Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.
Indicator 17.14.1: Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

Institutional information

Organization(s):
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Concepts and definitions

Definition:
For the purpose of this methodology ‘policy coherence of sustainable development’ has been interpreted as the coherence between policies in general that cover the dimensions of sustainable development. This indicator is a composite indicator which covers mechanisms related to
1. Institutionalization of Political Commitment
2. Long-term considerations in decision-making
3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination
4. Participatory processes
5. Policy linkages
6. Alignment across government levels
7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence
8. Financing for policy coherence

Rationale:
Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development is important 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.

At a more ambitious level, it should also aim to foster synergies and produce policies that mutually reinforce each other, and to ensure that policies put in place are implementable and sustainable as they are inclusive of the concerned stakeholders’ perspectives.

Concepts:
Scope of “Sustainable Development” For the purpose of this methodology ‘policy coherence of sustainable development’ has been interpreted as the coherence between policies in general that cover the dimensions of sustainable development, rather than adopting a narrower definition of mechanisms
put in place to support the coherent implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, so as to promote coherent policy for sustainable development well beyond the current agenda’s timeframe. The policy coherence mechanisms set out in this methodology may therefore include mechanisms already in place before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, and any mechanisms established during the next decade leading up to 2030 should aim to continue well beyond that timeframe. However, given the role of Agenda 2030 and the individual goals in defining the specific parameters of sustainable development, it is likely that governments will focus, in implementing this methodology, on bringing coherence in their policy approaches to implement the goals.

The concept of Policy Coherence: The textual formulation of the indicator covers “policy coherence”. In order to make the indicator universally applicable and adaptable to various national contexts, the mechanisms measured by the methodology cover a wide range of mechanisms that, although aiming to achieve the same objective, use slightly different language. In order to properly assess and report on this indicator similar concepts such as “whole of government approach or “integrated approach” will be interpreted in the same spirit as the concept of “policy coherence”. However, it is important that the used concept considers policies that cover the various dimensions of sustainable development. Hence, a mechanism focusing solely on the concept of policy coherence for development (which is often limited to coherence between Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other policies, in the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals) will not be considered by this framework.

Comments and limitations:
There are many mechanisms that could be useful to assess at the national level which would be relevant to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. This methodology aims to provide a basis for countries to engage in discussions around what policy coherence means at the national level and how it could be improved. Such discussions and strategies to improve policy coherence that may results from it could feed into a country Voluntary National Review (VNR) or National Development Strategy or Plan development, to inform further efforts by the country to improve its ability to implement Agenda 2030 through better policy coherence. This document should be considered a living document which is regularly updated with the country experiences in putting in place and assessing mechanisms for policy coherence. These experiences, and related challenges, lessons learned and solutions, can be shared so that UNEP as custodian agency, with partners, can further refine this methodology and disseminated it not only as a tool to enable effective reporting but also to support national efforts toward policy coherence.

Methodology

Computation Method:
UNEP has developed a composite indicator framework for SDG 17.14.1 based on initial research on existing work, literature, partners and existing indicators on similar issues. This indicator includes 8 domains. Each is scored on a 0-10 point scale. The percentage of points out of the total 80 points is then computed for each country. It is recommended that Governments convene a stakeholder group for self-scoring. The below table can be used for scoring. Full details are in the document “Methodology for SDG-indicator 17.14.1: Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Institutionalized</td>
<td>Political commitment expressed/endorsed by the highest level</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Disaggregation:
The indicator is available at country level.

Treatment of missing values:
At country level
Missing values are not imputed.

At regional and global levels
Missing values are not imputed.

Regional aggregates:
For the aggregation methods, please see:
http://pre-uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/graphs/aggregation_methods.pdf

Sources of discrepancies:
N/A

Data Sources

Description:
Data provided by national governments, including entities responsible for SDG implementation

Collection process:
Through a Government Survey (self-scoring by Governments according to the above table).

Data Availability

Description:
Data will be made available for all member states that report data.

Time series:
The reporting on this indicator will be biannual.

Calendar

Data collection:

Data release:
First reporting cycle: 2021.
Biannually thereafter.

Data providers

Data will be provided by countries.

Data compilers

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
References

References:
Methodology for SDG-indicator 17.14.1: Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development, UNEP (forthcoming)

Related indicators
N/A