**Consultation on SDG Indicator 17.14.1: Policy Coherence Mechanisms**

**Nairobi, Kenya**

**Lord Erroll, 89 Ruaka Road, Gigiri**

**9th January 2020**

**Agenda**

**Background**

In September 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit adopted a new framework to guide development efforts between 2015 and 2030, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development”. The 2030 Agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), divided into 169 targets, which are informed by 244 Indicators. Sustainable Development Goal 17 covers partnerships and means of implementation to achieve the goals. In this respect, mechanisms for policy coherence are identified as an important aspect of means of implementation with **Indicator 17.14.1** measuring the **“number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development”.**

Promoting policy coherence for sustainable development is important in several ways, including for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced and integrated manner; for ensuring coherence between policies at various levels of government; and for 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.

The development of indicators takes place under the umbrella of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), which currently classifies indicator 17.14.1 as a Tier III indicator, which means it does not yet have an internationally recognized methodology. The Indicator is under the custodianship of UN Environment. As part of this responsibility as custodian agency, it is tasked with leading the methodological development of the indicator, as well as overseeing the data collection and reporting process up to 2030.

To support the development of the methodology, UN Environment established an International Expert Group, comprised of experts from relevant UN agencies, national governments, research organisations, and academia/individual experts.

The Group has developed a draft methodology for the indicator which attempts to capture the various types of policy coherence. The mechanisms put in place to achieve the above may take different forms, in terms of their structures, processes and actors involved. The main types of policy coherence mechanisms identified by the group are captured in the following table:

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| **1. Institutionalization of Political Commitment** | **3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination** | **5. Policy linkages** | **7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence** |
| The country has institutionalized its commitment towards policy coherence for sustainable development at the highest political level. | The country has an institutional mechanism in place that periodically brings together relevant ministries and governmental entities to enhance coherence across sustainable development related policies including sectoral policies. | The country has mechanisms in place to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development and systematically assess the policy effects and cross-sectoral linkages throughout the policy and planning processes. | The country has mechanisms in place to systematically monitor and evaluate the effects of policies on the various dimensions of sustainable development as well as cross-sectoral impacts, and to report and inform adaptive action. |
| **2. Long-term considerations in decision-making** | **4. Participatory processes** | **6. Alignment across government levels** | **8. Financing for policy coherence** |
| The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that long-term considerations are integrated into decision-making, policy development and planning | The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that laws, policies, plans, programmes, and major development projects at different levels of government and including at the overarching/general, sectoral and local level are developed through participatory processes that involve relevant stakeholders. | The country has mechanisms in place for aligning priorities, policies and plans between various levels of government. | The country has mechanisms in place to promote the alignment of private and public finance to policy coherence objectives and to track related expenditures |

The methodology attempts to capture the main types of policy coherence mechanisms, so that governments may assess and report on the mechanisms already in place and aim to establish any that are missing that they deem useful to further enhance policy coherence. A guidance note on each type of mechanism provides guidance in doing so, presenting examples of existing mechanisms put in place by member states globally as inspiration of the kinds of mechanisms that have proved successful, and that may serve as useful models for others. The Expert Group also identified elements that contribute to the effectiveness of each mechanisms, and a weighted scoring system for reporting towards Indicator 17.14.1.

**Next steps and workshop objectives**

The next step on the methodology development is to test the draft with a sample of members states to receive feedback on its acceptability, applicability, and any feedback to incorporate before its finalization and submission to the IAEG-SDGs. In this respect, UN Environment would like to pilot test the draft methodology with a sample of governments.

The piloting could take the form of a one-day workshop with a mixture of sessions in plenary and group exercises to present the draft methodology and attempt to apply it to the national context in order to:

* Identify the various policy coherence mechanisms that exist nationally, and how/whether they fit into the list of 8 types of mechanisms identified by the International Expert Group
* Assess whether any types of policy coherence mechanisms are missing from the methodology, or whether the methodology is unable to account for existing policy coherence mechanisms
* Apply the weighting system in practice and determine its suitability and usefulness to member states
* Examine the usefulness of the guidance notes and examples/case studies for member states
* Identify any challenges for member states in applying the methodology

The workshop would ideally be attended by several central government offices and line ministries/ departments that would hold information on potential policy coherence mechanisms established at the national and sub-national levels in order to ensure coherence in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, plans, programmes and projects. This could include central offices responsible for ensuring coordination across government institutions and across different government levels such as the President’s Office, Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant line ministries. This workshop could be followed by bilateral consultations with key national institutions, including the institution likely to be appointed to monitor and report on the indicator on behalf of the government.

Following the piloting in several member states, the methodology will be further refined by the International Expert Group in order to take into account the feedback received, before its finalization and submission to the IAEG-SDG during the second half of 2019.

**Timetable:**

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| **Time:** | **Agenda Item:** |  |
| 9:00-9:30 | Welcome and introductions | **Diane Klaimi**  **Jillian Campbell**  **Kenyan counterpart.** |
| 9:30-10:15 | Introduction: The SDGs process, role of the custodian agencies and overview of Indicator 17.14.1 | **Yannis Derbali** |
| ***Coffee break (15 mins)*** | |  |
| 10:30-12:30 | 1. Institutionalised political commitment  2. Long-term considerations underpin decision-making on sustainable development  3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination  4. Participatory processes | **Yannis Derbali** |
| ***Lunch (1 hour)*** | |  |
| 13:30-15:30 | 5. Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development, assessment of policy effects and linkages  6. Consultation and coordination across government levels  7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence  8. Financial resources and tools | **Yannis Derbali** |
| ***Coffee break (30 mins)*** | |  |
| 16:00-16:45 | Additional feedback on the overall indicator Framework and discussion on application of the methodology nationally (responsible institution/s) and methodological considerations (data collection methods, frequency) | **Yannis Derbali** |
| 16:45-17:15 | Conclusions and closing remarks | **Diane Klaimi** |