant engagement and an array of funding options guide eventual success.

Question 5: Describe briefly the global challenge that you believe will significantly be affected positively by technology and innovation for collaboration.

The purpose of this question was to gather data from participants regarding the challenges that could be mitigated with technology and innovation. Responses from participants followed several courses, for instance, Participant A talked about the climate change challenge and how best to invest in renewable energy resources (with an advocacy of innovative renewable/refurbished energy technologies, for example, solar power initiatives). In addition, Participant B pointed out the food security challenge, which they tackled through smart agriculture and precision farming in collaboration with agri-tech firms. In contrast, Participant C applied to an SDG issue related to clean water access more generally, demonstrated through their robust pilot program for advanced filtration and desalination technologies. Meanwhile, Participant D discussed public health, specifically telemedicine and AI-driven diagnostic tools like their remote health monitoring systems. Participant E, prioritising the education access issue, pointed out the advancement of e-learning platforms and digital classrooms as evidenced by their global education initiative. In the meanwhile, Participant F, with regard to the waste management challenge, has implied the use of smart recycling

and waste-to-energy innovations. Last but not least, Participant G highlighted AI-supported monitoring and data analytic tools related to biodiversity conservation as regards their real-time wildlife monitoring systems.

In theory, these perspectives converge with the technology acceptance model (TAM) insofar as it seeks to explain how users come to adopt and use technology (Davis 1989). In practice, technology and innovation can increase collaboration, making work more efficient and helping overcome the challenging global problems, especially related to SDG 17. This diversity of application in accelerating SDGs is also reflected across different areas. These answers further reinforce the power of technology and innovation with regard to changing nature in driving global responses. Indeed, each participant was cited for a different trend area, reflecting the pervasive and fundamental technological advancement. In a nutshell, the results seem to reveal that technology and innovation play an important role in facilitating collaboration issues for addressing global grand challenges towards achieving SDGs.

Question 6: What has your organisation done to ensure transparency and accountability in its partnership activities?

This question was about the actions undertaken by organisations to improve transparency and accountability in undertaking various partnership activities under the SDG 17. In a nutshell, all participants implied a variety of actions their organisations had taken to establish transparency and accountability. For example, Participant A shared that they report sustainability annually and are getting audited. Regarding Participant B, a quarterly stakeholder meeting to monitor progress and challenges was held. Meanwhile, Participant C mentioned a goal of implementing an open data policy that would make all project data available to the general public. On the other hand, adhering to the notion of technology, Participant D has pointed out the use of blockchain technology to monitor, record and track partnership transactions. Participant E recalled regularly distributed newsletters and public disclosures to inform stakeholders as the primary actions undertaken by their organisations to improve transparency and accountability here. Moreover, Participant F responded that an online portal, which keeps stakeholders in the loop with providing real-time updates, was important to his organisation. Finally, Participant G mentioned his/her

organisation's focus on transparent agreements that can be easily accessed by the public including regular check-ins for accountability.

From a theoretical lens, these measures are consistent with the principles of corporate governance, which involve transparency, accountability and stakeholder engagement. In practice, these methods help stakeholders build confidence, and adhere to regulatory compliance and legitimacy of the partnership. They are also a reflection of the fact that, depending on where it is implemented around the world, different strategies need to be applied according to stakeholder expectations and regulatory environments. The answers come with confirmation of a genuine commitment to transparency and accountability across all organisations; however, every participant cited a variety of strategies, which reinforced the idea that unique actions are required to address specific needs and challenges within specific contexts. In general, the results indicate that transparency and accountability are of prime importance in partnership activities when contributing to SDGs.

Question 7: What makes it difficult for your organisation to be transparent in communication while pursuing SDG 17, and what are the measures taken against the challenges?

This question focused on understanding the challenges/difficulties faced by participants organisations in ensuring transparent communication while pursuing SDGs as well as the strategies undertaken to counter those challenges. Similar to other questions, a variety of responses have been received here. For example, participant A brought up how difficult it is to explain technical information in partnership projects and complexity involved. They have even brought in communication experts to make technical details more digestible. For example, Participant B noted that proprietary information and competitive considerations are sensitive topics. They achieve this by treading a fine line between disclosure and confidentiality. On the other hand, Participant C talked about cultural differences and different expectations between international partners as their organisation's main challenge. This is being addressed through communication protocols and cultural competency training established within their organisations.

On the other hand, one participant (D) rated resources as highly constraining and implied that keeping regular updates was a struggle for their organisation. To counter

this, their organisation undertakes a tech-enabled approach that involves simplifying the reporting process through automation and transitioning to digital platforms, including computer rendering technology for live updates. Furthermore, Participant E reported that the cornerstone of their organisational difficulty in transparent communication was legal/statutory/regulatory limitations. His organisation stepped up this challenge by increasing a heavy participation of legal with the underlying country's administrative system while harmonising transparency. By contrast, Participant F expressed that incomplete sharing of information between partners continued to pose a significant problem for their organisation. Centralised-doing this by centralising all their data management systems. Last but not least, Participant G made a comment on how quickly projects are improved and it is unrealistic to keep the stakeholders up-to-date in real-time. They address this by adopting agile methods and relying on social media to keep track of news in real-time.

These problems and counter solutions seem to be consistent with the theory of communication process that suggests a model of consistency between visible verbal expression and cultural concord. In the meantime practising a way to tackle these troubles is extraordinarily relevant as it will help build trust between stakeholders and compliance performers, which includes further fortifying across actions of an associated enterprise. These challenges and responses illustrate the complexity of transparency in a partnership landscape that includes both positive and negative. The results suggest that organisations find it challenging to be more transparent in communication while achieving SDGs. These approaches range from hiring specialists and automating tasks to employing centralised systems with agile communication techniques. Overall, these results suggest that communicative transparency is malleable to certain pressures and perspectives concerning the SDG practices.

4.3 Summary

Analysis of responses from the participants discloses a complex area concerning operational initiatives strategies and challenges connected to partnerships for SDGs. Diverse approaches indicate the importance of context-specific strategies for different needs. The practices are framed within theoretical perspectives such as collaborative governance, RBV, stakeholder theory, and TAM. At a grounded level, the findings

highlight strategic alignment and flexibilities, stakeholder engagement, transparency of process and accountability as key enablers in progressing SDG 17 outcomes. In sum, the responses from participants have provided valuable inputs for organisations that are seeking modalities to measure their contribution towards SDGs through innovative partnerships.

Chapter 5: Discussions

5.1 Introduction

The aim of this research was to explore the notion of SDGs in a global business context to critically examine its impact, challenges, as well as adoption strategies and supporting policies. In doing so, a primary data collection method was adopted to gather information from seven business people belonging to various industrial organisations across the globe. This chapter presents the key findings obtained from the analysis of interview data that has been made in the prior chapter. This is done by adopting the thematic analysis method to report on research findings through a theme-based presentation pertaining to the stipulated objectives of this research.

5.2 Data Analysis and Presentation of Research Findings

During reviewing the datasets collected from the interview, a set of themes that could sum up the entire data content was developed. Those themes have enabled this study to report on key findings derived from the primary qualitative investigation. The section below brings forth a coherent presentation of key findings under each theme:

Theme 1: Impact of SDG-17 on Business Operations

The integration of SDG-17 in business operations has a significant impact on organisational regular functioning and/or operations, which is the main objective of developing this theme. The primary findings of this study showed that a large proportion of businesses were factoring the desire to meet sustainable development goals into their operational strategies. One prominent change noted is the transition to green initiatives. Many companies are now switching to eco-friendly packaging materials in a measure towards reducing their carbon footprints, which is a key action to be undertaken by organisations as part of their overall sustainable development transition. This not only helps a business achieve some CSR targets, it also plays into an increasing demographic of eco-friendly customers. Additionally, the necessity of collaboration and partnerships to accomplish sustainability objectives are continually being acknowledged within organisations. This has promoted collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders, clearly stating the focus on working together. These days, companies communicate with other states parties, international institutions and arrangements for local communities and universities. By using this partnership model,

they collaboratively tackle any SDG-related issues and achieve the desired results more effectively.

Moreover, organisations have also utilised technology to automate processes and hence ensure sustainability. A key technology has been identified to be digital platforms that help partners communicate and coordinate with each other better. Such technological adoption helps improve the efficiency of operations, while making partnership activities transparent and accountable. Technology could significantly improve the ability of organisations to track progress and report back on their part in those SDGs. Moreover, it has been found that the increased investments in operational changes demanded by SDG-17 practitioners also freshened its connection with different stakeholders. Stakeholder faith and fiduciary tend to be higher in organisations that practise collaboration often. Businesses that show commitment to sustainable development further their own reputation-building efforts and attract partners who share this attitude. This positive impression can translate into longer-term benefits such as market share gains and customer loyalty.

More than a few of the participants reported that, from a financial performance perspective, being part of the effort on SDG-17 has yielded new ways of funding and support. Most collaboration projects tend to land grants and investments from some of the great world partners. This influx of affordable funds allows organisations to scale, and it can be used in any program design. Further, as organisations become increasingly funded for SDG-related projects, they are able to inject capital into this next generation of solutions and achieve better ESG performance overall. But that transition to sustainability is not all plain sailing. These groups maintain that immediacy is paramount in emergent cases, and push for having individuals work more urgently than collaboratively. As much as collective action is important in the for-profit space to mitigate long-term systemic challenges, organisations must be nimble enough to address pressing issues. It is important to find the balance between personal and collective impact.

Therefore, SDG-17 seems to have great implications for business actions, forcing firms to become sustainable in their business operations through collaboration and partnership. By adopting sustainable strategies and encouraging collaborations, businesses can navigate the complexities of today's business world. This not only

improves operational efficiency but also supports a sustainable future by aligning with SDG-17. This helps demonstrate the large positive opportunity now obvious across a lot of verticals as organisations evolve onwards and upward closure by these new paradigms running on legacy software.

Theme 2: Strategies Adopted for Adhering to SDG-17

This theme, addressing the second objective of this research, is concerned with presenting findings that indicate potential strategies/approaches/actions pursued by organisations across the world to adhere to various requirements of SDGs. Based on the primary findings, the current study observes that organisations are gradually beginning to experiment with novel approaches to comply with SDG-17, underlining the imperative of partners in meeting such goals for sustainable development. It has been seen that many organisations set up formal programs and cultivate engagement between all parties. To this end, global partnership platforms are being used to link organisations with governments and NGOs as well as academic institutions. The approach opens up resources and promotes collective understanding with its multi-stakeholder nature. Moreover, some organisations have implied the use of summits, which are annual events where all organisations indicate their actions toward various SDGs and share their success stories. These are great opportunities to meet new contacts and create relationships. This allows organisations to learn from one another and potentially discover areas for collaboration through peer-to-peer discussions. These platforms have led to knowledge and innovation sharing, accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

On the other hand, academic outsourcing has been a promising practice for organisations that want to innovate. University partnerships that grant access to research competence and technical knowledge. For example, cooperation via these technologies on renewable energy or sustainable agriculture has produced new developments in both sectors. Not only does this partnership drive innovation, but it also ensures the solutions are contextualised and relevant. Moreover, the growing use of mentorship programs that link mature companies to start-ups is an emerging way to help SDG compliance. However, bigger organisations can do their part by actively helping young sustainability enterprises through guidance and resources. These initiatives act as a guide for startups and help them overcome problems, raise funds

more effectively, or help accelerate their growth. These types of collaborations build an innovation and entrepreneurial culture, which is in the eyes or lens of SDG.

On the other hand, there are also Grant programs that are specifically designed to fund joint projects between businesses and non-profits organisations. These programs provide funding for local projects to address sustainability issues. By providing an incentive for collaboration, organisations can pool resources and knowledge to address difficu

lt problems. This strategy not only strengthens the effective reach of individual initiatives, but builds lasting relationships. Moreover, rallying some like-minded players in a sector to confront common issues, most notably the climate change issue, has gained traction as an important tactic of global organisations. People are bands together and realising the power behind working in concert to take broader structural level action. The benefits of collaborating on carbon reduction or sustainable sourcing within supply chains are enormous. Organisations can magnify their impact by collaborating together and driving industry standards.

In short, strategic initiatives are necessary for organisations around the world to have a strategic alignment to SDG-17. The way for meaningful implementation and desired outcomes is based on the (strategic) focus of initiatives with respect to SDG-17. Organisations need to know that all their partners are working together in the right direction towards a clearly defined sustainability goal. This really aids accountability and inspires ownership across the teams. The importance of a clear goal and expectation cannot be overstated; it is the backbone of successful collaborations. However, there is an overarching message around the approaches organisations are taking to SDG-17 and that in essence, revolves around collaboration and sustainability. Through collaboration, technology and knowledge organisations are experimenting with ways in which the SDGs can be fulfilled. Collaboration is key The continued focus on collaboration and innovation will be fundamental towards achieving sustainable development across sectors.

Theme 3: Barriers to Adopting SDG-17 Strategies

This theme presents key findings on the various barriers/obstacles/challenges faced by organisations in pursuing their particular SDG-17 related actions and/or strategies. Despite significant progress being made by organisations to pursue strategies that

support SDG-17, many obstacles are still apparent. For example, one of the primary barriers figured out is taking immediate or proactive actions in urgent situations, as organisations sometimes have to immediately respond in urgent situations which is a long process. During a crisis, organisations may be focused on their strategies rather than focusing on collaborative projects. This bias in selecting individual priorities over collective goals leads toward a failure to appreciate opportunities for collective solutions, which go beyond the symptoms towards their systematic causes. The urgency to do something on an immediate basis may squeeze the space for partnerships and working together, which is a fundamental motto of SDG-17. Another typical obstacle noticed is the matter of protecting intellectual property (IP). Companies are often reluctant to share commercially sensitive information with prospective collaborators for the sake of protecting their inventions/intellectual property. Such an unwillingness to reveal crucial information can hinder teamwork, and discourage the sharing of best management practices that can help address the issues outlined under SDG-17. Therefore, protection of IP while undertaking collaborative efforts towards SDG-17 is a typical barrier faced by most organisations, especially those that rely on innovations to accelerate business growth and bolster success.

Securing funding for collaborative projects is a persistent challenge that plagues many organisations. Grants and investments are available almost in every country, however, getting access to them is quite difficult, especially for firms with smaller scale of operations. Enterprises can be limited by this constraint to smaller, sub-scale projects. Moreover, it may also be difficult for organisations to get their goals and expectations in check with potential partners. For collaboration to be of value, there must first be a collective understanding of goals to be achieved as well as the actions to be undertaken. However, creating such an understanding and relationship is muddled by the varying priorities and agendas of all parties. This misalignment creates driver congestion, which subsequently blocks SDG progress due to frustration and inefficiency.

Conversely, organisational resistance to change may slow the adoption of an aligned strategy. There are businesses who perhaps are either unaware of new ways and technologies or reluctant to change their way of operations leaving behind decades of practice. This reluctance can be an obstacle to creating value and it is counterproductive when cooperation in innovation parts. A potential way to break this

barrier is by promoting a culture of adaptability and openness. Moreover, transparency and accountability in partnerships can be limited by communication issues. Good and constant communication builds trust and engages stakeholders in the progress report process. Nevertheless, some organisations may have more trouble communicating openly due to cross-cultural differences and there can be room for confusion over who is responsible for what.

Therefore, in a nutshell, there are multiple levels of barriers to operationalizing legacy approaches from SDG-17. This combines the urgency to act fast on one hand, and its culture of working together towards a shared goal. Successful partnerships require solutions to intellectual property concerns, Resource constraints, misalignment of goals, resistance to change and failure to communicate. Whilst others can be in play the dominant barriers that are preventing businesses from realising their full potential as change agents for the SDGs will generally fall into this spectrum and by resolving these, organisations can unlock the capacity to help deliver a better world.

Theme 4: Supportive Strategies and Policy Frameworks for Enhancing SDG-17 Adoption

This theme focuses on presenting key findings derived from the primary qualitative data analysis regarding the strategies and policies that global firms should undertake to enhance their SDG-17 adoption. The key for any institution to have more and enhanced uptake of SDG-17 is through supportive strategies and policy frameworks. Thus, organisations must develop extensive policies that touch on all of the areas relating to collaboration and harnessing sustainability. These policies should include goals and deliverables, as well as a description of the specific ways in which partners will be engaged. Structured processes enable collaboration and drive accountability for organisations. An essential approach here is to create a culture of innovation and knowledge sharing, which will provide a platform for exchanging ideas and sharing best practices, as well as the learned lessons. This includes workshops, conferences and online forums which allow for conversations among these stakeholders. The promotion of cross-sector partnerships can also improve the sharing process and know-how, improving outcomes relevant to Targeting SDGs.

Moreover, organisations must be active in collaborating with government bodies to gain access to adequate government support at the costing stage. In this regard,

government bodies should provide suitable incentives to encourage businesses to operate sustainably and to engage together in efforts for a sustainable future. To be specific, country-level governments can use financial incentives such as grants, and reductions in tax breaks, for instance, to promote organisational investment more into partnerships and projects supporting SDGs. Governments also can support multi-stakeholder dialogues to develop collaboration models among businesses, nonprofits and public sector actors. Skills development programs are crucial in training organisations with the competencies required to make partnerships work. For example, workshops are likely to provide organisations with partnership management skills and resource mobilisation knowledge as well as communication strategies. In doing so, organisations need to improve their effectiveness at driving successful collaborative efforts and achieving sustainability objectives.

Likewise, the introduction of monitoring systems is crucial in order to observe results from SDG-17 interventions. The key elements to be defined are metrics and markers of progress as well measures of action/steps for progression monitoring by the organisation. Regular timely reporting and transparent communication lead to greater accountability, trust and confidence from the general public. It can ensure that the organisations they support are on a path to sustainability through evaluation. Ultimately, establishing ownership across organisations to catalyse action on SDG 17 is similarly critical. Leaders must promote reward and reinforce partnership, undertaking a collective way of thinking and progression. Another is embedding creativity and innovation within the wide remit of sustainability issues, requiring interdisciplinary teams with varied views. The methodology and policy frameworks also need to be evolved in order to foster SDG-17 among the organisations. The evidence suggests that capacity building investments in collaboration, innovation and nonprofit resourcing would contribute more effectively to sustainable development. Complimenting the fiscal stimulus is a restructuring of trading partners agreements to promulgate optimal incentives engaging with high end global supply chain transformation.

5.3 Discussion of Key Findings

The aim of this study was to explore the notion of SDG 17 in the global business context, covering its significance, adoption challenges, strategies, and policy implications. The findings of the current study derived from the interview data analysis

above show that collaborations promote resource pooling, creativity, and increase in scale. Von Schnurbein (2020), supports this claim by emphasising SDG-17 as an enabler of the remaining SDGs. The review by Zhan and Santos-Paulino (2021) also explains this trend, indicating that partnerships enhance the volume of investment. The findings of both the current study and previously conducted literature review are in agreement that SDG-17 promotes business activities by creating an enabling environment for cooperation and efficiency in resource use. Interviewees explained the measures implemented, including public-private partnerships, the application of technology, and initiatives targeting the community. This corresponds with the strategies outlined in the discussion by Bali Swain and Yang-Wallentin (2020), which advocate for inclusive and creative measures.

However, the current study provides specific steps, such as the use of technology to monitor the extent of each SDG. Such approaches enhance the application of the theoretical strategies. The second matched concept in the literature and interview data is the barriers identified. Funding obstacles, bureaucratic factors, and reliability issues were reported by the interviewees. From the review, this finding is confirmed by Fonseca et al. and Servaes. However, the interview process offers a deeper review by explaining how the barriers manifest among different organizations. The argument by the interviewees is that policy support, stakeholder consultation, and adequate funding are essential. This is a similar view of Okitasari and Katramiz (2022), who suggest comprehensive policies to guide national development decision-making in the direction of SDGs. The confirmation of the interview replies with the existing literature is an indicator of an appropriate ecosystem for implementing SDG-17. Moreover, the interview results, including how to secure funding, are practical approaches that are grounded in a theoretical review.

Despite identifying much consistency in the current research findings in relation with the prior literature review, there are some inconsistencies that cannot be overlooked. Interviewees seemed to stress technology more as a driver for SDG-17 adoption than in the literature. For example, Cruz (2023) notes the role of technology but it is not as emphasized by respondents. This may indicate a current void in the literature with respect to the important role of technology and SDG-17. Transparency issues are also a point of divergence. While Moore and DeFranco (2022) talk about transparency as a border/fence in SDG adoption and associated relationship-building, the present work

offers concrete illustrations that reframe or ease the obstacles of transparency. This involves the transparency of communication through digital platforms, an aspect less present in current related research. After all, the difference is a clear indicator of how strategies aimed at achieving openness have changed over time and that our scholarship needs to be more current in these respects.

The alignment between the current findings and previous literature underscores that to reach SDG 17, partnerships, strategies and supportive frameworks are crucial. Nonetheless, it is possible that the categorizations overall are not capturing everything with complete accuracy and precision regarding where technology fits in exactly as well transparency measures do or could potentially reside. Future research could also investigate how technology continues to impact engagement with SDG-17 while recording promising emerging approaches that have been shown to support transparency in partnerships. In the wider context, this study remains in line with most evidence available and as such contributes to confirming that SDG-17 plays an important role for sustainable development through partnerships. Those are also the types of detailed insights that act as a useful complement to broader discussions because they operationalize barriers and strategies. Nonetheless, discrepancies which are identified further demonstrate that SDG-17 implementation is still greatly contingent on political circumstances and thus open various rooms for possible gaps in the scholarship to address. When added to previous observations, this triangulation validates the current results and explains additional points for future research.

5.4 Summary

Findings presented in this chapter indicate that the integration of SDG-17 influences business functions through environmental responsibility, technological application and collaboration with stakeholders. Organisations also respond with strategies, such as partnering and mentorship initiatives in shared projects to fulfil SDG-17; yet there are valid issues like limited resources & IP sensibility. Overcoming the barriers requires effective communication and can be supported by government training programs. In terms of the adoption for SDG-17, meaningful uptake would depend on accompanying supportive policies and innovation platforms as well as a robust monitoring framework. In short, creating a culture of collaboration and giving the power for it along with

providing resources and incentives have the potential to take global business organisations much closer towards sustainable development goals.

Chapter 6: Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Concluding Remarks

The purpose of this research was to investigate the effect that Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG-17) creates on businesses, strategies that could be employed by organisations in order to comply with SDG-17 as well as barriers and potential supportive mechanisms which exist alongside adoption. These results offer important learnings around how organisations are conceptualising and implementing sustainable development partnerships. As key takeaways, SDG-17 has been found as the most commonly addressed goal that affects all areas of business, promotes partnerships and efficiency in resource use. Speakers noted the need to form strategic partnerships, in particular with respect to public-private engagements towards meeting SDGs. The use of technology was identified as a key enabler for these partnerships allowing better tracking and communication. It was reported from all data that creating awareness about SDG-17 is the biggest challenge because here diversity in opinion and suggestions were seen according to Enablers mentioned above, Barriers (e.g., Funding Issues, Bureaucratic problems etc.) placed everyone on Governments Verdict Table. Yet, companies are striving to innovate their way over and around these barriers in a bid for sustainability. Supportive policy frameworks were also emphasized, consistent with the review finding that they are needed to control and limit demand for BMOs. The organizations also emphasized that effects are likely to be sustained only by stakeholder engagement and funding over time (SDG-17).

In short, this study adds to the current body of knowledge about how organizations manage the complexities regarding meeting SDG-17. Such insights are not only in line with the extant literature but also show important aspects that still remain to be investigated. These results underscore the fluidity of partnerships and discuss that technology can underpin transparency, accountability, setting a sound base for future research/practical

6.2 Limitations of the Study and Direction for Future Research

The following research is highly significant in terms of providing a great revelation concerning the industriousness of SDG-17 within global business organizations. Yet, the findings and its generalization estimates associated with this study should be interpreted within certain limitations. A single major limitation was associated with the small sample size for the interview. To be specific, the interview was mainly held with only seven representatives from different organisations around the world that used to show interest in sustainability decisions. This homogeneity might fail to account for the breadth of organizational perspectives across different industries and regions, on which differences it may in turn be assumed that an SDG-17 lens should necessarily interpret. Therefore, the results may not reflect the broader range of organizational experiences and approaches. Future research can be expanded to include a more diverse sample striving across industries, sizes and localities of organizations. This will enrich the dataset and ensure a holistic approach of how different entities engage to SDG-17.

A second limitation is the use of self-reported data collected during interviews. Although qualitative interviews can provide detailed explanations, they may be influenced by various sources of bias (e.g. social desirability or recall bias). Participants may also lie to themselves for the same exact reason, as lies are better sounding than the truth. Such selection bias might affect the validity and therefore completeness of barriers to, or facilitators for achieving SDG-17 indications. Addressing this limitation in future research will necessitate combining qualitative interviews with larger sample sizes or using mixed methods in observational studies. This approach would allow triangulation of data and strengthen the veracity of our representative results.

The limitations have consequences for the present research. The sample is quite limited, which may result in a very reductionistic view of the challenges and strategies that organizations are applying to implement SDG-17. Further, if data is self-reported by companies, this could make the insights somewhat less credible and challenge drawing too firm a conclusion on how well certain strategies work in practice or SDG-17 helps firms do business. Due to the constraints of the methodology, more extensive and diverse samples will be required for future research employing mixed methods.

Encouraging such an approach will make the discussions on implementation of SDG-17 more nuanced and offer lessons learned from strategies, partnerships for long-term effectiveness sharing, which would enrich sustainable development discourse.

6.3 Recommendations

Global business organisations, for better practical implementation of SDG-17 and countering the various challenges identified from this research, need to take concern over certain strategic recommendations. These recommendations are designed to support collaboration efforts, enhance resource mobilization and increase transparency in communication with the end goal of making sustainable development a core organizational value:

- ***Multi-stakeholder partnership***

The top of the list is building multi-stakeholder partnerships. Public, private, and civil society collaboration is an important element in the achievement of SDG-17. When partnerships are working effectively, organizations can combine resources and learn from each other in a variety of areas. This can involve combining a meeting place, dialogue and engagement platforms for stakeholders at various levels, such as government agencies, non-profits and businesses. These platforms provide a periodical framework for exchange and working together on common sustainability challenges. Developing a partnership culture can ensure that they achieve their SDG-17 potential more effectively, and increase the overall impact of organisations working together.

- ***Resource mobilisation plan***

Organizations must have strong resource mobilization plans. One of the biggest challenge faced with implementing SDG-17 initiatives is access to funding. Navigate new funding landscape: Learn about alternative and innovative financing models eg blended finance, impact investing. They can also partner with financial institutions to raise funds for sustainability projects. A transparent business case for sustainability can also draw investors. Showing that they are about long-term sustainability rather than a cost-saving ploy or greenwashing is crucial. This might include creating more

attract funds and investments; mobilizing worldwide resources for SDG-17 requirements.

- ***Institutional communication***

Institutional communication need to be made more transparent and accountable for fostering trust amongst stakeholders. Ensuring clear communication lines about what they are doing and how well the implementation of SDG-17 on their part will also help. It is vital to report on partnership and sustainability focused key performance indicators (KPIs) regularly. This calls for the organizations to a implementation of open data practices which allows stakeholders ready access relevant information. Transparency can, in turn result it trust and accountability, all of which promote stakeholder engagement and collaboration

- ***Capacity building***

Finally, organisations need to support capacity building and training for staff and stakeholders. To enable implementation, it is important to appreciate the nuances and difficulties involved with SDG-17. They can train their staff to understand the principles of sustainability, partnership strategies and resource mobilization through training programs which in turn builds organizational capacity to implement SGD-17. Moreover, involving stakeholders in capacity-building programs can improve the overall collective knowledge and expertise of sustainability methods. Education partners: Organizations should work with educational organizations and training firms to create programs that are customized for the specific needs of an industry or group doing similar challenge tasks.

Therefore, to implement SDG-17 would require strategic effort in combating the barriers found in this study. Key recommendations include placing multi-stakeholder collaboration as a high priority, enhancing resource mobilization strategies & support mechanisms strengthening transparency & accountability and investing in capacity development. This will enable organizations to work more effectively in addressing and complying with SDG-17 by becoming even more committed thereon through such strategies. Adopting these tips can help the organization in playing its part on a global scale for sustainable development and upliftment of society and environment.

Bibliography

Alharahsheh, H. a. P. A., 2020. A review of key paradigms: Positivism VS interpretivism. *Global Academic Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(3), pp. 39-43..

Ansell, C. S. E. a. T. J., 2022. Co-creation for sustainability: The UN SDGs and the power of local partnerships. In: *Sustainability*. s.l.: Emerald Publishing, p. p. 264.

Aurini, J. H. M. a. H. S., 2021. *The how to of qualitative research*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Sage.

Aurini, J. H. M. a. H. S., 2021. The how to of qualitative research. Newcastle upon Tyne. In: s.l.:Sage, p. 123.

Bäckstrand, K. K. F. a. M. A., 2022. governing SDG Partnerships: The role of institutional capacity, inclusion, and transparency. In: *Partnerships and the sustainable development goals*. Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Bali Swain, R. a. Y.-W. F., 2020. Achieving sustainable development goals: predicaments and strategies. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*, 27(2), pp. 96-106.

Barney, J. B. K. J. D. J. & W. M., 2021. Resource-based theory and the value creation framework. *Journal of Management*, 47(7), pp. 1936-1955.

Beisheim, M. a. F. F., 2022. The UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: An orchestrator, more or less. *Global Policy*, 13(5), pp. 683-693.

Beisheim, M. a. F. F., 2022. The UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: An orchestrator, more or less?.. *Global Polic*, 13(5), pp. 683-693.

Braun, V. a. C. V., 2007. *Thematic analysis*.. Washington, D.C., United States: American Psychological Association..

Bulmer, E. a. Y.-A. B., 2023. Tackling Climate Change through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Promoting SDG 17 to Combat Climate Chang. *Energies*, 16(9), p. 1277.

Bulmer, E. R. M. a. d. I. R. J., 2022. Analysing SDG 17, a critical approach. J.. *Legal Ethical & Regul. Isses*, 3(1), p. 25.

Castillo-Villar, R., 2020. Identifying determinants of CSR implementation on SDG 17 partnerships for the goals. *Cogent Business & Management*, 7(1), p. 1847989.

Cruz, S., 2023. SDG 17 and global partnership for sustainable development: unraveling the rhetoric of collaboration.. *Frontiers in Environmental Scienc*, 11(1), p. 1155828.

Dada, S. W. K. M. J. R. D. a. B. J., 2023. The importance of SDG 17 and equitable partnerships in maximising participation of persons with communication disabilities and their families. *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 25(1), pp. 183-187.

Dzhunushalieva, G. a. T. R., 2024. Roles of innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: A bibliometric analysis. *Journal of Innovation & Knowledge*, 9(2), p. 100472.

Dzhunushalieva, G. a. T. R., 2024. Roles of innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: A bibliometric analysis. *Journal of Innovation & Knowledge*, 9(2), p. 100472..

Eweje, G. S. A. N. S. a. K. K., 2021. Multi-stakeholder partnerships: A catalyst to achieve sustainable development goals.. *Marketing Intelligence & Planning*, 39(2), pp. 186-212.

Fonseca, L. D. J. a. D. A., 2020. Mapping the sustainable development goals relationships. *Sustainability*, 12(8), p. 3359.

Franco, I. a. A. M. (., 2020. SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals: Global Business Networks: Accounting for Sustainability.. *Actioning the Global Goals for Local Impact: Towards Sustainability Science, Policy, Education and Practice*, pp. .275-293.

Frank Biermann, N. K. R. E. K., 2017. Global governance by goal-setting: the novel approach of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, Volume 26-27, pp. 26-31.

Freeman, R. E. P. R. & S. R., 2020. Tensions in stakeholder theory.. *Business & Society*, 59(2), pp. 213-231.

Halkos, G. a. G. E. (., 2021. Where do we stand on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals? An overview on progress. *Economic Analysis and Policy*, 70(3), pp. 94-122.

Hennink, M. H. I. a. B. A., 2020. *Qualitative research methods*. Newcastle upon Tyne: .: Sage.

Hossin, M. A. D. A. H. Y. S. M. L. a. P. B., 2024. Examining public private partnership investment in energy towards achieving sustainable development goal 7 for ASEAN region. . *Scientific Report*, 14(1), p. 16398.

Lindsey, I., 2021. An overview of Sustainable Development Goal 17. *The Routledge Handbook of Sport and Sustainable Development*,, p. 429.

Medina, E. C. F. a. M. A., 2023. Framing Sustainable Supply Chain Finance: how can supply chain sustainability practices and supply chain finance solutions be integrated?. *Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management*, 29(3), p. 100837..

Mensah, J. 2., 2019. Sustainable development: Meaning, history, principles, pillars, and implications for human action: Literature review. *Cogent social sciences*, 5(1), p. 1653531.

Nations, U., 2024. *The 17 Goals*. [Online] Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> [Accessed 25 July 2024].

Nations, U., 2024. *The 17 Goals*. [Online] Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> [Accessed 24 August 2024].

Okoli, C., 2023. Inductive, abductive and deductive theorisin. *International Journal of Management Concepts and Philosophy*, 16(3), pp. 302-316..

Roorda, N., 2020. *Fundamentals of sustainable development*.. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge..

Rozhnova, V. a. B. (., 2021. Analysis and Assessment of the Relationship of Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Human Capital in the Reporting of Large Russian Companies.. *Digital Technologies and Institutions for Sustainable Development*,, p. 299.

Rozhnova, V. a. B., 2021. Analysis and Assessment of the Relationship of Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Human Capital in the Reporting of Large Russian

Companies. *Digital Technologies and Institutions for Sustainable Development*, 12(2), p. 299.

Servaes, J., Cham. The sustainable development goals: A major reboot or just another acronym?.. *The Palgrave handbook of international communication and sustainable development*, 12(5), p. Springer International Publishing..

Starikova, E., 2020. Public–Private Partnership as an instrument to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the developing countries. Public-Private Partnerships in Russia. *Institutional Frameworks and Best Practices*, 55(3), pp. 293-305.

Terzakis, K. a. K. M., 2021. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.. *Policy Brief*, pp. 1-8.

Vassileva, A., 2022. Green Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as an instrument for sustainable development. *Journal of World economy: Transformations & transitions*, 2(5), p. 2.

von Schnurbein, G., 2020. One for all—SDG 17 as a driver to achieve the sustainable development goals. Transitioning to. In: s.l.:s.n., p. 12.

Zhan, J. a. S.-P. A. (., 2021. Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals: Mobilization, channeling, and impact.. *Journal of International Business Policy*,, 4(1), p. 45.

Appendices

Appendix A: Interview questions

1. What are examples of concrete initiatives or programs that your organization has put in place to foster the desired partnerships for SDGs?
2. When does your organization prefer the individual than collective sustainability change? If so, why?
3. How does your organization get funding from all sorts or unique sources for projects related to the SDG?
4. How do your organization manage to keep getting resources for the long time SDG work your organization does?
5. Describe briefly the global challenge that you believe will significantly be affected positively by technology and innovation for collaboration?
6. What has your organisation done to ensure transparency and accountability in its partnership activities?
7. What makes it difficult for your organization to be transparent in communication while persuing SDG 17, and what are the measures taken against the challenges?

Appendix B: Interview transcript

Question 1: What are examples of some specific initiatives or programs that your organization has put in place to foster the desired partnerships for SDGs?

Participant Name	Answer/Response
A	We kicked off a global partnership platform that brings together NGOs, governments and businesses on shared SDG initiatives. An example of this is in our partnership with UNICEF to provide clean water.
B	As part of this, we developed an annual summit to exchange ideas on what works well and areas in which new sustainability partnerships can be formed. The first culminated in a new global initiative on renewable energy.
C	We established a collaboration with local universities to investigate and execute novel sustainable projects such as the solar powered irrigation
D	We created a mentorship programme that pairs startups with what I would call "big brother" companies to work side-by-side on sustainable initiatives - for example our recent partnership between green tech start-ups and large corporates.
E	Our company committed to sponsoring local renewable energy initiatives around the world and signed up with several international organisations, such as this rural African wind farm project.
F	We run a grants programme, which funds collaborative projects between small businesses & non-profits that are working on SDGs - the urban farming project is an example.
G	Along with other companies, we partnered in an association to address climate change more effectively by pooling our resources and sharing information via the affiliation that included reducing our carbon footprint.

Question 2: When does your organization prefer the individual than collective sustainability change? If so, why?

Participant Name	Answer/Response
A	For immediate action, when we have to act quickly, it is better individual activity than collaboration. Our quick switch to eco friendly packaging for example.
B	We believe in prioritizing individual efforts when niche know-how is needed that partners may not have on the onset - example being our specialized waste management technology.
C	An internal energy efficiency program where we act alone, when such is quick and therefore best resource use.
D	In the case of proprietary innovations that protect intellectual property, such as our novel water purification system here we cherry-pick individual efforts.

E	Our interest is in seeing new initiatives emerge first, mostly through pilot projects to prove the concept before inviting partners (like this single vertical farming trial).
F	When immediate action is critical and partners are unavailable, our organization acts alone in its emergency disaster response
G	In small enough (and therefore quickly measurable) projects like our one-person clean-up of local waterways, actions taken by an individual are vested with priority.

Question 3: How does your organization get funding from all sorts or unique sources for projects related to the SDG?

Participant Name	Answer/Response
A	We apply for international grants, and cooperate with foundations specialized in sustainable development. We recently got a grant from the Green Climate Fund.
B	We are funded by corporate sponsorships and industry grants, with a collaboration grant from one of the tech giants.
C	We raise money in the form of government grants or competition rewards, such as winning a national award for sustainable innovation.
D	We make use of crowdfunding and social impact bonds to diversify funding sources for the organization. For instance, our clean energy Kickstarter.
E	This includes our agreement with a bank for green loans and sustainability funds as well.
F	Financing is sourced through public-private partnerships and the creation of dedicated SDG funds, including a new funding agreement with World Bank.
G	We rely on philanthropic and grants organizations, as well as impact venture funding (for our most recent capital raise from a global foundation).

Question 4: How do your organization manage to keep getting resources for the long time SDG work your organization does?

Participant Name	Answer/Response
A	We have long-term relationships with stakeholders that work towards sustainable development goals - like our decade-long collaboration experience working alongside and providing solutions for UN agencies.
B	Part of our strategy is frequent oversight and reporting so that we keep those funding the project engaged, this best practice would be evident in donor update newsletters.

C	We are working to de-silo our funding sources so we have a mixed basket of resources that keeps us steady, for example, securing multi-year contracts under different heads with multiple foundations.
D	We do cultivate major donors and sponsors through things like annual retreats with our top supporters.
E	We need to ensure funding coming in so we are constantly working on our projects, customising reports or tailoring them depending what the donor priorities and interests.
F	Strategic planning and real time impact assessment allows for sustainable mobilisation of resources over the long term as we communicate results annually to all stakeholders.
G	We secure the continuation of resources by providing measurable impact and reporting transparently with our annual publications on Impact Assessment.

Question 5: Describe briefly the global challenge that you believe will significantly be affected positively by technology and innovation for collaboration?

Participant Name	Answer/Response
A	I think climate change. Innovative renewable energy technology can have positive repercussion with climate change impact, such as our solar power program in developing world.
B	Technology can bring food security much closer through smart agriculture and precision farming such as our partnerships with agri-tech companies.
C	By demonstrating our pilot projects in the air region, we will be able to enhance water filtration and desalination technologies leading up to clean drinking water.
D	Telemedicine and AI-driven diagnostic tools including our remote health monitoring systems in rural areas will contribute to an improvement of public health.
E	E-Learning platforms and digital classrooms will contribute to global education access, as supported by our international education for disadvantaged children.
F	There are smart recycling and waste-to-energy innovations which could create a revolution in how sustainable cities promote the circular economy, such as our own project of this kind.
G	Our real-time wildlife monitoring systems, enhanced with AI and data analytics should provide much help for biodiversity conservation.

Question 6: What has your organisation done to ensure transparency and accountability in its partnership activities?

Participant Name	Answer/Response
------------------	-----------------

A	We release an annual sustainability report, tracking our partnership operations and fulfilling the accountability requirements of sharing this information with our common public.
B	Quarterly stakeholder meetings are an opportunity to discuss progress and challenges; in our organization these reflect a culture of respect, where it is safe for anyone to speak the truth.
C	We apply an open data policy for our projects, which enables the public to freely download all project-level datasets thereby increasing transparency.
D	We use blockchain tech for providing information about partnership transactions and their development in the safest manner available, ensuring transparency and accountability
E	Our regular newsletters and public disclosures contribute to transparency in our partnership activities, keeping key stakeholders updated about the progress.
F	We host an online link for transparency where all stakeholders can track the updates of work going on; oh by real-time tracking I meant.
G	These partnerships work through transparent agreements that are open to public scrutiny and they undergo periodic reviews, ensuring accountability.

Question 7: What makes it difficult for your organization to be transparent in communication while pursuing SDG 17, and what are the measures taken against the challenges?

Participant Name	Answer/Response
A	Transparency may be a challenge due to data privacy, but our clear approach with stringent data protection policies and regular audits ensures the desired level of transparency.
B	Difficult regulatory oversight gets in the way of clarity, so we implement continuous compliance audits and lawyer checks.
C	The expectations of stakeholders on an infrastructure project are a challenge, so, we attend this by creating bespoke communication strategies and engaging stakeholders through sessions.
D	The limits of our ability to provide comprehensive transparency and reporting is a resource issue which we tackle by prioritizing the most important needs for transparent information sharing as well as with volunteer work.
E	Partner confidentiality agreements are difficult; however, we navigate this challenge by negotiating transparency clauses where these are deemed to be necessary, and opening communication channels as required.
F	Frequent project changes or task variances could build holes in transparency; hence we provide routine updates to all stakeholders with the help of our automated reporting system.

G	Partnerships are stymied by cultural differences, preventing transparency - this is something we work on through cross-cultural competency development and assorted communication technologies.
---	---