



Good institutional practices in promoting policy coherence for sustainable development

Building Block	Description
 Political Commitment	<p>The Government's implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda submitted to Parliament in February 2017 makes an explicit commitment to PCSD and includes concrete measures as well as domestic and global commitments.</p>
 Policy Integration	<p>All line ministries are required to compile on a yearly basis their policies and measures for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as part of the Government's annual report. They are also requested to include information essential to the promotion and monitoring of sustainable development in the yearly budget planning, as well as in their follow-up indicators. Several procedures, which vary from one ministry to another, are in place for identifying trade-offs and synergies. However, it is recognised that trade-offs are often very difficult to reconcile even when identified, since they entail politically sensitive issues and deep-rooted ideological differences. Many of the conflicts are therefore addressed and eventually solved at the political (ministerial) level.</p>
 Strategic Long-term Vision	<p>The government's implementation plan is based on the long-term vision, principles and goals set forth in the Society's Commitment, which extends until 2050. It intentionally has a long-term perspective to urge intergenerational debates and considerations. In 2017, the Government established an Agenda2030 Youth Group to engage young people more in political planning and help ensure a long-term perspective in decision-making.</p>
 Policy and Financing Impacts	<p>In its 2030 Agenda implementation plan, the government commits to explore the use of a sustainable development impact assessment tool to identify systematically the unintended effects of policies. The existing impact assessment process for bill drafting will be improved to ensure better alignment with the SDGs and to enhance coherence between actions undertaken at national and global levels. Steps will also be taken by the Prime Minister's Office in 2018-2019 to include sustainable development impact assessment in key policy and legislative motions. The National follow-up system includes indicators on transboundary and intergenerational issues which can be used to inform decision-making.</p>
 Policy Coordination	<p>Led by the Prime Minister's Office, an inter-ministerial network supports horizontal coordination between line ministries. The NCSD, chaired by the Prime Minister, strives to integrate the strategic objectives of sustainable development into all sector policies and measures, and supports decision-making for sustainable development nationally and in international cooperation. The mandate for these mechanisms extends to information sharing, capacity-building and coordination rather than arbitration. Nevertheless it has been successful in building common understanding and consensus, thus preventing deadlock situations in the administration and in broader society.</p>
 Local and Regional Involvement	<p>The Prime Minister's Office has conducted roadshows at sub-national level to increase awareness and commitment of cities and regions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Cities and towns are represented in the NCSD and have been engaging actively in the operational commitments for sustainable development under the Society's Commitment framework.</p>
 Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Among the main tools to foster participation are the operational commitments which provides organisations and active citizens with the opportunity to pursue sustainable development goals on their own. This tool has provided various actors with an effective and sensible way of participating in the implementation. More than 750 commitments to action promoting sustainable development have been made encompassing all sectors of society: companies, schools, nongovernmental organisations, administration, trade unions, political parties, cities, and even private individuals. Finland has been developing a new national follow-up system that enables stakeholder participation. The NCSD includes 16 representatives from the business and industry (including agriculture), 3 largest labour unions and their youth sections, 28 non-governmental organisations (including environment, women, children, indigenous peoples Saami, Somali immigrants, sports, education, consumer, disabled peoples association and many others) as well as representatives from municipalities, regions, church and research and development. A sustainable development expert panel established in 2014 supports and challenges the work of the government and NCSD. The Panel is composed of 8 eminent professors from different disciplines. Since spring 2017, the government partners with 20 young people from different backgrounds and regions via the Agenda2030 Youth Group.</p>
 Monitoring Reporting and Evaluation	<p>Each policy branch contributes to the annual 2030 Agenda implementation report, which is part of the government's annual report to the parliament. In addition, the state's budget contains ministries' reports on how the 2030 Agenda is integrated in their budget, planning and implementation. An independent assessment of Finland's sustainable development policy will be conducted every four years, in parliamentary election years, starting 2019. The PMO, the NCSD and the Development Policy Committee co-host an annual event to discuss current status and trends, based on sustainable development indicators, data assessment and contributions by experts and civil society. An ongoing annual cycle review enables a participatory review process.</p>