Launch of the Global Community of Practice on SDG 17.14.1 on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Online, Tuesday, 15 November 2022, 17−18:30 EAT

<u>Introduction</u>

In 2015, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the aim to put the world on path towards a healthy, prosperous and equitable future. Among these intrinsically integrated and indivisible SDGs, SDG 17 strives to "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development". SDG 17 has 19 targets and 25 indicators, including SDG target 17.14 on "Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development", with indicator 17.14.1 on "Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development".

As the custodian agency for this indicator, along with 25 environment-related indicators, UNEP spearheaded the development of the methodology to measure progress on this indicator in cooperation with various experts and organizations. As a result, in 2020, the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG) upgraded SDG 17.14.1 from Tier 3[1] to Tier 2, which means "Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries". UNEP conducted the first data collection on SDG 17.14.1 in 2021, but only 27 out of 197 UN Member States provided data on whether they have mechanisms in place to enhance PCSD. The longer-term goal for UNEP is to further upgrade the indicator to Tier 1.[2]

The proposed global Community of Practice on SDG indicator 17.14.1 aims to contribute to increasing data collection response rate by refining the methodology and further disseminating its uptake by Member States. Further, the Community of Practice aims to enable countries to share best practices and challenges encountered in their efforts to achieve policy coherence for sustainable development at the national level. Additional consideration will be given to bridging the gap between the existence of mechanisms that promote policy coherence and actual effectiveness of policy coherence as well as to ensuring that policy coherence contributes meaningfully to achieving sustainable development.

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[1] "No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested." Currently, the global indicator framework does not contain any Tier 3 indicators.
[2] "Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant."

Modality

The Community of Practice (CoP) will be open-ended to the representatives of Member States and relevant to major groups and stakeholders. Moderated by UNEP in close collaboration with OECD, the CoP will convene virtually on a quarterly basis, and a physical meeting may be organized as necessary. (See Box 1 for the expected, outcomes and results of the CoP).

Programme for the launch of CoP (virtual, 90 minutes)

Moderated by Javier Neme, Science-Policy Unit, Latin America and Caribbean Office, UNEP

- Opening remarks by **Mamadou Kane, Deputy Chief, Environmental Governance and Conventions Branch, Law Division, UNEP**

- Remarks by **Ernesto Soria Morales, Team Leader, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, Public Governance Directorate, OECD**

- Keynote presentation by **Louis Meuleman, Founder/Director, Public Strategy for Sustainable Development**

- Presentation by **Rafael Monge, Director, National GeoEnvironmental Information Center, Costa Rica**

- Presentation by **Francesca De Crescenzo, Ministry for Environment and Energy Security, Italy**

- Remarks by **Fabien Tondel, Policy Officer, Learning and Quality, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)**

- Discussion on participant's expectations on CoP and key deliverables

- Concluding remarks by UNEP

- Concluding remarks by OECD

Invitations to the CoP launch will be sent to the national focal points who receive UNEP's data collection request on SDG 17.14.1, as well as those who are in the OECD Network of Focal Points on PCSD. Relevant expects and civil society representatives will also be invited.

Expected activities and outputs

- A global multi-stakeholder Community of Practice on PCSD created, with peer-to-peer learning functions.
- The methodology for SDG indicator 17.14.1 refined.
- Best practices on PCSD compiled and disseminated, including through the review of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) presented at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- Region-specific challenges in promoting PCSD identified.
- Technical guidance developed on integrating PCSD considerations into common country analyses and cooperation frameworks in the context of the UN development system reform.

Expected outcomes

- Enhanced understanding by Member States and relevant stakeholders of the methodology on SDG 17.14.1.
- Incorporation of PCSD into common country analyses and cooperation frameworks.
- Member States find it easier to collect data on this indicator and a greater number of Member States respond to UNEP's biennial data drive.
- SDG 17.14.1 is reclassified to Tier 1.

Expected results

- More systematic efforts are made by Member States to enhance PCSD.
- Synergies achieved and trade-offs minimized in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Other ongoing activities related to PCSD

OECD
With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the OECD has aligned its approaches to policy coherence with the principles and nature of the 2030 Agenda. In 2019, The OECD Council adopted the revised Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Through its dedicated programme of work on PCSD, the OECD works with Members and partner countries to: (i) develop guidance, evidence-based analysis and tools to promote and track progress on good institutional practices for policy coherence; (ii) foster policy dialogue, exchange of experiences and peer-learning about governance and policy coherence challenges in advancing the SDGs; and (iii) deliver targeted country support, including through projects tailored to specific needs of countries as well as online courses and online tools for practitioners. OECD also organizes the informal network of National Focal Points for Policy Coherence. In 2022, OECD contributed to the development of Italy's National Action Plan for PCSD, and launched the OECD Knowledge Platform on PCSD .

UN System Staff College (UNSSC)
UNSSC organizes moderated online courses on PCSD, in coordination with the National University of Singapore acting through its Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Hertie School – The University of Governance in Berlin, and in collaboration with the OECD, including the online course on "Policy coherence and systems thinking for sustainable development" from 3 October to 4 November 2022.

UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
In collaboration with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), UNTAR offers several massive open online courses on PCSD, including "Integrated recovery planning and policy coherence towards the Sustainable Development Goals". With UNEP, UNITAR offers a course on "Environmental SDG indicators", with a module on SDG 17.14.1.

Europe-based organizations, such as the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM, think tank based in Maastricht), Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (PS4SD, think tank based in Brussels) and CONCORD, the European Confederation of NGOs working on sustainable development and international cooperation, are also active on PSCD issues.