Tracking Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

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Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

• Key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the SDGs
• There is no universally agreed definition for PCSD
• HLPF considers progress on this on a regular basis
• Country reporting varies
• Use of indicators key
• VNRs are sources of information on progress being made
Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data
UNEP has opted for a composite indicator to measure progress on PCSD.
Indicator methodology

• Between different levels of government (local to national);

• Across key government ministries, departments and agencies and across sectors and themes;

• Between national and international policy and across national boundaries;

• In terms of promoting a long-term vision and coherence across political mandates.
Indicators

Eight building blocks

i) mobilizing whole-of-government action;
ii) balancing economic, environmental, and social concerns;
iii) reconciling short- and long-term priorities;
iv) addressing potential negative impacts of domestic policies beyond borders;
v) ensuring coordinated and mutually supporting efforts across sectors;
vi) involving subnational and local levels of government;
vii) engaging key stakeholders beyond the government; and
viii) using monitoring and reporting systems to inform coherent policy-making.
Indicator - Domains

- Institutionalization of Political Commitment
- Long-term considerations in decision-making
- Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination
- Participatory processes
- Policy linkages
- Alignment across government levels
- Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence
- Financing for policy coherence
Notes: 0) Not applicable; 1) Not in place; 2) Building Block under development; 3) In place, not implemented; 4) In place, partly implemented; 5) In place, functioning.
Tracking progress

Monitoring policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) will require consideration of three key elements:

i) institutional mechanisms;

ii) policy interactions, including contextual factors; and

iii) policy effects
Institutional Mechanisms
- Political Commitment
- Long-term vision
- Policy integration
- Coordination
- Subnational engagement
- Stakeholder engagement
- Analysis of policy effects
- Monitoring systems, analysis and reporting

Policy Interactions
- Across Sectors
  - Policy Objectives
  - Policy Inputs and Outputs
  - Policy Outcomes
  - Instruments

- Across governance levels
  - International
  - National
  - Subnational

- Across Actors
  - Governments
  - International organisations
  - Business & industry
  - Civil society

Policy Effects
- Effects on wellbeing ("here and now")
- Transboundary effects ("elsewhere")
- Inter-generational effects ("later")

Coherence

Structures, processes and working methods
Policy design and formulation
Policy implementation
Evaluation

OECD, 2018
A composite indicator

Considering the complexity of the concept of policy coherence for sustainable development and the multitude of possible mechanisms that can enhance it, UNEP has opted for a composite indicator to measure progress on this issue in consultation with external experts.
Indicator domains

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UNEP Handbook

• 83 examples, including eight short case studies, from 38 countries and four international organizations.

• Self-assessment tool for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 17.14.1
Key considerations

Supporting reporting through VNRs

Developing national capacities

Moving PCSD discussions beyond SDGs for increased focus and impact