Indicator 17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

Therese El Gemayel
Sophia Groll
Training on policy coherence

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

to which the indicator corresponds

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

Indicator 17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

UN environment programme

Rationale

What is the indicator about

Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development is important for:

- achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced and integrated manner;

- ensuring coherence between policies at various levels of government; and
- ensuring that policies in different sectors are mutually supportive and do not work against each other.
- It is also important in addressing the impacts of domestic policy internationally.
- Policy coherence aims, as a minimum, to identify trade-offs and mitigate negative impacts between policies.

At a more ambitious level, it should also aim to foster synergies and produce policies that mutually reinforce each other, and to ensure that policies put in place are implementable and sustainable as they are inclusive of the concerned stakeholders' perspectives.

UN
environment
programme

Why is this indicator important for SDG 17?

- This indicator will help in leading coherent policy development.

- Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development is important for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions: *economic, social and environmental*

- NOV 2022 –On 15th November 2022, UNEP launched in cooperation with OECD a global Community of Practice on the SDG indicator 17.14.1 on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

- Eight Benefits of Promoting PCSD and Measuring Progress can be found at LouisMeuleman-LaunchCoP_PCSD_15-11-2022

UN
environment
programme

Definitions

Policy Coherence of Sustainable Development has been interpreted as the coherence between policies in general that cover the dimensions of sustainable development. This indicator is a composite indicator which covers mechanisms related to

1. Institutionalization of Political Commitment
2. Long-term considerations in decision-making
3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination
4. Participatory processes
5. Policy linkages
6. Alignment across government levels
7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence
8. Financing for policy coherence

UN environment programme

Methodology (1/3)

Resources

Supporting countries to achieve policy coherence

Information on SDG Indicator 17.14.1 (Tier II):

- 17.14.1 [Metadata](#)
- 17.14.1 [Methodology](#)
- 17.14.1 Data

Partners:

- Law Division (UNEP)
- [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)](#)
- [Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Division and Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)'s Governance and Public Administration team](#)

UN environment programme

Methodology (2/3)

Sample Scoring System

Theme	Domain	Points	National Score
1. Institutionalized political commitment	Political commitment expressed/endorsed by the highest level	5	
	Additional specific commitments (1 point each, maximum of 5 points): • Set timelines for the achievement of policy coherence objectives; • A dedicated budget; • Defined roles and responsibilities; • Regular reporting mechanism; • Explicit consideration of international commitments; • Other nationally relevant commitment.	5	
2. Long-term considerations	Long-term objectives going beyond the current electoral cycle included in national strategies	5	
	Additional specific mechanisms (1 point each, maximum of 5 points): • A commissioner, council or ombudsperson for future generations; • Other mechanisms of scrutiny or oversight on possible future effects; • Mechanisms for regular appraisal of policies; • Impact assessment mechanisms; and • Other nationally relevant factors.	5	
3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination	National mechanism for regular coordination	5	
	Additional elements (maximum of 5 points): • A mandate to make decisions regarding trade-offs (2 points); • Coordination body is convened by a centralized government body (1 point); • Coordination at both political level and technical level (1 point); • Mandate for aligning internal and external policies (1 point); • Other nationally relevant mechanism (1 point).	5	
4. Participatory processes	Relevant stakeholders are consulted at the early stages of development of laws, policies, plans, etc.	5	
	Additional elements (scored as follows): • Consultations take place in a comprehensive manner at various stages of the policy cycle (1 point); • Institutions disclose the rationale for not including inputs from consultations (2 points); • An accountability mechanism that allows public intervention (2 points).	5	

- UNEP has developed a composite indicator framework for SDG 17.14.1 based on initial research on existing work, literature, partners and existing indicators on similar issues.

- This indicator includes 8 domains.

- Each is scored on a 0–10-point scale.

UN environment programme

Methodology (3/3)

Sample Scoring System (cont.)

	A mechanism for assessing and addressing issues in terms of the contribution of a policy (new or existing) to broader sustainable development, including transboundary elements.	5	
5. Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development, assessment of policy effects and linkages	Additional mechanisms (1 point each, maximum of 5 points): • The application of the above mechanisms at all levels of government; • An indicator framework for tracking policy effectiveness towards sustainable development; • Cost-benefit analysis of policy impacts across all sectors; • The identification of measures to mitigate potentially negative effects and to optimize synergies as part of policy and planning; • The consideration of international spill-overs, such as cross-border and international impacts; and • Other nationally relevant mechanisms.	5	
6. Consultation and coordination across government levels	Any of following mechanisms (5 points each, 10 points total – two mechanisms are enough for 10 points): • Mechanisms to systematically collect the inputs of sub-national government entities; • Arrangements for regular formal exchange between central government and subnational levels; • Mechanisms to ensure enhance substantive coherence (templates & checklists); • Planning cycle timeframes that facilitate alignment.	10	
7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence	Monitoring and evaluation framework for policy coherence for sustainable development.	5	
	Aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development are integrated into reporting processes.	2	
	Data and information management system for sustainable development data.	3	
8. Financial resources and tools	Any of following (5 points each, 10 points total): • Check-lists to ensure that plans and budgets reflect policy coherence for sustainable development; • Integrated financial information systems; • Mechanisms to ensure that cooperation funds are aligned with national policies and priorities; • Additional points for mechanisms that could promote alignment between internal and external policy coherence.	10	
TOTAL		80	Sum
Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (%)		$\frac{Sum}{80} \times 100\%$	

- The percentage of points out of the total 80 points is then computed for each country.
- It is recommended that Governments convene a stakeholder group for self-scoring.
- This table can be used for scoring.
- Full details are in the document "Methodology for SDG-indicator 17.14.1: Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development".

UN environment programme

Data release (1/3)

Data sources

- Data are provided by national governments, including entities responsible for SDG implementation.

- Data are collected through a Government Survey (self-scoring by Governments according to the above table).

- First data collection scheduled in early 2021. Biennially thereafter.

- First reporting cycle in 2021. Biennially thereafter.

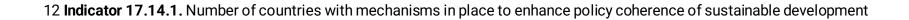- Data are compiled by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UN
environment
programme

Data release (2/3)

Data validation

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) carries out data validation procedures and contact countries for clarification if needed.

UN
environment
programme

Limitations

- There are many mechanisms that could be useful to assess at the national level which would be relevant to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

- This methodology aims to provide a basis for countries to engage in discussions around what policy coherence means at the national level and how it could be improved.

- Such discussions and strategies to improve policy coherence that may results from it could feed into a country Voluntary National Review (VNR) or National Development Strategy or Plan development, to inform further efforts by the country to improve its ability to implement Agenda 2030 through better policy coherence.

- This document should be considered a living document which is regularly updated with the country experiences in putting in place and assessing mechanisms for policy coherence.

- These experiences, and related challenges, lessons learned and solutions, can be shared so that UNEP as custodian agency, with partners, can further refine this methodology and disseminated it not only as a tool to enable effective reporting but also to support national efforts toward policy coherence.

UN environment programme

Access the indicator and resources

SDG Indicators Database
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database

World Environment Situation Room
Data, Information and Knowledge on the Environment

National Scorecard
Assists UN Country Teams and national stakeholders in their Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the SDG Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

UN
environment
programme

Thank you

UN environment programme

SDG and Environment Statistics Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division:
Ekaterina Poleshchuk: ekaterina.poleshchuk@un.org
Dany Ghafari: dany.ghafari@un.org
Therese El Gemayel : elgemayel@un.org

www.unep.org