

ECOSOC Integration Segment – Guiding questions for Member States’ input

- 1) What policy integration tools incorporating the different dimensions of sustainable development has your Government used at policy design, decision-making and/or implementation level? Which good practices or lessons could be shared?**

The main coordinating body at the government level is the Government Council for Sustainable Development (its members represent all key stakeholders) chaired by the Prime Minister and the Sustainable Development Unit at the Office of the Government. The Government Council has an advisory role to the Government and issues regular recommendations based on expert work in its nine Expert Committees (socio-economic development, sustainable energy, governance and strategic management, sustainable municipalities, sustainable transport, educating towards sustainability, sustainable ecosystems, external dimension of sustainable development, and indicators for sustainable development).

- 2) Explain the types of institutional framework arrangements that are in place in your country for the successful integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.**

For information on institutional framework please see above.

- 3) Has your Government used innovative policy solutions – including (digital) technology, culture, traditional knowledge, creative combinations of traditional and new knowledge, new development models and strategies, among others – to reduce poverty and advance sustainable development?**

Such approaches will be a part of the long-term development strategy with the title *Czech Republic 2030*, which will serve as the main platform for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and will be submitted to the government by the end of 2016.

- 4) What kind of trade-offs has your Government encountered in the use of innovative policy solutions to advance in objectives that are captured in the 2030 Agenda? Has your Government found room for decreasing those trade-offs and/or enhancing synergies by adopting an integrated approach?**

Czech Republic is currently in the process of analyzing the targets of the Agenda 2030 in order to start a process of selection of the national priorities. The question is therefore premature.

- 5) How do the civil society, academia and the private sector engage in promoting policy integration and the use, dissemination or development of technology for policy decision-making in your country?**

Both civil society and the private sector are currently focusing on selection of their priorities from the Agenda 2030, the civil sector is promoting the Agenda 2030 very actively and with the financial support of the public administration (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Government).

6) Has your Government formed multi-stakeholder partnerships aimed at designing and/or implementing integrated policies and innovative solutions?

The Government Council represents a unique platform in this regard and brings together key stakeholders from the civil society as well as from the business sector. The NGOs have formed a wide coalition of environmental, social, development and gender NGOs and think-tanks which will likely become main partners of the government in promoting the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the civil society.

7) What can the ECOSOC system do to support countries in adapting their policy framework to advance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The UN system needs to build upon the undeniable expertise of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC and of the regional commissions. It should use its existing bodies and mechanisms and promote sharing of experiences, challenges, best practices and lessons learned. The ECOSOC system should better promote national ownership by supporting national institutional mechanisms and development plans that put into practice the integrated nature of the Agenda 2030 and by providing options for the incorporation of the SDGs into national contexts.

While the ECOSOC system has a vast reservoir of knowledge and tools, its close cooperation with other bodies and/or institutions is absolutely crucial for the SDGs implementation process to succeed. The specialized UN organization (ILO, FAO, WHO etc.) are indispensable in the process of adapting policy frameworks to the new Agenda, as well as the OECD, which has undeniably proven its role in effective policymaking.

Although the time horizon of the SDGs seems to be relatively long with the fifteen-year time span of the Agenda 2030, we should be able to look much more ahead and pro-actively plan our work taking into account important global and regional megatrends. Using foresight methods in this respect would be helpful (here the cooperation with the OECD becomes especially useful).

In other words, the key to success lies in 3 Ms:

- 1) **Mindset change:** SDGs are very complex and cannot be seen exclusively through the prism of development cooperation and/or climate change. People have to realize the complexity and fundamental difference to MDGs and COP 21. New players will have to join the club of sustainable development;

- 2) **Mainstreaming the agenda:** We need to reflect the SDGs in all we do. And because both human and financial resources are limited, we need to do it as much as possible within the existing structures. In that context mainstreaming is the key word. It is much more relevant than creating new institutions and bodies;
- 3) **Maintaining coherence:** Coherence of policies will be the challenge, nationally and internationally. Nevertheless, long-term prosperity should outweigh short-term benefits.