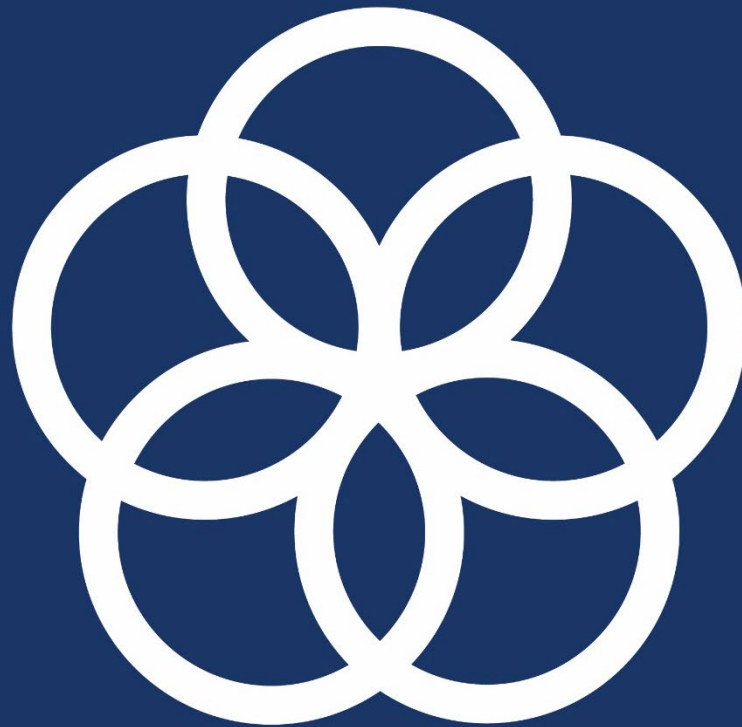# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Moderation Team
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SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Event Description

On **June 21, 2021**, Queen's University hosted its first [17 Rooms](#) event, which brought together Queen's faculty, students, and staff to identify next steps for advancing the [UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](#) at the university.

Participants were divided into 17 virtual rooms, one per SDG, and asked to identify actions **that Queen's University could take in the following 12 to 18 months to advance their specific goal.**

Rooms participants were also asked to identify:

- The most important issues related to their SDG that Queen's should address,
- Connections and common themes amongst these issues,
- How their SDG connects with reconciliation/conciliation, decolonization, and Indigenization,
- How their SDG connects with other SDGs.

Each room had two hours to brainstorm ideas before presenting their recommended actions to all participants. Following the event, each room's moderation team authored a summary report.

Room Participants

Susan Bartels (Moderator)	Kanonhsyonne Janice Hill
John Beal	Praveen Jain
Corrine Beckner	Melinda Knox (Staff Facilitator)
Yolande Chan	James Lavery
Victoria Cosby (Student Facilitator)	Parvin Mousavi (Moderator)
Colleen Davidson	Amaiya Himeka Walters (Student Facilitator)
Morgan Davis	Yuxiang Wang
Hossam Hassanien	Karen Yeates

Discussion

SDG 17 is centered on addressing **decolonization, Indigenization, and anti-racism**. This group's discussions focused on how Queen's University can make meaningful partnerships centered around equity. We should not just decolonize Queen's activities, but also decolonize the ways faculty, staff, and students interact with the broader community.

There are broad benefits from partnerships addressing "wicked ideas" and complex problems and advancing research. A successful SDG agenda requires inclusive global, regional, national, and local partnerships, built upon shared principles and values that place people and the planet at the center.

Much of the group's discussion focused on the value of **mutually beneficial, equitable partnerships** and how to create them. The group emphasized the importance of building and maintaining partnership on a foundation of trust and respect and through equitable exchange of ideas. These relationships take time and effort to create and maintain. Topics discussed ranged from achieving more equity within Queen's to approaching our research and activities from a more equitable standpoint.

The group concluded that **less talking about decolonization and more direct action is needed.** There also need to be financial and educational incentives to encourage partnerships. Due to the broad nature of SDG 17, the group chose to focus on a select group of targets – 17.7, 17.9, 17.16, 17.17 – which are described on the UN Sustainable Development Goals webpage.

Proposed Actions

Room 17 brought together 16 individuals from across Queen's University to discuss approaches to addressing SDG 17. The group identified three areas for action.

Action 1: Develop a set of values for developing and fostering partnerships and embed these into curricula for students, staff, and faculty; adopt practical approaches to the implementation of these values.

We need to understand our goals and objectives for partnerships and how to build effective partnerships. Audit all partnerships at the university to assess their accordance with these identified values.

Action 2: Identify and eliminate cultural, legal, and historical institutional barriers to meaningful partnerships.

There are many partnerships within the university, the community, and internationally which can help address decolonization, but Queen's must be clear about how to use these partnerships to address its goals. It also needs to address its own flaws as an institution and recognize the benefits other communities can offer. Partnerships need to be sustained and efforts need to be measured. How do we determine the success of a partnership?

Action 3: Propose a set of incentives, metrics, or indicators for recognizing and rewarding strong, sustainable, and equitable partnerships, which may differ depending on the partner.

Recognizing the benefits that partnerships bring to research, teaching and learning, how can we encourage and develop partnerships?