



## PCSD PARTNERSHIP

A multi-stakeholder partnership for enhancing  
Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

**#SDGAction12066**

### PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE 2018 UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

**Reporting year:** June 2017 – May 2018.

**Initiative:** A multi-stakeholder Partnership for Enhancing Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD Partnership).

**Overall status:** On track.

#### **Achievement at a glance:**

The PCSD Partnership is on an excellent track. It has launched well over 100 initiatives – many of them open-ended – since its inception in July 2016, all aiming to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (SDG17.14). Ten new Partners joined the PCSD Partnership during the reporting year 2017-2018, bringing the total number of members to 33, operating in 24 countries with some of the partners having a global reach.

During 2017-2018, the PCSD Partnership achieved 28 deliverables; 82 are in progress; 3 have been postponed; and 2 have been cancelled. [An additional 16 deliverables were achieved during 2016-2017. Several key events were successfully organised to raise awareness and showcase methodologies for enhancing policy coherence in SDG implementation (Learning session and side event during the 2017 HLPF in NY, sessions on applying PCSD tools during the meeting of national focal points for policy coherence in Paris). A first face-to-face meeting was organised with a number of Partners in the margins of the 2017 HLPF. Methodologies and tools developed by partners helped to strengthen capacities of governments and key stakeholders in applying PCSD in practices including in Finland, Mongolia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. This year, several Partners have contributed with “opinion pieces” to OECD’s annual report Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2018. Their contributions are written with the 2018 HLPF theme, Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies, in mind (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17).

#### **Challenges faced in implementation:**

Policy coherence for sustainable development embodied in SDG target 17.14, as a means of implementation that cuts across all other Goals, is challenging to conceptualise, analyse, and communicate to decision-makers and the public. It is also a difficult target for which to track progress, with the methodology for global indicator 17.14.1 still to be developed (UN Environment is the custodian of this indicator).

Against this background, some Partners find attracting funds for their projects particularly challenging: PCSD can be a “hard sell”. This makes it difficult to undertake country case studies or to replicate, test and apply existing initiatives in more than one location – these are activities that

require both time and resources, as well as capacity building. Resource constraints are also a common challenge particularly in developing countries committed to pursue PCSD where some of the partners operate.

Yet, the PCSD Partnership, which is a knowledge-sharing partnership, has managed to achieve many of its core initiatives with limited or no extra funding. It encourages potential partner institutions that work on similar issues to exploit complementarities, add value to ongoing work, and avoid duplication.

### **Next Steps:**

The PCSD Partnership will strive to engage governments, key stakeholders and the public to keep PCSD high on the international, national and local agendas. A purpose of the Partnership is to help match supply for tools and guidance with demand. The online Platform will be a relevant channel for providing inputs to the development of the methodology of the global indicator for SDG target 17.14.

The Partnership will support and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues, and host a Learning Session during the 2018 HLPF (3-6 pm, 11 July), as part of the DESA/UNITAR initiative Learning and Training for the SDGs. This interactive event will present and discuss analytical tools for addressing SDG connections and enhancing policy and institutional coherence to support integrated SDG implementation. An online course on PCSD for practitioners will be produced as an output from this learning session.

Plans are also being made by the OECD to organise a high-level HLPF Side Event under the title *Policy coherence for sustainable development in practice: From silos to integrated approaches in SDG implementation*, jointly with UN Environment and one or two UN member countries. The event, which is still to be confirmed, would aim to explore different forms of policy coherence and mechanisms for enhancing it nationally, and challenges in doing so.

The 2018 HLPF will also offer an opportunity to organise a second face-to-face meeting among Partners.

### **Who are the beneficiaries?**

Beneficiaries include members of the OECD Network of National Focal Points for Policy Coherence, policy makers, parliamentarians, researchers, civil society organisations and private sector actors that work to implement the SDGs locally, nationally and globally.

### **What specific actions have been taken to positively impact beneficiaries?**

The diverse methodologies and tools developed by partners are supporting governments and other key stakeholders in applying more coherent and integrated approaches to SDG implementation. In Mongolia, for example, the SEI 7-points scale methodology has contributed to the development of guidelines for assessing the alignment of existing sectoral policy documents with the SDGs. “The World’s Future – A Sustainable Development Goals Game” jointly developed by IIASA and CRS helped OECD and European Commission officials to better understand synergies, trade-offs and feedbacks involved in SDG implementation. CIECODE is collaborating with the government of Spain

to promote the use of an online tool to monitor SDG related political and policy activity and improve access to this information. The Eight Building Blocks for PCSD developed by the OECD have helped to raise awareness on the critical institutional mechanisms for enhancing coherence in SDG implementation among OECD member countries. Other partners have supported efforts to promote stakeholder engagement in national SDG implementation. The NGO Federation of Nepal has supported the launching of the Nepal SDG Forum at the national and local levels to facilitate effective engagement of CSOs.

The PCSD Partnership will continue to support policy-makers and stakeholders in different ways to identify institutional practices that contribute to enhanced policy coherence, drawing on diverse country experiences, and to design and implement policies that (i) integrate economic, social and environmental concerns, (ii) build on synergies among SDGs and targets, and (iii) consider their effects on the well-being of people in other countries and for future generations. Members of the PCSD Partnership will also continue to facilitate and engage in international meetings and discussions on SDG implementation to raise awareness among decision-makers and the public on the importance and necessity of PCSD for effective SDG implementation.