



## Accelerating progress on the SDGs through policy coherence for sustainable development



DEPARTMENT OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Thursday 19 March 2020 | 8:30-9:45 | Virtual Meeting (Webinar)

### Agenda

08:30 **Opening and Welcoming remarks**

**Mr. László Borbély** State Counselor, National SDG Coordinator Government of Romania

08:35 **Setting the context**

**Building policy coherence solutions for accelerating progress on SDGs. What needs do countries have? How can the OECD-UNDP Global Hub help?**

- Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, OECD Public Governance Directorate

08:50 **Panel: Integrated implementation of the SDGs: What are the challenges and what lessons have countries learned about promoting policy coherence?**

*Panelists:*

- **Mr. László Borbély**, State Counselor, National SDG Coordinator Government of Romania
- **Ms. Mia Crawford**, Deputy Director & Coordinator 2030 Agenda Department of Global Agenda, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Ms. Erika Bernhard**, Vice Director, Department of Development Cooperation in the EU and the UN, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria
- **Mr. George Said**, Sustainable Development Directorate, Office of the Prime Minister of Malta

Moderated by the OECD

*Questions for discussion*

- What are the key coherence challenges to implementing the SDGs (political will, information and data gaps, lack of capacity for addressing synergies and trade-offs, integrated approaches, transboundary or intergenerational impacts)?
- What tools or types of support have been useful in addressing these challenges?
- What are the gaps in tools or capacities? What additional tools or support would be useful?

09:30 **Q&A**

09:40 **Wrap-up by moderator**

**Where do we go from here?**

09:45 **End of the event**

## PURPOSE

The event will convene a panel from representatives and experts from the region to identify experiences and needs to enhancing policy coherence for accelerating progress on SDGs. Panellist and participants in an interactive session will:

- Discuss common governance challenges involved in national implementation of SDGs, including obstacles to integrated policies for sustainable development;
- Learn from country experiences and practices, including capacity-building needs, to address critical interactions among goals and ensure policy and institutional coherence in SDG implementation.
- Discuss the needs that countries in the region are facing, as well as on how governance and policy coherence challenges can be addressed, and how opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience can be leveraged to accelerate progress on the SDGs, including through platforms such as the *OECD-UNDP Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs*.

## BACKGROUND

At the 2019 SDG Summit, world leaders expressed concerns that progress on SDGs is slowing in many areas, including in eradicating poverty and inequalities, addressing climate change and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. The political declaration adopted by leaders during the HLPF 2019 has emphasised the need to “equip domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between Goals and targets through a whole-of-government approach ... and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development” as a means to accelerate action and progress.

Countries have started to integrate the SDGs into national plans and strategies, and many have set up dedicated institutional structures and governance mechanisms for coordinating implementation. However, addressing synergies and trade-offs between economic, social and environmental policy objectives, while avoiding negative effects of policies still is a major challenge for most countries worldwide. The first four years of SDG implementation have revealed that policy-makers are struggling to manage and leverage linkages among goals and to operationalise an integrated and coherent implementation of the SDGs with the involvement of all key stakeholders.

What governance mechanisms can be used to balance competing sectoral priorities, minimise trade-offs and facilitate synergies? How to ensure that the needs of future generations are considered systematically in policy-making? How to maintain political commitment beyond electoral cycles? How can countries in the pursuit of the well-being of their citizens avoid negative effects on other countries and on future generations? These are some of the difficult questions that policy-makers are facing.

Against this background, 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 and accelerate progress o SDGs. To translate policy coherence principles into concrete action at different levels, the **OECD-UNDP Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs** aims to help countries build governance capabilities and leadership in support of SDGs.

### Join the virtual side event

#### Join Zoom

With a computer

With a tablet or smartphone

#### Some useful information:

- A headset with microphone is recommended or an audio system with echo canceler
- A wired internet connection is recommended
- Please mute your microphone throughout the meeting, except when you wish to take the floor and speak

### Participate in our survey

This survey is designed to identify the areas where expert support could be most effective to tackle key governance and leadership challenges in support of the SDGs. The consultation results will provide input to a needs assessment that will help to shape the Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs. Have your say on our [electronic survey](#)