



THE OECD RECOMMENDATION ON POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18th Meeting of the informal network of National Focal Points for Policy Coherence, 4 December 2019, OECD Conference Centre, Paris.



Rationale



SDG implementation principles

- **Integration** - “We are committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions... in a balanced and integrated manner.” (*Preamble*).
- **Long-term vision** – “We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations.” (*Para. 18*)
- **Transboundary impacts and interconnectivity**- “All of us will work to implement the Agenda within our own countries and at the regional and global levels... We acknowledge also the importance of ... interconnectivity in sustainable development.” (*Para. 21*)
- **Vertical coherence** - “Governments... will work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions, international institutions...” (*Para. 45*).
- **Stakeholder engagement** - “All countries and all stakeholders... will implement this plan” (*Preamble*).



A horizontal approach, involving many OECD committees and bodies

OECD Committees and bodies

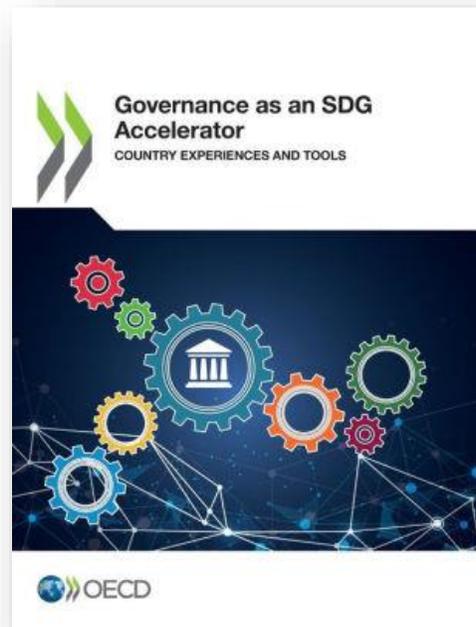
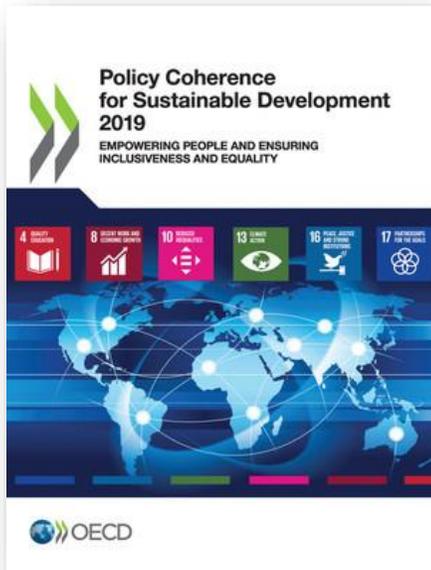
- **DAC** – Development Assistance Committee
- **PGC** – Public Governance Committee
- **RPC** – Regulatory Policy Committee
- **RDPC** – Regional Development Policy Committee
- **EPOC** – Environmental Policy Committee
- **CSSP** – Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy
- **Informal Network of National Focal Points for Policy Coherence**

Key stakeholders

- **UN CEPA** – United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- **UN Environment**
- Members of the **PCSD Partnership**



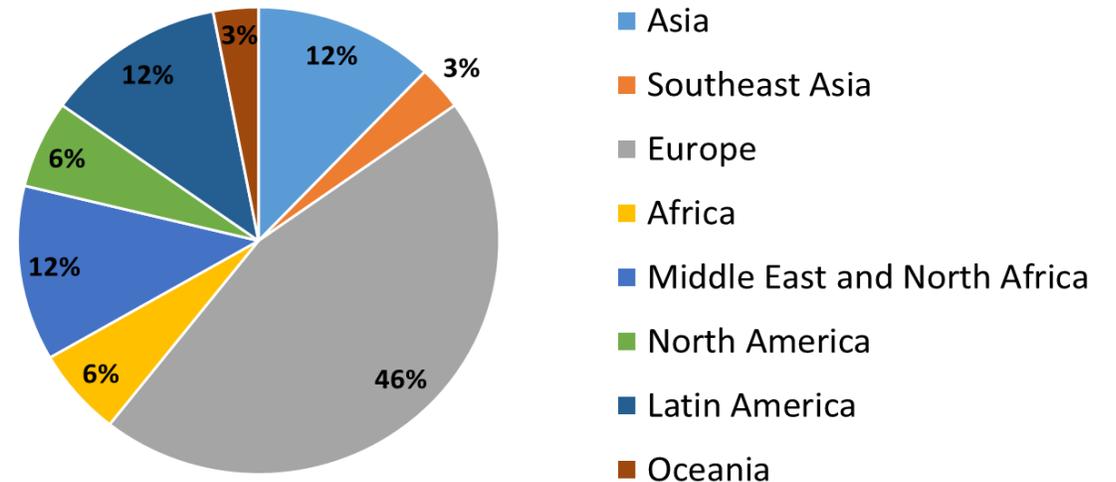
An instrument built on evidence and stakeholder input



Public Consultation

81 participants from 33 different countries provided feedback (21 OECD countries)

Origin of participants





Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

PCSD is an approach to integrate the economic, social, environmental dimensions of sustainable development throughout domestic and international policy-making. Its objectives in the context of the 2030 Agenda are to advance the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda by:



- 1** maximising synergies and minimising trade-offs across economic, social and environmental policy areas
- 2** Balancing domestic and international priorities, i.e. domestic policy objectives with internationally recognised goals
- 3** Address the transboundary and long-term effects of policies, including those likely to affect developing countries





A comprehensive instrument on PCSD

I. A strategic vision for achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in an integrated and coherent manner

1 Political Commitment and Leadership



to foster whole-of-government action for PCSD

2 Strategic Long-term Vision



to support policy coherence and orient the government and stakeholders towards SDGs

3 Policy integration



to capitalise on synergies and benefits across economic, social and environmental policies

II. Effective and inclusive institutional and governance mechanisms to address policy interactions

4 Whole-of-Government coordination



to mitigate divergences between sectoral priorities and policies

5 Subnational engagement



to promote coordinated actions and enhance coherence across levels of governments

6 Stakeholder engagement



to sustain broader support for PCSD and its implementation

III. A set of responsive and adaptive tools to anticipate, assess and address impacts of policies

7 Policy and financial impacts



to inform decision-making, increase positive impacts and avoid potential negative impacts

8 Monitoring, reporting and evaluation



to collect qualitative and quantitative evidence on the impact of policies and financing, and report progress on PCSD



Political commitment, clearly and publicly expressed at the highest level, is a precondition for enhancing policy coherence

POLITICAL COMMITMENT

- ☑ Define priority areas, action plans and key performance indicators for making progress on PCSD;
- ☑ Systematically apply a poverty, gender and human rights perspective to PCSD;
- ☑ Introduce measures to promote PCSD within government structures so that commitment outlives electoral cycles;
- ☑ Build leadership capacity in the public service to consistently formulate and implement policies coherent with sustainable development across sectors.



A strategic long-term vision is essential to support present needs and those of future generations in a balanced manner.

It is essential to orient the government and stakeholders towards common sustainable development goals

STRATEGIC LONG-TERM VISION

- ☑ Develop a strategic long-term vision that defines desired sustainable development outcomes, scenarios and actions to enhance coherence across sectors and government levels, and between external and domestic policies in areas that are likely to affect developing countries;
- ☑ Use tools such as strategic foresight, scenario development and systems thinking approaches in the formulation and implementation of policies, to identify, potential adverse impacts on the wellbeing and sustainable development prospects of future generations

POLICY INTEGRATION



Policy Integration is essential to incorporate sustainable development into policy and finance, and capitalise on synergies and benefits across economic, social and environmental policy areas

- ☑ Make strategic use of policy planning mechanisms and tools, including the budget process and public procurement, to manage synergies and trade-offs and integrate sustainable development into sectoral policies;
- ☑ Incorporate a PCSD lens, as appropriate, into national development plans, sustainable development strategies, and financing plans
- ☑ Develop supporting tools, such as guidelines or regulations, as well as coordination mechanisms for ministries and government agencies to align their mandates, policies and sectoral objectives with broader sustainable development goals;
- ☑ Integrate regional and territorial development into sectoral policies to achieve greater synergies with long-term strategic planning for the implementation of the SDGs
- ☑ Take a whole-of-government approach to development policy and finance to ensure that resources are leveraged in support of sustainable development.



Whole-of-government coordination mechanisms are fundamental to resolve divergences between sectoral priorities and policies, including external and domestic policies, and promote mutually supporting actions across sectors and institutions

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT COORDINATION

- ☑ Use high-level coordinating mechanism, whether located within the Centre of Government or a lead line ministry as appropriate, to promote PCSD;
- ☑ Establish clear mandates, capacities and mobilise adequate resources for PCSD to identify and address policy divergences and conflicts related to SDG implementation;
- ☑ Encourage formal governance arrangements and informal working methods that support effective communication between ministries.
- ☑ Build capacity in public administrations for PCSD, and align training strategies and programmes for public actors with the principles and integrated nature of the SDGs.



Working with regional and local authorities to align priorities, is critical to ensure coordinated actions and enhance coherence across levels of governments for sustainable development

SUB-NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- ☑ Promote PCSD at different levels of government and work with key stakeholders to develop tools that support local and regional governments in applying PCSD in their legal frameworks, plans and actions for localising the SDGs;
- ☑ Promote synergies among national, regional and local policies to better align with and contribute to relevant economic, social and environmental goals, including international commitments and international development co-operation objectives, within the scope of their responsibilities and in a balanced manner..



Engaging stakeholders effectively at all stages of the policy-making process is essential to sustain broader support for PCSD and its implementation

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- ☑ Engage proactively with stakeholders in different phases of the policy cycle, including through the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to develop initiatives for enhancing PCSD, making specific efforts to reach out to marginalised and vulnerable groups in society and to advance inclusive social and economic development, in line with the aspirations of the SDGs;
- ☑ Work with stakeholders to raise public awareness and mobilise support on sustainable development and government commitments supporting PCSD, through campaigns, policy dialogue, capacity building and information sharing.



Analysing and assessing policy and financing impacts is critical to inform decision-making, increase positive impacts and avoid negative impacts on the sustainable development prospects of other countries, in particular on developing countries.

ASSESS POLICY AND FINANCING IMPACTS

- ☑ Introduce, where possible, regular assessments to identify and assess potential positive and negative impacts on sustainable development, building on any existing tools such as Regulatory, Environmental, Gender and Social Impact and Strategic Assessments;
- ☑ Adopt ex-ante and ex-post impact assessment practices that take into account transboundary impacts, paying particular attention to the economic, social, gender and environmental impacts on developing countries as well as the promotion and protection of human rights.



Strengthening monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems is essential to collect evidence on the impact of policies and financing, to inform decision-making and to report progress on PCSD

MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

- ☑ Monitor and report back on policy and financing impacts, and publish regular reports about progress on PCSD;
- ☑ Identify data, indicators and information that can help better capture economic, social and environmental externalities imposed beyond national borders (transboundary impacts); and understand the country's contribution towards global efforts for implementing Agenda 2030;
- ☑ Report regularly on PCSD and, where needed, build capacity and skills to strengthen data collection, management, storage, and reporting processes;
- ☑ Embed a policy coherence dimension in evaluation systems to inform decision-making regarding the linkages and potential trade-offs between sectoral policies as well as transboundary impacts.



THANK YOU