From silos to synergies:
Governance and policy coherence tools for implementing the SDGs in an integrated manner

12 July 2019 │ 3-6pm │ Conference Room 5 │ UN Headquarters, New York

BACKGROUND

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involves addressing the complex interconnections among goals and targets to effectively capitalise on synergies, while avoiding costly trade-offs and negative externalities beyond national borders. Realising these synergies depends on the ability to ensure policy coherence. In the absence of appropriate mechanisms for coherence, many positive interactions across the goals can be reversed.

Target 17.14, under SDG 17 on the means of implementation, calls on all countries and stakeholders to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. But this does not happen automatically: it requires organisational support that transcends institutional, policy and societal silos. It also requires a thorough understanding of the development contexts of vulnerable populations, and the underlying factors that hinder the impact effectiveness of development policies. Well-established frameworks and tools can be used to explore linkages across policy areas, evaluate trade-offs and assess impacts and consequences of policy options. Such a framework can also foster dialogue and engage civil society and other key stakeholders at regional, national and local level in the decision-making process.

To this end, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and the Millennium Institute have joined forces to organise a learning session to share key research findings, locally-sourced data and tools that can offer support for policy makers and key stakeholders involved in SDG implementation.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the learning session is to build capacities for enhancing policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs. After the session, participants will be able to:

- Define successful methodologies and factors for applying policy coherence to a real-life multi-stakeholder policy making context;

- Utilise analytical tools to examine institutional and governance mechanisms, and identify strengths and areas for improvement in light of good practices, and to simulate the impacts of individual SDG policies

- Integrate local data into analytical tools to improve effectiveness of coherent policies;

- Analyse the impact of SDG policies and combinations of policies at national or regional level, under business-as-usual or alternative scenarios.

This learning session draws on research and tools developed by OECD, GNDR and The Millennium Institute.

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TRAINING FORMAT

This learning consist of two parts:

1) During the first part, participants will learn from concrete experiences in promoting policy coherence in a multi-stakeholder environment for the implementation of the SDGs. They will also learn from experts about available methodologies, emerging tools and data sets, which are helping governments and other key stakeholders to break policy silos.

2) During the second part, participants will engage in a hands-on exercise where they will learn how to apply the various methodologies, tools and data presented to improve policies and policy-making processes as well as organisational structures, and to identify mechanisms which can help achieve the SDGs in a more integrated and coherent manner.

AGENDA

Opening:

- **Introduction:** *Policy coherence for empowering people, and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*
- **Presentation:** *Measuring progress on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (SDG17.14) at the global level,* by UN Environment

Panel. Translating policy coherence into action: exchange of good practices and lessons learnt.
Experiences from government representatives and civil society from Finland, Luxembourg, Mexico, Indonesia and others.

Presentation: Building a framework for enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development.

- OECD Online PCSD Toolkit
- GNDR Coherence Cookbook and *Views from the Frontline* 2019 dataset
- MI iSDG Toolkit

Hands-on exercise: utilising the tools + Reflections from the exercise
Summing up and conclusion

AUDIENCE

This session will be open to all registered HLPF participants.

This training course is hosted by the OECD as part of the HLPF SDGs Learning, Training & Practice co-organised by UNDESA and UNITAR during 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC (9-18 July 2019).