

**Virtual meeting, 19 November,  
15h00-18h00 (KST – Seoul);  
07h00-10h00 (EST – Paris)**

**Organised by the OECD Korea Policy Centre (KPC); the  
Korea Research Institute for Local Administration  
(KRILA); and the Policy Coherence for the SDGs Division,  
OECD Public Governance Directorate**

## Asia Public Governance Forum on the SDGs



### Purpose

The Forum will explore opportunities for strengthening Korea's institutional mechanisms to ensure a coherent implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a sustainable COVID-19 recovery. A particular focus will be on effective ways of strengthening institutional mechanisms, capacities and tools to align sub-national, national and regional actions (vertical coherence) for the SDGs. The Forum will facilitate an exchange of good practices between OECD members and partners, with a view to enhance public governance standards for sustainable development that help accelerate progress on the SDGs in Korea and the Asia Pacific region as a whole.

### Outcome

The Forum will identify key challenges and priority areas for action at the local, national and regional level to accelerate progress on the SDGs. This will allow matching the needs with available OECD analysis and tools, thus providing the basis for further collaboration. The Forum will also contribute to inform OECD's work on increasing governments' capacities to address global challenges.

### Background

Achieving the SDGs requires planning for the future, to support present needs and those of future generations. Policy makers need to anticipate and address complex interconnected issues and adapt the design and implementation of reforms accordingly. They also need to consider the impacts of their actions on other countries and global public goods. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this even more urgent, as countries are struggling to align immediate recovery responses with longer-term sustainability commitments such as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) estimates that 89 million people in Asia-Pacific have been pushed below the USD 1.90 per day threshold of extreme poverty. Unemployment and inequality have surged, with job losses concentrated amongst low-income workers, particularly women and youth. The informal sector has been particularly hard hit, putting the livelihoods of many of the 1.3 billion informal workers in the region at risk.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCAP (2021), Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific: Towards post-COVID-19 resilient economies.

Institutional mechanisms and tools for policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD), a key component of the OECD's work on SDG governance, can help governments to get back on track and even accelerate progress on the SDGs, while ensuring a COVID-19 recovery that benefits all people in all countries.

Korea's long-standing commitment to national and global sustainability initiatives has created a favourable environment for effective SDG implementation. A series of laws and regulations have been developed in a mutually reinforcing way, with ongoing efforts seeking to mainstream the SDGs into national policy making. As reported in its 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR), the Government – supported by the National Task Force on Sustainable Development (NTF) and the Technical Committee (TC) – has integrated the SDGs into sectoral plans and established national goals, targets and indicators in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Yet, challenges to achieving the SDGs on time remain, not least at the local level.

An integrated implementation of the SDGs requires action at all levels of governments as well as coherence between them to identify and address potential trade-offs between international commitments, national priorities and local needs. It is estimated that 65% of the 169 targets underlying the 17 SDGs will not be reached without proper engagement of, and coordination with, local and subnational governments. Sub-national governments are also often responsible for investments in public services in key areas of the SDGs such as health care, education, water and infrastructure. In 2019, on average across OECD countries, 40% of total government investment was carried out by national governments, and roughly 30% each by state and local governments (Government at a Glance 2021, OECD). Vertical coherence aims to link local-to-national levels and national-to-global levels in delivering on the SDGs. Countries need to strike a reasonable balance between local autonomy and central steering capacities when 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 both horizontal coherence (i.e. between different dimensions of sustainable development; economic, social and environmental) and vertical coherence (i.e. between different levels of government; local, national, regional, global). Coupled with the OECD's work on localising the SDGs, the Recommendation can support Korea and the Asia Pacific region to strengthen mechanisms and capacities for addressing SDGs in an integrated and balanced manner, and create favourable conditions for sustainable development that leaves no communities or people behind.

	<b>OPENING SESSION</b> <i>Moderator: Ms. Young Joo CHAE, Director, KPC</i>
15:00 – 15:15 (KST) 07:00 – 07:15 (EST)	<b>Welcoming Remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Il Jae KIM, President, Korea Research Institute for Local Administration</li> <li>• Mr. Hong Tack CHUN, Executive Secretary, Korea Policy Centre</li> <li>• Mr. Janos Bertok, Deputy Director, OECD Public Governance Directorate</li> </ul>
<b>15:15 – 16:25</b>	<b>Session 1: Enhancing governance and policy coherence for sustainable development</b> <i>Moderator: Ms. Carina Lindberg, OECD Public Governance Directorate</i>
15:15-15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation:</b> Governance and policy coherence for sustainable development, Mr. Ernesto Soria Morales, OECD Public Governance Directorate</li> </ul>
15:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation:</b> A New Perspective on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Local Autonomy, Mr. Chae Gun CHUNG, President, Daejeon Sejong Research Institute, Korea</li> </ul>
15:45 – 16:10	<b>Discussants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Cossu Mara, Coordinator of Unit II - Strategies for sustainable development and environmental taxation, Ministry for Ecological Transition, Italy</li> <li>• Mr. Han Woom HONG, Research Fellow, Sustainability Strategy Research Group, Korea Environment Institute, Korea</li> <li>• Ms. Nobue Amanuma Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan</li> </ul>
16:10 – 16:25	<b>Q&amp;A, open discussion</b> <i>Guiding questions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What are the main governance challenges in balancing national social, economic and environmental objectives?</li> <li>✓ What institutional mechanisms can improve policy coherence and coordination across policy areas?</li> <li>✓ What guidance is needed to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development, SDG target 17.14?</li> </ul>
16:25 – 16:40	Coffee break
<b>16:40 – 17:50</b>	<b>Session 2: Strengthening sub-national engagement and vertical coherence for the SDGs</b> <i>Moderator: Ms. Hyun Ok LEE, Dean, Department of Global Public Administration, Yonsei University, Korea</i>
16:40 – 16:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation:</b> Localising the SDGs, Mr. Stefano Marta, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities</li> </ul>
16:55 – 17:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation:</b> SDGs and strategic initiative of municipal level perspective, Mr. Seung Kyu PARK, Head, Office of Regional Inclusive Development, KRILA</li> </ul>
17:10 – 17:35	<b>Discussants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Bong Su Geum, Director, Department of Digital Inclusion, National Information Society Agency, Korea</li> <li>• Mr. Stefan Wagner, City of Bonn, Germany</li> <li>• Ms. Ine Baetens, Government of Flanders, Belgium</li> </ul>

17:35 – 17:50	<p><b>Q&amp;A, open discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What are the main institutional challenges in aligning local-national-regional efforts to implement the SDGs?</li> <li>✓ What are some of the particular challenges that sub-national governments face in accelerating progress on SDG implementation?</li> <li>✓ How could the OECD best support Korea and the Asia Pacific region to overcome these challenges? Analysis? Capacity building? Peer learning?</li> </ul>
17:50 – 18:00	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Young Joo CHAE, Director, KPC</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Tatyana Teplova, Head, PCSDG Division, OECD Public Governance Directorate</li> <li>• Mr. Il Jae KIM, President, Korea Research Institute for Local Administration</li> </ul>