INTEGRATED MODELLING TOOLS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SDG STRATEGIES

UNDESA

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Since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, countries have been engaged in outlining important challenges that need to be addressed to improve the wellbeing of current generations without compromising the welfare of generations to come. Most recently, in the outcome document of the "Rio+20" UN Conference it was agreed to establish an Open Working Group to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for consideration as a key element in the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. The 17 SDGs proposed are based on the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development. The road towards sustainable development strategies imposes several challenges to country's development paths. They need to make decisions considering trade-offs and synergies in several aspects/dimensions, i.e. between combinations of policies seeking, inter alia, de-fossilizing energy generation, increasing the efficiency in the use of energy, preserving the environment, social inclusion, poverty eradication, food security, and GDP growth.

Sustainable Development Goals	
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

To support countries in the transition towards a national sustainable development agenda and SDG's strategies through UNDESA's capacity development projects, a science-policy interface is needed to develop an evidence-based assessment to inform policy decisions and strategies. To this purpose, there is currently a diverse host of environmental and energy modelling methodologies that contribute to the evaluation of environmental impacts and climate change scenarios. However, most of the interlinkages and trade-offs between the three pillars of sustainability and SDGs are not covered by existing models. Furthermore, even though there is a wide use of these methodologies in developed countries, their use is still limited in developing countries. These capacities require knowledge innovation systems gathering universities, knowledge centers, research institutions –public, private and social- and diverse forums. It takes time to develop all these, and technologies and know-how transfer is required. Building and transferring capacities can even take the form, in an optimum scenario, of joint generation.

This workshop will bring together experts from diverse knowledge centers and government officials that have participated in UNDESA's capacity development projects to take stock of existing economic, environment and energy integrated methodologies and their strengths and limitations to assess sustainable development and SDG strategies. The main objective of the workshop is to define how to upgrade UNDESA's capacity development projects and tools to more comprehensively incorporate the complexities of tackling the challenges of national sustainable development and SDG country strategies.

The improvement of our capacity development projects and tools aims to help countries discussions and understanding of national sustainable development and their links to nationalized SDGs. More specifically, it should help to: a) inform discussions about global paths towards sustainable development; b) facilitate policy makers' understanding of the challenges that sustainable development policies pose to all countries – developed, developing and least developed countries; c) assist governments in the implementation of in-country capacity development and knowledge generation projects to support decision making on sustainable development policies and the achievement of the SDGs. Furthermore, the workshop seeks to spark a collaborative effort around the construction, continuous improvement and expansion of tools to assess sustainable development in an inclusive institutional and professional framework that adds value to all communities and promotes openness.

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August 26: Assessing existing modelling tools for UNDESA's capacity development project to support SD and SDG national strategies

Welcoming remarks	9:00
Session 1: Sustainable development in countries and the SDGs	9:10
Session 2: Methodologies for national sustainable development strategies	9:40
Session 3: Economic & social tools for national & SDG sustainable development strategies	11:40
Session 4: Integrated and partial sustainability assessments in countries	14:30
Adjourn	17:30

August 27: Integrated assessment tools for national SD and SDG strategies

Session 6: A CLEWS national integrated assessment modelling	9:00
Session 7: Water, land, agriculture, climate, energy integrated assessment and SDGs	10:40
Session 8: Supporting national SD and SDG strategies with the use of modeling tools: country uniqueness and data	14:30
Session 9: Policy relevance of existing modeling tools	16:35
Adjourn	17:30

August 28: Upgrading UNDESA's capacity development projects with integrated assessment tools

Session 10: Assembling a package of tools for capacity development projects	9:00
Session 11: Maintaining up-to-date, friendly and policy-relevant tools	10:40
Session 12: Recapping: lessons from workshop discussions	12:00
Concluding remarks	12:50
Adjourn	13:00