



HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2017

Policy coherence as a means for addressing dilemmas in SDG implementation

Eradicating poverty in all its dimensions, while protecting the planet

A Side Event followed by an interactive learning session

Co-organised by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the OECD

Tuesday 18 July 2017 | 3-6pm | Conference Room 11 | UN Headquarters, New York

CONTEXT

Addressing effectively the integrated and transformative nature of the SDGs, requires new ways of working that transcend policy and institutional silos. Whole-of-government approaches are needed as well as whole-of-society engagement. An effective implementation of the SDGs requires governments and stakeholders to work across sectors, actors, governance levels and timeframes. The first year of the implementation of the SDGs has shown that countries are working to align national strategies, adapt institutional frameworks and shift policies to achieve the SDGs through more inclusive processes. It has also revealed that policy-makers are struggling to manage and leverage linkages among goal areas and to operationalise an integrated implementation of the SDGs with the involvement of all key stakeholders. The experience so far has also shown that the implementation of a universal, integrated and transformative agenda entails multiple policy dilemmas, associated with:

Priority setting and balancing economic, social and environmental demands

- How to shift towards a more sustainable path and greater preservation of natural resources without compromising economic growth or employment?
- What policy areas can have a potentially strong poverty eradication impact?

Balancing short-term and long-term challenges

- A second dilemma stems from the need to ensure an effective balance between the long-term and transformative nature of the SDGs and the short-term challenges that often take priority: How to ensure that the needs of future generations are considered systematically in policy making? How to maintain political commitment beyond electoral cycles?

Bridging the gap between domestic and international implementation

- How to make sure that the greater focus on domestic policy does not come at the expense of international co-operation and resources to eradicate poverty and support sustainable development in poor countries?
- How can countries in the pursuit of the well-being of their citizens avoid negative effects on other countries?

Aligning public and private actions

- How to ensure good business and sustainable development practices?
- How to ensure that quality services in essential sectors such as health are available to all?
- What incentives do businesses have to invest in sustainable development?

Purpose

Against this background, the side event will convene a **high-level panel** of representatives from governments, international organisations, civil society organisations and the business sector to:

- Discuss common challenges involved in national implementation of SDGs, including obstacles to integrated policies for sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- Share and learn on good institutional practices identified to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (SDG 17.14).
- Explore practical ways to maximise synergies and minimise trade-offs across policy domains in implementing the SDGs.

The high-level panel discussion will be followed by an **interactive learning session** to familiarize government planners, desk officers and key stakeholders with the concept of interactions and how it can be applied in the context of national implementation of the SDGs. It will combine presentations with working through simple tools and group discussions.

Thematic focus

The event will focus on the theme of the 2017 HLPF: “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” from a policy coherence perspective. Discussion will put particular attention to the interlinkages among the set of SDGs to be reviewed by the HLPF in 2017:

- Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere);
- Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture);
- Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages);
- Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls);
- Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); and
- Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

At this high-level panel, OECD will introduce the Report [*Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2017: Eradicating Poverty and Enhancing Prosperity*](#).

Expected outcomes

The event will contribute to the High-level Political Forum’s theme by enabling an interactive discussion among key decision makers on country-level experiences and a concrete exchange of ideas and solutions to address the interconnections between the SDGs and achieve mutually-reinforcing policies to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity in a sustainable manner.

Agenda

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

- 3.00-3.03 **Welcoming remarks** by Mr. Doug Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD
- 3.03-3.10 **Introduction** by Ms. Ebba Dohlman, Senior Advisor for PCSD, OECD
- 3.10-3.20 **Keynote remarks** by Mr. Romain Schneider, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- 3.20-4.00 **Panel discussion: How to address interconnected SDGs for eradicating poverty, while protecting the planet?**
- Moderator:
- Mr. Doug Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General of the *OECD*
- Panellists:*
- Mr. Gamini Jayawickrema Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, *Sri Lanka*
 - Mr. Manish Bapna, Vice-President, *World Resources Institute*
 - Mr. Jan Moström, President and CEO of *LKAB Sweden*
 - Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair of *Southern Voice*
- Commentator from UNDESA:*
- Ms. Marion Barthélémy, Director of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management, *UNDESA*
- 4.10-4.20 **Q & A**
- 4.20-4.30 **Final remarks** by Ms. Carole Dieschbourg, Minister for the Environment, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

INTERACTIVE LEARNING SESSION

(Facilitated by Mr. Måns Nilsson, Research Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI)

- 4.30-4.40 Round of introductions by **Mr. Ernesto Soria Morales**, OECD
- 4.40-5.00 Introduction to the SDG interactions framework by **Mr. Måns Nilsson**, SEI
- 5.00-5.40 Learning exercise:
Interpreting SDG targets
Learning the scale
Assigning scores to sample interactions
- 5.40-5.50 Reporting back and discussion about scoring
- 5.50-6.00 Reflections and summing up

Background

The 2030 Agenda emphasises that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combatting inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent. It also underlines that the indivisible and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance in ensuring that the overarching objective of eradicating poverty and putting the world onto a sustainable path by 2030 is realised.

Implementing the SDGs involves understanding and navigating the complex interconnections among goals and targets to effectively capitalise on synergies and manage trade-offs. For example, ending hunger and achieving food security (SDG2) will be inextricably linked to progress in the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG14), given the fact that fish is the primary source of animal protein for about one billion people worldwide, the large majority of whom are poor and food deficient. Conversely, neglecting interactions raises the risk of progress towards one goal occurring at the expense of another. For example, reliance on fossil fuels to expand access to energy (SDG 7) would exacerbate climate change and ocean acidification, undermining progress in climate action (SDG 13) and in ocean conservation (SDG14), as well as contributing to health problems (SDG 3).

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), in collaboration with the International Council for Science (ICSU), has developed a framework and typology for mapping and understanding different types of SDG interactions. As argued in the framework's initial publication¹ this assessment is an essential step in the process of developing more coherent governmental policies. Applying it highlights how targets influence each other; how the achievement of one target may be inextricably linked to, aid or create conditions for the achievement of another target, or alternatively may limit options, clash with or (worst case) make it impossible to reach another target. It further shows how vulnerable the achievement of a target can be to impacts of other targets.

Two pilot applications have already been carried out during 2016 and 2017. First, ICSU and its partner institutions (including IIASA and IRD) have applied the framework to a major global study on four different SDGs: food, health, energy and oceans ([A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation](#)). Second, SEI has applied the framework in a research study on Sweden to understand the systemic effects of how targets influence each other when a comprehensive implementation (all goals) is pursued (submitted to journal in March 2017). This research has already provided the first steps towards a longer-term ambition to develop a user-friendly PCSD tool that enables decision-makers or analysts to explore and analyse systemic effects in practice in order to pursue stronger policy coherence for sustainable development. Based on the existing application and the pilot testing, this can be repeated and applied across countries in support of their policy coherence work.

¹ Nilsson, M.; Griggs, D. and Visbeck, M. 2016. "Map the interactions of Sustainable Development Goals", *Nature*, 534, pp 230-232;