

# Domain 1: Institutionalized political commitment

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

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# Introduction (1/3)

## Definition

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*The country has institutionalized its commitment to policy coherence for sustainable development at the highest political central/federal level*

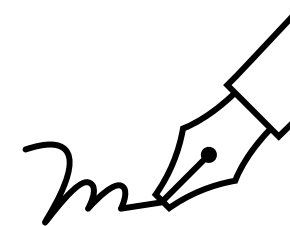


# Introduction (2/3)

## Implementation

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- Can be expressed through a **written explicit commitment** contained in a legal framework or official policy, strategy, vision or action plan or other government



## Introduction (3/3)

Why is the institutionalization of political commitment to policy coherence important?

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- Essential for instilling a **culture of policy coherence** and guiding action to achieve it at all levels of government
- Enables the **institutional reforms** that might be necessary for the establishment of new or the enhancement of existing mechanisms to promote policy coherence



# Computing the value (1/2)

Main indicator (worth 5 points)

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Political commitment expressed/endorsed by the highest level

# Country example

Kyrgyzstan



- Since 2015: Coordination Committee on adaptation, implementation and monitoring in relation to the SDGs
  - Works under the direct responsibility of the Prime Minister
  - Brings together relevant ministries and government agencies, the parliament, the Office of the Government (also acts as secretariat), the Supreme Court and other national institutions, along with representatives of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector

Has there been political commitment expressed/endorsed by the highest level in your government?

# Computing the value (2/2)

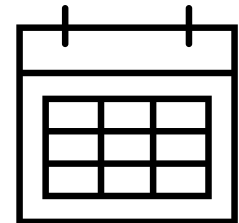
Additional specific commitments (worth 1 point each, up to a maximum of 5 points)

- 1.1 Set timelines for the achievement of policy coherence objectives
- 1.2 A dedicated budget
- 1.3 Defined roles and responsibilities
- 1.4 Regular reporting mechanism
- 1.5 Explicit consideration of international commitments
- 1.6 Other nationally relevant commitment

# 1.1 Set timelines for the achievement of policy coherence objectives

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- Elaborate coordination mechanisms at the highest level may not be sufficient to attain policy coherence for sustainable development
- It may be useful to determine **specific actions**, integrated into a strategy or a separate action plan





# 1.1 Set timelines for the achievement of policy coherence objectives

Country example: Germany



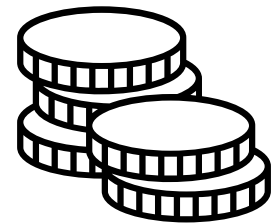
- National Sustainable Development Strategy with particular reference to SDG target 17.14
  - Various policy areas have been bundled together to achieve greater coherence
  - Coordinators for Sustainable Development appointed in all ministries
- However, *no further concrete action explicitly mentioned* in the 2021 update

Has your country set timelines for the achievement of policy coherence objectives?

## 1.2 A dedicated budget

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- Indication of **political priority**, which in itself may also accelerate concrete action
- Helps to act flexibly and quickly and to provide a tailored response when opportunities to push for more coherence emerge



## 1.2 A dedicated budget

Country example: Norway

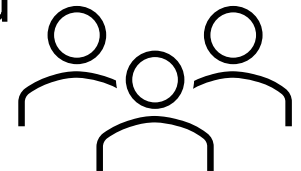


- Ministry of Finance is responsible for coordinated budget to foster implementation of the SDGs
  - Assigns each goal to a coordinating ministry that must cooperate with other ministries
  - Progress reports are compiled by the Ministry of Finance and submitted to the parliament as part of the annual national budget White Paper

Does your country have a dedicated budget for implementing policy coherence?

## 1.3 Defined roles and responsibilities

- The designation of a **contact point** within a government is a way to make visible the ambitions
- A contact point can also perform the following functions:
  - Mailbox
  - Meeting place
  - Convenor of conversations on how to deal with practical and political obstacles



# 1.3 Defined roles and responsibilities

Country example: Italy



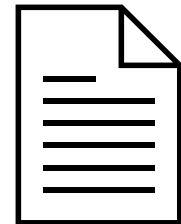
- Since 2019: A new government unit to support the Prime Minister in coordinating government policies on sustainable development
- Purpose, amongst others:
  - To coordinate and monitor the specific activities of the ministries
  - To promote the coordination and integration of national and local plans, programmes and strategies
  - To coordinate the process of harmonization of the indicators on well-being and quality of life with the SDGs

Did your government appoint defined roles and responsibilities among national officials?

## 1.4 Regular reporting mechanism

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- Another way to make **ambitions visible**
- Reporting frequency is a crucial factor
  - Balance between too little pressure and overburdening



# 1.4 Regular reporting mechanism

Country example: Kenya



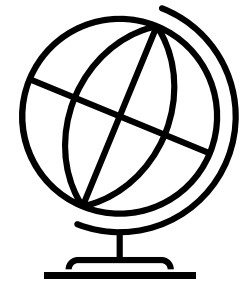
- The SDGs have been included in performance-contracting guidelines at the subnational level as a weighted area in the performance matrix
- County officers are required to demonstrate how they have mainstreamed the SDGs into their plans, strategies, activities, projects and programmes as a measure of performance
- Greater focus on implementation of the SDGs at the county level

Does your country have regular reporting mechanism?

## 1.5 Explicit consideration of international commitments

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- May be self-evident in developing countries that have relations with donor countries
  - Not the case in many of the donor countries themselves
- **Can be made mandatory** in a national sustainable development strategy or plan





# 1.5 Explicit consideration of international commitments

Country example: Greece



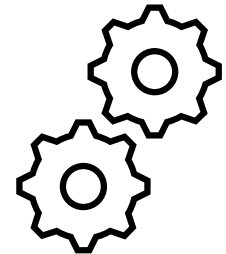
- The Government of Greece underlines the need for a more effective, coherent and rule-based multilateral system that respects the principles of sustainable development
- Greece already engages in cross-boundary environmental protection
  - E.g. as part of trilateral efforts with Cyprus and Egypt relating to SDG 14, to address jointly marine pollution incidents, coastal erosion, coastal zone management and biological biodiversity

Does your country have explicit consideration of international commitments?

## 1.6 Another nationally relevant commitment

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- Including the involvement of **supreme audit institutions**



## 1.6 Another nationally relevant commitment

Country example: Kenya



- In 2018, the Office of the Auditor General undertook an audit of Kenya's preparedness to implement the SDGs, including an examination of policy coherence and integration
- Conclusions:
  - Implementation of Kenya's Road Map to the SDGs was facing financial and human resource constraints
  - There were deficiencies in funding and delays in setting up coordination committees

Does your country have other nationally relevant commitment?

# Thank you



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

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United Nations Avenue, Gigiri  
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)