

Towards a methodology for measuring SDG 17.14.1

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1. The SDGs Process and UN Environment's role as custodian agency

Sustainable Development Goals



17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

169 targets

244 indicators

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

Indicator Tier Classification

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

SDG indicator framework

- **SDG Goals and Targets were set by Member States** with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015).
- The General Assembly tasked the **UN Statistical Commission** with developing a monitoring framework.
- **Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG)** established to develop indicator framework.
- IAEG-SDG agreed on a **framework of 244 indicators** (adopted by UN General Assembly in 2017).
- IAEG-SDG designated **UN agencies as custodians** of the various indicators.
- ⁵➤ Nov 2018-Nov 2019: Revision of indicator framework

The role of the Custodian Agencies

- IAEG-SDG designated a **custodian agency for each indicator**, responsible for:
 - Developing methodology (for Tier III)
 - Designing a data collection and reporting system for the indicator (national data or international sources)
 - Request to produce proxies where appropriate
 - Supporting improved capacity for data use and analysis
 - Ensuring comparability of data, regional and global aggregation, quality assurance and harmonization of data
 - Reporting the data to the Global SDGs Database
 - Analysis of trends at regional and global levels for Annual SG's Report, SDGs Progress Report and thematic reviews

UN Environment is custodian of 26 indicators (15 Tier III)

Global v. National Review

Global:

Objective ⇒ provide a **global assessment** of progress towards the achievement of SDGs

Target audience ⇒

- HLPF/General Assembly/country delegates,
- international community,
- general public,
- media,
- policy makers

National Review:

Objective ⇒ focus **national development** debate on specific priorities and raise awareness of development needs

Target audience ⇒

- national policy makers,
- civil society,
- development partners,
- general public,
- media

Milestones for methodological development of indicators

- Establishment of **International Expert Group**
- Develop **Methodology Proposal**
- **Pilot test/consultations** in countries
- **Methodology refined/finalised**
- **Submission to IAEG-SDG** for review and validation & Tier upgrade
- Establish **reporting system**, begin data collection, aggregation and reporting

2. Methodology development for 17.14.1

Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

- Goal 17 covers the means to achieve the other 16 goals.
- Policy coherence is an important means of supporting efforts to achieve Agenda 2030, and to achieve sustainable development as a whole.



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



Status of methodology development

- **Internal group composed of different divisions of UN Environment formed in December 2017:**
 - **Reviewed lessons learned from relevant policy coherence initiatives, projects, and work with governments**
 - **Developed initial methodology proposal**
- **International Expert Group established and met for first time in June 2018 (via webinar) to review the proposal and submit feedback in July-August 2018**
- **Refinement of the proposal September-October 2018**
- **New draft shared in October 2018**
- **In-person Expert Meeting 15-16 November 2018**



Collaboration with the OECD and its members

- OECD Secretariat a member of the Expert group.
- Methodology takes into account and harmonise to the extent possible OECD's 8 'building blocks' for policy coherence (will be presented to Expert Group).
- UN Environment's experience and the mechanisms identified for the methodology by the Expert Group may be useful for the revision of the OECD Council Recommendation on Policy Coherence.
- Inviting examples/case studies of policy coherence at the national level for the development of guidance document to accompany the methodology.
- Joint organisation of events on policy coherence and Indicator 17.14.1 (including at HLPF in 2018).
- Collaboration on online course on policy coherence for sustainable development.



Proposed approach for methodology:

- **Not restricted to policy coherence in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Covers policy coherence in policy, planning and regulation for sustainable development more broadly.**
- **Composite indicator framework covering the different types of policy coherence mechanisms.**
- **Guidance document to be developed, with detailed information on each mechanism, including a description and examples from other member states of how the mechanism has been established and implemented.**
- **Will allow governments to identify which policy coherence mechanisms they already have in place, and explore which additional mechanisms might be useful to establish.**

Monitoring Policy Coherence:

Political commitment 1. Institutionalised political commitment	Coordination 3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination	Policy formulation 6. Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development and assessment of policy effects and cross-sectoral	Policy implementation & 8. Monitoring and evaluation for policy coherence
<p>The country has institutionalized its commitment towards policy coherence for sustainable development through a legal framework, official policy, national strategy, vision or development plan.</p>	<p>The country has an institutional mechanism that periodically brings together relevant ministries and governmental entities to enhance coherence across sustainable development related policies including aligning sectoral or thematic priorities and policies across the government.</p>	<p>The country has a mechanism for promoting a balanced and integrated approach to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as the effects of sectoral policies on other policies within the same or other sectors in policy formulation, planning processes.</p>	<p>The country has in place mechanisms to evaluate at regular intervals the effects of policies on the various dimensions of sustainable development and to inform and promote adaptive action.</p>
<p><i>Political Coherence</i></p>	<p><i>Horizontal Coherence</i></p>	<p><i>Horizontal Coherence</i></p>	<p><i>Horizontal Coherence</i></p>
2. Long-term considerations underpin decision-making on sustainable development	4. Participatory processes (Major Groups and Stakeholders)	7. Consultation and coordination at various government levels (including alignment of policy	9. Harmonized information and reporting
<p>The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that the long-term sustainable development effects of its policies are considered and that long-termism is integrated into decision-making, policy development and</p>	<p>The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that policies, plans, programmes, and major development projects are developed through participatory processes that involve relevant major groups and stakeholders.</p>	<p>The country has at least one mechanism for coordination between various levels of government within a country, ensuring alignment of priorities, policies and plans at national and sub-national levels.</p>	<p>The country has in place mechanisms that allow for harmonized information management and coherent and efficient reporting of national information to international bodies.</p>
<p><i>Political, Temporal Coherence</i></p>	<p><i>Vertical Coherence</i></p>	<p><i>Vertical Coherence</i></p>	<p><i>Horizontal Coherence</i></p>
	5. Integration of international standards and priorities		10. Adequate financial resources and financing tools
	<p>The country has mechanisms in place to reflect international commitments and consider international spillovers in their national policy and decision-making.</p>		<p>The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that policy coherence efforts are supported by adequate and sustainable financial resources and to track and monitor policy coherence related expenditures.</p>
	<p><i>Transboundary, Vertical Coherence</i></p>		<p><i>Horizontal Coherence</i></p>



Types of policy coherence:

- **Vertical coherence**

between different levels of government, from local to national

- **Horizontal coherence**

across key government ministries, departments and agencies and across sectors and themes

- **Transboundary coherence**

between national and international policy and across national boundaries

- **Temporal coherence**

promoting a long-term vision and coherence across political mandates

- **Political coherence**

taking a policy decision through all the steps necessary to translate it into action



Political Commitment

1. Institutionalised political commitment

The country has institutionalized its commitment towards policy coherence for sustainable development through a legal framework, official policy, national strategy, vision or development plan.

Political Coherence

2. Long-term considerations underpin decision-making on sustainable development

The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that the long-term sustainable development effects of its policies are considered and that long-termism is integrated into decision-making, policy development and planning.

Political, Temporal Coherence

Coordination mechanisms

3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination

The country has an institutional mechanism that periodically brings together relevant ministries and governmental entities to enhance coherence across sustainable development related policies including aligning sectoral or thematic priorities and policies across the government.

Horizontal Coherence

4. Participatory processes (Major Groups and Stakeholders)

The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that policies, plans, programmes, and major development projects are developed through participatory processes that involve relevant major groups and stakeholders.

Vertical Coherence

5. Integration of international standards and priorities

The country has mechanisms in place to reflect international commitments and consider international spillovers in their national policy and decision-making.

Transboundary, Vertical Coherence



Policy Formulation

6. Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development and assessment of policy effects and cross-sectoral linkages
The country has a mechanism for promoting a balanced and integrated approach to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as the effects of sectoral policies on other policies within the same or other sectors in policy formulation, planning processes,
<i>Horizontal Coherence</i>

7. Consultation and coordination at various government levels (including alignment of policy processes and cycles)
The country has at least one mechanism for coordination between various levels of government within a country, ensuring alignment of priorities, policies and plans at national and sub-national levels.
<i>Vertical Coherence</i>



Policy implementation and monitoring

8. Monitoring and evaluation for policy coherence

The country has in place mechanisms to evaluate at regular intervals the effects of policies on the various dimensions of sustainable development and to inform and promote adaptive action.

Horizontal Coherence

9. Harmonized information and reporting

The country has in place mechanisms that allow for harmonized information management and coherent and efficient reporting of national information to international bodies.

Horizontal Coherence

10. Adequate financial resources and financing tools

The country has mechanisms in place to ensure that policy coherence efforts are supported by adequate and sustainable financial resources and to track and monitor policy coherence related expenditures.

Horizontal Coherence

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Welcome feedback and participation from the National Focal Points for Policy Coherence:

- Feedback on overall indicator framework
- Inputs on individual types of mechanisms
- Examples/case studies
- Welcome to participate in Expert Group Meeting (15-16 November, OECD), or to provide feedback in writing
- Joint efforts to harmonise approaches
- Future collaboration on capacity development and peer to peer learning

Thank you !



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