



SDG 17.14.1 Sub Indicator Framework (5th April 2019)

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1. Institutionalization of political commitment

Summary	The country has institutionalized its commitment towards policy coherence for sustainable development at the highest political level.
Description	The institutionalization of political commitment at the highest political level can be expressed through an explicit commitment towards enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development in the public institutions and their working modalities contained in a legal framework or official policy, strategy, vision or action plan or other government document on sustainable development.
Rationale	Institutionalized political commitment is likely to promote policy coherence for sustainable development by instilling a culture of policy coherence and guiding action towards it at all levels of government. Political commitment at the highest political level is likely to trigger the establishment and/or the enhancement of other mechanisms that advance policy coherence, including those reflected in this indicator framework.
Source/Mean of verification	National law or strategy or other official document endorsed by the government appearing in official Gazette / Bulletin / Journal or other government recognized official source.
Value	<p>Total value: 10 points</p> <p>Political commitment expressed/endorsed by the highest level of government at national level applying to the whole government. (5 points).</p> <p>Additional points relate to the presence of elements contributing to the effectiveness of the mechanism. A stronger degree of commitment could be demonstrated if the political commitment expressed by the country was complemented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set timelines for the achievement of policy coherence objectives (1 point); • A dedicated budget (1 point);



Clarification notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined roles and responsibilities (1 point); • A requirement for a regular reporting mechanism (parliament, central office of the government, public, etc.) (1 point); • Explicit consideration of international commitments (1 point).
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2. Long-term considerations in decision-making

Summary	The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that long-term considerations are integrated in decision-making, policy development and planning.
Description	<p>This sub-indicator identifies whether the country has mechanisms in place to ensure that decision-making, policy development and planning follow objectives that are long-term, i.e. span beyond the current electoral cycle, and consider the interests of future generations.</p> <p>This can be expressed through a combination of having long-term goals and the interests of future generations embedded in national legal or strategic frameworks that apply to the whole of government, with assessment and oversight mechanisms that aim to ensure that these goals and interests are considered in decision making and planning.</p>
Rationale	The aim of the mechanism is to ensure that public decision-making, policy-making and policy implementation are informed by the consideration of long-term effects on the three dimensions of sustainable development, rather than only focusing on short terms gains or problems and take into account the interests of future generations.
Source/Mean of verification	National law or strategy endorsed by the government appearing in official Gazette / Bulletin / Journal or other government recognized official source.
Value	<p>Total value: 10 points</p> <p>Long-term objectives going beyond the current electoral cycle, and the interests of future generations embedded in the national sustainable development strategy or policy framework. (5 points)</p> <p>Additional points relate to the presence of mechanisms that could further instill a culture of long termism and intergenerational equity in decision-making. These could include the following (non-exhaustive list) (5 points for one or a combination of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commissioner or ombudsperson for future generations; • Other mechanisms of scrutiny or oversight over the possible effects on future generations of policies or legislation (e.g. auditing mechanisms); • Mechanisms for regular appraisal of policies to ensure that unanticipated effects are integrated over time; • Impact assessment mechanisms that take into account intergenerational effects of major infrastructural developments.



3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination

Summary	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.
Description	<p>This sub-indicator aims to assess whether the country has in place a mechanism to facilitate inter-sectoral dialogue to ensure coherence across the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) in all policy-making and planning, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bringing together ministries or other governmental entities that are the most relevant to sustainable development at national level on a regular basis and/or at crucial policy-making and planning stages; or • having a specific central coordination body mandated with sustainable development.
Rationale	The aim of the mechanism is to facilitate inter sectoral dialogue which in turn will ensure coherence across the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) in all policy-making and planning. This mechanism should also enable the government to periodically address and mitigate the impact of policies in one sector on another sector to the extent possible and address the trade-offs examined. It should enable the government to align existing development strategies, plans or roadmaps with the Sustainable Development Goals and work towards coherence among different sectoral policies/planning frameworks.
Source/Mean of verification	Official document establishing the mechanism appearing in official Gazette/Bulleting/Journal or other government recognized official source.
Value	<p>Total value: 10 points</p> <p>Mechanism for regular coordination established at the national level and bringing together governmental entities and [ideally] other stakeholders such as civil society, academia and private sector representatives, to facilitate information sharing and consultation among different ministries/sectors (5 points).</p> <p>Elements that would strengthen the mechanism by contributing to its effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mandate to make decisions regarding trade-offs (2 points); • Convened by a centralized government body such as the Office of the Prime Minister or President or other relevant national governmental entity such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Planning, Interior Affairs, Development etc. (1 point); • Representation and coordination at both political/strategic level and technical level, to ensure political commitment and its translation into action and alignment between the two levels (1 point); • A mandate to promote alignment of internal and external policies including through the involvement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (or equivalent bodies) (1 point).



4. Participatory Processes

Summary	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.
Description	<p>This sub-indicator aims to assess whether the country has in place mechanisms for the consultation and the integration of the concerns expressed by the stakeholders potentially affected by or having an interest in a law, policy, plan, programme or major development project at different levels of government and including at the overarching/general, sectoral and local level.</p> <p>The mechanism can take various forms, but as a minimum it should be institutionalized through a formal requirement that stakeholders are consulted. The way in which consultations are to take place may vary, and could include (non-exhaustive list): the early publishing and invitation for written feedback; public hearings; poll/public opinion surveys, etc.</p>
Rationale	<p>Participatory processes allow for inputs from all stakeholders which in turn ensures that various angles, interests and concerns are taken into consideration early in the decision making, planning and policy making cycles, which in turn is likely to prevent and mitigate potential negative impacts and to foster a balanced consideration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.</p> <p>Participatory processes provide an opportunity to promote buy-in and support from key stakeholders and partners, which is likely to enhance implementation and compliance and can foster better coherence and synergies in the implementation of sustainable development initiatives by different stakeholders.</p> <p>For consultation mechanisms to be effective, the forms of participation need to be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of the relevant stakeholders, who need to be empowered to participate.</p>
Source/Mean of verification	Official document establishing the mechanism (e.g. law, decree, guidance documents, etc.), appearing in official Gazette/Bulletin/Journal or other government recognized source
Value	<p>Total value: 10 points</p> <p>Requirement that relevant stakeholders are consulted at the early stages of development of laws, policies, plans, programmes and major development projects at different levels of government and including at the overarching/general, sectoral and local level, accompanied with the requirement for a reasonable timeframe for information and participation of relevant stakeholders and other procedural standards to make participation effective (5 points).</p> <p>Elements that would strengthen the mechanism by contributing to its effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations mandated to take place at various stages of the policy cycle, i.e. not only during policy development but also at implementation, evaluation, and revision stages (1 point);



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions are required to disclose the rationale for taking or not taking into account inputs from consultations (2 points); • An accountability mechanism that allows public intervention such as petitioning and subsequent review regarding sustainable development related policies (2 points).
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5. Policy Linkages: Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development and assessment of policy effects and cross-sectoral linkages

Summary	<p>The country has mechanisms in place that allow relevant public institutions to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development and systematically assess the policy effects and cross-sectoral linkages throughout the policy and planning processes.</p>
Description	<p>Mechanisms could include specific legal provisions, guidelines, mandates, assessment tools and coordination mechanisms throughout the entire policy and planning process at all levels of government. These mechanisms should apply to policy and planning at both national and subnational levels and should address domestic as well as international effects and linkages.</p> <p>Mechanisms may take several forms, including one or a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal requirement that every new policy at all levels of government is accompanied by an ex-ante assessment of its contribution to all three dimensions of sustainable development and of its impact on other policies and other sectors; • The inclusion in planning templates or checklists at all levels of government of the need for ex-ante assessment of how all three dimensions of sustainable development are considered and of cross-sectoral impacts of the plan; • A system for the ex-post assessment of the contribution of policies or plans to all three dimensions of sustainable development and of their cross-sectoral impacts and for consideration of the findings in future policy making; • A mechanism bringing together relevant sectoral representatives, for example through a cross-sectoral task force, to regularly review the potential or actual effects of given policies and plans and advise on corrective action. <p>More ambitious mechanisms would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full cost-benefit analysis of policy impacts across all sectors; the identification of measures to mitigate potentially negative effects and to optimize synergies; • The consideration of international spill-overs, such as cross-border and international impacts; • The inclusion of indicators related to the implementation of policies or plans that track progress towards all three dimensions of sustainable development, cross-sectoral effects and the implementation of mitigation measures;



<p style="text-align: center;">Rationale</p>	<p>The 2030 Agenda commits the global community to “achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions—economic, social and environmental—in a balanced and integrated manner”.</p> <p>The aim of the mechanism is to ensure that economic, social and environmental goals and targets are pursued in a balanced way, and that policies are aligned, so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade-offs are understood and inform decision-making; • Potentially negative impacts are identified and mitigated to the extent possible; and • Positive linkages are optimized. <p>Policies, plans, programmes and projects are often developed in silos. This can lead to a policy in one sector negatively impacting a policy in another sector, policies in different sectors inadvertently competing over the same natural resources, or policies or plans that primarily address a problem of an economic, or social or environmental nature and do not consider the other dimensions. Similarly, action to address one specific sustainable development goal may be taken without consideration of the other goals.</p> <p>Mechanisms for assessing policy effects and cross-sectoral linkages allow, to the extent possible, to ensure that potential negative impacts are prevented and mitigated, and potential positive synergies optimized, and thus that policies in different sectors are coherent amongst themselves. Conversely, without adequate collaboration, opportunities to harness positive cross-sectoral linkages may be missed. For example, outputs from one sector, currently considered waste, could serve as a useful input to another sector. Further, such mechanisms would ensure that cross-cutting issues, such as gender or health, are mainstreamed into all sectoral policies</p>
	<p>Source/Mean of verification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and planning guidelines, templates or checklists • Official documents establishing formal cross-sectoral policy/planning task force or collaboration mechanisms.
	<p>Value</p> <p>Total value: 10 points</p> <p>Either or a combination of the following (5 points):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement that every new policy includes or is accompanied by an ex-ante assessment of its contribution to all three dimensions of sustainable development and of its impact on other policies and cross-sectoral impacts; • Planning templates or checklists requiring an ex ante assessment of how all three dimensions of sustainable development are considered and of cross-sectoral impacts; • A system for the ex-post assessment of the contribution of policies or plans to all three dimensions of sustainable development and cross-sectoral impacts to inform future policy making; • A mechanism bringing together relevant sectoral representatives for example through a cross-sectoral task force to regularly review the potential or actual effects of given policies and plans and advise on corrective action. <p>Additional points related to elements that would strengthen the effectiveness of the mechanism:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application of the above mechanisms at all levels of government, i.e. national and subnational (1 point); • The establishment of indicators related to the implementation of policies or plans that track progress towards all three dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of mitigation measures (1 point); • A full cost-benefit analysis of policy impacts across all sectors included as part of the ex ante assessments related to new policies or plans (1 point); • The identification of measures to mitigate potentially negative effects and to optimize synergies as part of policy and planning (1 point); • The consideration of international spill-overs, such as cross-border and international impacts (1 point).
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6. Alignment across government levels

Summary	The country has mechanisms in place for aligning priorities, policies and plans between various levels of government.
Description	<p>These mechanisms could take various forms, including one or a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and coordination mechanisms to systematically collect the inputs of sub-national government entities and the consideration of their priorities in national policy and strategy formulation and planning processes and to integrate national priorities into the subnational policies, plans and programmes; • Contractual or other institutional arrangements for regular formal exchange between central government and subnational levels of government for systematic consultation, collaboration, and alignment of efforts; • Mechanisms to ensure substantive coherence such as policy or planning and budgeting templates or checklists that require demonstration of alignment between sub-national and national level policies before validation and budget allocation; • Planning cycle timeframes that facilitate the alignment of national and sub-national plans, or systems that allow for the regular review of plans, policies, regulations and programmes to facilitate such alignment.
Rationale	<p>The aim of this mechanism is to ensure that policies, plans, and programmes at all levels of government (national and sub-national) are aligned and mutually supportive, and do not contradict or work against each other.</p> <p>In the absence of such alignment, key aspects of national strategies or plans may not be adequately implemented at the sub-national or local levels, or vice versa may not take into account the reality and priorities on the ground.</p>
Source/Mean of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional provision, national law or decree establishing one of the mechanisms above appearing in official Gazette / Bulletin / Journal or other government recognized official source • Government endorsed planning guidelines, templates or checklists.
Value	<p>Total value: 10 points</p> <p>Either of the following mechanism (5 points) or a combination of them (10 points):</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and coordination mechanisms to systematically collect the inputs of sub-national government entities and the consideration of their priorities in national policy, strategy formulation and planning processes and to integrate national priorities into the subnational policies, plans and programmes; • Contractual or other institutional arrangements for regular formal exchange between central government and subnational levels of government for systematic consultation, collaboration, and alignment of efforts; • Mechanisms to ensure substantive coherence such as policy or planning and budgeting templates or checklists that require demonstration of alignment between sub-national and national level policies before validation and budget allocation; • Planning cycle timeframes that facilitate the alignment of national and sub-national plans, or systems that allow for the regular review of plans, policies, regulations and programmes to facilitate such alignment.
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7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence

Summary	<p>The country has mechanisms in place to systematically monitor and evaluate the effects of policies on the various dimensions of sustainable development and cross-sectoral impacts, and to report and inform adaptive action.</p>
Description	<p>This mechanism could be expressed through a requirement that the effects of policies on the various dimensions of sustainable development and cross-sectoral impacts are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis using specific indicators and that the findings are used to inform adaptive action to ensure that such action is coherent.</p> <p>Such a mechanism would be strengthened by the requirement that aspects of policy coherence are integrated into reporting of government entities to the Parliament and to the public.</p> <p>Further, policy coherence would be strengthened if decision making was informed by sets of coherent data, and therefore an accompanying mechanism could be the existence of tools and information management systems that facilitate availability, accessibility and comparability of centralized and harmonized data on the various dimensions of sustainable development, as well as harmonized data within each dimension (for example harmonized environmental data that allow for comparing information on climate and biodiversity and chemicals, or for comparing information on various aspects of biodiversity, would inform more coherent decisions).</p>



<p>Rationale</p>	<p>The aim of the mechanism is to allow policy makers to track progress, through specific indicators, in terms of coherence/incoherence of existing policies and to enable corrective action to promote better coherence. Progress towards policy coherence may be assessed in a variety of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced contribution of policies to the three dimensions of sustainable development; • Coherence between sectoral policies and their effects. <p>To further promote coherent policy making, countries could put in place reporting mechanisms which would enhance transparency and accountability to the public and would enable and empower public feedback and action to further promote coherence. Further, countries could put in place systems to facilitate availability, accessibility and comparability of centralized and harmonized data on the various dimensions of sustainable development, as well as harmonized data within each dimension, to enable well-informed and coherent action.</p>
<p>Source/Mean of verification</p>	<p>Law or other government endorsed official document establishing the requirement to monitor and evaluate /report on policy coherence aspects into report, appearing in official Gazette / Bulletin / Journal or other government recognized official source; Evidence of existence and use of information management systems</p>
<p>Value</p>	<p>Total points: 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal requirement that the effects of policies on the various dimensions of sustainable development and cross-sectoral impacts are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis using specific indicators and that the findings are used to inform adaptive action to ensure that such action is coherent (5 points); • Requirement that aspects of policy coherence are integrated into reporting of government entities to the Parliament and to the public (2 points); • Existence and usage of tools and information management systems that facilitate availability, accessibility and comparability of centralized and harmonized data on sustainable development (3 points).



8. Financing for policy coherence

Summary	The country has mechanisms in place to promote the alignment of private and public finance to policy coherence objectives and to track related expenditures.
Description	<p>Mechanisms may take several forms, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-lists to ensure that plans and budgets reflect aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development before validation and budget allocation, at all government levels; • Integrated financial information systems, including the use of budget codes, to facilitate tracking, reporting and informed decisions on resource allocation at all levels of government or public expenditure reviews that are tagged to the various dimensions of sustainable development; • A requirement that cooperation funds are aligned with national policies and priorities of both donors and recipients.
Rationale	<p>The aim of this mechanism is to track allocations and expenditure promoting policy coherence, such as contributions to all three dimensions of sustainable development, consideration of cross-sectoral impacts and the alignment across government levels. It also aims to ensure that funds from different sources are coherent with national policies and priorities.</p> <p>Further, to ensure coherence between internal and external priorities, countries could put in place mechanisms to ensure that cooperation funds are aligned with national policies and priorities of both donors and recipients.</p>
Source/Mean of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and budgeting check-lists; • Public expenditure review systems; • Financial information management systems; • National cooperation/funding strategies; • Official documents setting up centralized funds.
Value	<p>Total value: 10 points</p> <p>One or a combination of the following (5 points):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-lists to ensure that plans and budgets reflect aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development before validation and budget allocation, at all government levels; • Integrated financial information systems, including the use of budget codes, to facilitate tracking, reporting and informed decisions on resource allocation at all levels of government or public expenditure reviews that are tagged to the various dimensions of sustainable development. <p>Additional points for mechanisms that could promote alignment between internal and external policy coherence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms to ensure that cooperation funds are aligned with national policies and priorities of both donors and recipients (5 points).

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SDG 17.14.1 Composite Indicator Framework: Mechanisms to enhance Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (version of 5/04/2019)

1. Institutionalization of political commitment	3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination	5. Policy linkages	7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence
<p>The country has institutionalized its commitment towards policy coherence for sustainable development at the highest political level.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
2. Long-term considerations in decision-making	4. Participatory processes	6. Alignment across government levels	8. Financing for policy coherence
<p>The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that long-term considerations are integrated into decision-making, policy development and planning</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The country has mechanisms in place for aligning priorities, policies and plans between various levels of government.</p>	<p>The country has mechanisms in place to promote the alignment of private and public finance to policy coherence objectives and to track related expenditures.</p>