



A Proposal for a PCSD Multistakeholder Partnership for Implementing, Measuring and Monitoring Progress on SDG Target 17:14

1. Introduction

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, countries have committed to “pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors”. This entails mobilising the whole of government and set national strategies to shift to more sustainable paths based on coherent and integrated frameworks, inter-institutional co-ordination and multi-stakeholder collaboration. SDG 17 – on the means of implementation – includes a cross-cutting target (SDG 17.14) to “enhance policy coherence for sustainable development”.

Agreeing to SDG 17:14 to: “*enhance policy coherence for sustainable development*” is an important achievement but provides little guidance for implementation. It is not fleshed out with any specific or quantitative criteria. Nor have specific indicators been identified at the global or national level to facilitate monitoring progress. And countries are at the early stages of adapting institutional mechanisms in ways that best foster a coherence approach to the SDGs. Some forums are emerging to exchange experiences on accelerating SDG implementation generally (such as announced at a UN side event “Lessons from Early Adopters on Policy Shifts to Accelerate Progress”), but not on PCSD specifically. This is an important window of opportunity for the OECD and the PCD Focal Points to reflect on ways ahead, flesh out some possible indicators to monitor progress on PCSD, share experiences on transitioning at national level, and identify the types of support and guidance that may help with the transition.

The purpose of this paper is to propose a partnership for enhancing PCSD in support of the SDGs implementation. It responds to invitations for multistakeholder initiatives as part of an online UNDESA platform on “*Partnerships for SDGs*” for implementation of the SDGs and their targets (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about>) . This platform will function as a tool to inform stakeholders around the world in support of the sustainable development goals, track progress, and share innovative ideas. The platform is free and open to the public. PCD Focal Points are asked to provide feedback at the meeting on 21 October.

2. SDG Process and key milestones

- January 2016 – official start date for SDG implementation
- March 2016 – Meeting of the UN Statistical Commission on global indicators based on proposals by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) following national consultations
- July – first meeting of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to consider a global SDG progress report using the global indicators, as well as reviews of country progress which will be voluntary and country-led.

The official start date for SDG implementation will be on 1 January 2016. Countries will therefore need to start exploring what the global goals and targets mean in their particular context and the

actions they can take to achieve them. The targets are intended to be more specific than the goals, and guide immediate action and concrete measures, but there is considerable variation in the degree of specificity and much of the interpretation and action agendas will be left to the countries themselves. National ownership is key as follow up and review will be voluntary and country-led.

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) has been given a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level. Starting in 2016, the HLPF will conduct regular State-led reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and provide a platform for partnerships. Information from registered multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments from the “Partnerships for SDGs” platform will be used to inform HLPF about the progress and the impact these initiatives have on their support to the achievement of the SDGs.

3. A SMART SDG target at national level on PCSD

While the global target is already decided, countries may wish to set a more specific and measurable target at national level depending on their national circumstances. This could include (i) a general and overarching PCSD target at national level as well as (ii) more specific targets on PCSD approaches in priority areas (each of the SDGs includes means of implementation) or to support implementation on clusters of issues or where a “nexus” approach could be particularly useful.

A generic target could include the following:

“Strengthen the capacity of governments to inform and implement national action plans for SDG implementation, in ways that are coherent and mutually supportive, balance economic, social and environmental goals; consider domestic and international effects of policies; and support long-term sustainability.”

This proposal would largely fulfil the SMART criteria:

SPECIFIC	<i>Governments are targeted, as are three specific dimensions of coherence: - social/economic/environmental - domestic/international - sustainability over time</i>
MEASURABLE	<i>Change in institutional and policy performance can be measured. Indicators are proposed in the Toolkit.</i>
ATTAINABLE	<i>The target seeks an improvement, not an absolute level of attainment, and is linked to achieving the SDGs as a whole.</i>
RELEVANT	<i>Sustainable policies and more integrated approaches , but the way in which it is deployed will vary according to each country’s circumstances</i>
TIME BOUND	<i>The 2030 timeframe is shared by all the SDG targets.</i>

4. DRAFT PROPOSAL

Basic information on the proposed initiative

- Title of partnership/commitment: ***Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Initiative “PCSD Initiative”***
- Submitting Organization: ***OECD (PCSD Unit)***
- Partners: ***Network of National Focal Points for Policy Coherence for Development (including interested countries, civil society organisations and think tanks)***

Description /achievement of initiative

The scope of the SDGs cut across traditional domains of national policy, they call for breaking out of policy silos and mobilising whole-of-government action, based on policy coherence, inter-institutional co-ordination and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Implementation involves strengthening the interface between domestic and foreign policies as well as between current well-being and intergenerational factors. It therefore goes beyond the responsibility of development ministries or agencies. PCSD is critical to capitalise on synergies, understand interlinkages and manage trade-offs between different sectoral policies, among the SDGs, and between actions of different actors at the local, regional, national and international levels. A number of OECD member countries have already put in place institutional mechanisms for policy coherence for development, but these mechanisms may need to be reviewed and upgraded to put sustainable development at the centre of decision-making and engage all policy communities and other stake-holders. **The PCSD Initiative** aims to support governments to put in place coherent national frameworks for formulating, implementing and monitoring mutually supportive economic, social and environmental policies for achieving the SDGs. Governments will have strengthened capacities to integrate the dimensions of sustainable development at all stages of policy-making.

Implementation methodologies

The first step of this initiative has consisted in developing an analytical framework (*PCSD Framework*), drawing on OECD work as well as on the discussions during the last two years of the OECD network of national focal points for policy coherence. The PCSD Framework:

- defines and unpackages the key elements of PCSD as an integral part of the Means of Implementation (MoI) for the SDGs;
- provides a ‘PCSD Toolkit’ for screening purposes – This tool is flexible and adaptable to diverse national and institutional contexts, and aims to prompt policy-makers to ask relevant questions about their institutional mechanisms, policy settings and processes as well as about priorities to undertake coherent actions all with a view to achieving the SDGs in ways that balance economic, social and environmental objectives;
- includes two thematic modules focused on food security, and illicit financial flows;
- Foresees the development of a ‘OECD Coherence Monitor’ to provide options for tracking progress on PCSD and developing recommendations on how to monitor progress of SDG17.14

The second step will consist in piloting the PCSD Framework in interested members of the Network. The OECD-PCSD Unit will provide inputs and analytical support to the governmental body in charge of policy coordination and arbitration for policy coherence. The meetings of the PCD Network will serve as a forum for promoting dialogue among key stakeholders, identifying good practices and strengthening policy tools and methodologies, based on the experience from applying the pilots.

Deliverables

Deliverable	Date
Global Indicators to monitor progress on SDG17.14	2016
Practical training modules and guidance on organisational mechanisms; mapping of policy interactions; identification of national indicators to enhance PCSD	2016
OECD Coherence Monitor	2016
Pilots of IFF and Food Security modules in at least 5 countries	2017
PCSD Institutional mechanism in at least 10 countries	2018
Reports on institutional changes and coherent policy-making process in at least 10 countries as a result of strengthened PCSD mechanism	2018
Reports on economic, social and environmental benefits in at least 10 countries as a result of strengthened mechanisms	2020