

# OECD RECOMMENDATION ON POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Implementing the SDGs as an integrated and coherent set represents a major challenge to all countries. Addressing interactions between economic, social and environmental goals in a balanced manner, while avoiding negative effects on the wellbeing of people here and now, elsewhere and later, has been recognised by many countries as one of the most difficult challenges to implementing the SDGs.

**The OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)** provides a comprehensive standard to help countries equip policy-makers and key stakeholders with the necessary institutional mechanisms and policy tools to enhance PCSD, address integrated economic, social and environmental goals, and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The OECD Recommendation on PCSD is the culmination of more than 20 years of lessons learnt in promoting policy coherence. As a joint proposal from the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Public Governance Committee (PGC), the Recommendation draws on the DAC peer reviews as well as on country experiences in the PGC. It responds to the growing demand by OECD Members and non-Members to deal with the “how” of coherent 2030 Agenda implementation.

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** sets out an ambitious plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible, and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

To achieve this balance, the SDGs include **Target 17.14**, which call on all countries **to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD)** as a means of implementation for all the Goals. PCSD helps to reduce the risk of trade-offs where progress in one SDG is made at the expense of another.

The Recommendation presents a set of eight principles for promoting PCSD, which are organised under three main pillars. It calls on Adherents to develop:

**I. A strategic vision** for implementing the 2030 Agenda underpinned by a clear political commitment **and leadership to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.**

**II. Effective and inclusive institutional and governance mechanisms to address policy interactions** across sectors and align actions between levels of government.

**III. A set of responsive and adaptive tools to anticipate, assess and address domestic, transboundary and long-term impacts of policies.**

The development of the Recommendation also benefited from a broad public consultation, which generated a high level of input from public servants, citizens and experts worldwide.

The Recommendation is open to and welcomes adherence by non-Member countries.

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

underpinned by a clear political commitment and leadership

**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

across sectors and align actions between levels of government

**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

domestic, transboundary and long-term to advance SDGs

**7 Policy and Financing 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

**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.



The final adopted text of the Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (11 December 2019) is available online:

<https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0381>

For further information on the Recommendation or our work on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, please contact:

[sara.fyson@oecd.org](mailto:sara.fyson@oecd.org) and [ernesto.soriamorales@oecd.org](mailto:ernesto.soriamorales@oecd.org)

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