



## Good institutional practices in promoting policy coherence for sustainable development

Building Block	Description
 Political Commitment	<p>The 2017-2021 Dutch Coalition Agreement Confidence in the Future has a strong focus on sustainability and proposes policies and actions that are in substance strongly aligned with the SDGs. Moreover, it stresses the importance of coherence both internally and externally. The national action plan on policy coherence for development, originating from 2016 and revised in 2018, includes goals, policy action and indicators linked to the SDGs focusing on five priority areas with a strong emphasis on means of implementation (SDG 17) and sustainability/greening of international policy: combatting tax evasion and avoidance, development-friendly trade agreements, development-friendly investment regime; increasing sustainability of production and trade, and combatting climate change.</p>
 Policy Integration	<p>Ministers are responsible for implementing the SDGs within their respective policy areas. Focal points for SDG implementation exist at each ministry. Notably two ministers with cross-cutting mandates support coherence across policy domains: the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Change and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.</p>
 Strategic Long-term Vision	<p>The VNR states that previously agreed policy and allocation decisions might be reconsidered in case of a new coalition agreement.</p>
 Policy and Financing Impacts	<p>Government future plans generally contain a trend analysis. Transboundary effects on (developing) countries are included in the Dutch PCD Action Plan on Policy Coherence for Development, which links the country's five priority themes to the SDGs. Further action is taken if necessary to avoid/reduce unintended effects.</p>
 Policy Coordination	<p>SDG implementation by ministries is overseen by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and supported by a special SDG coordinator. The coordinator chairs regular meetings of the interministerial working group of ministerial SDG focal points including a representative of municipalities to discuss progress on SDG implementation. Arbitration, if necessary, takes place at a higher policy level (Director General level) and ultimately within the Council of Ministers. In addition, since 2015 a project group of thematic experts led by the PCD focal point for the Bureau for International Cooperation at the Directorate General for International Cooperation co-ordinates international policy coherence work. This group sets the agenda, proposes objectives and guides discussions with respective ministries. The mandate of the SDG coordinator includes stakeholders, who also report to parliament in a joint and differentiated manner.</p>
 Local and Regional Involvement	<p>A representative of Dutch local authorities (VNG International: the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities) is present at the meetings of the interministerial working group of SDG focal points. Decentralised government bodies (municipalities, provinces and water authorities) have written their own chapter in the first SDG report to parliament. A separate statistical report on the SDG performance of all 388 municipalities will be included in the future.</p>
 Stakeholder Engagement	<p>An SDG Charter was established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – a growing multi-stakeholder platform of over 130 Dutch companies, civil society, knowledge institutes and philanthropists who wish to contribute to the SDGs in partnership. A recently launched SDG Gateway forms an online community of active stakeholders across sectors enabling collaboration.</p>
 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation	<p>The annual SDG report to parliament (before Accountability Day) and the annual PCD report to parliament serve as reporting mechanisms. Netherlands Statistics (CBS) monitored the Dutch starting position in November 2016. In March 2018 it published its second measurement with wider data coverage (50% of the UN indicators), which provides a cross-European comparison and an overview of progress to date. The website <a href="http://www.sdgnederland.nl">www.sdgnederland.nl</a> informs the public about the SDGs, ongoing initiatives and ideas on how everyone can actively contribute.</p>