



Political commitment, clearly and publicly expressed at the highest level, is a precondition for enhancing policy coherence

**Austria**

Under the Federal Act on Development Cooperation of 2003, PCSD is a legal obligation both at national and international level. The federal government instructed all ministries in January 2016 to incorporate the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their relevant strategies and programmes and to elaborate action plans. At strategic level, commitment to PCSD is expressed in the Three Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2016-2018.

**Belgium**

The legal and strategic frameworks across the different federal entities reflect Belgium's commitment to policy coherence. The 2013 Law on Development Cooperation refers to policy coherence for development, and an intergovernmental declaration (both federal and federated governments) regarding adherence to PCD was signed in 2014. Reflections are underway to adapt PCD institutional architecture to the new realities of the 2030 Agenda.

**Czech Republic**

Commitment to PCSD is reflected in the strategic framework Czech Republic 2030 as well as in government strategies and communications. Two priority areas of the national strategy (Good Governance, Global Development) contain strategic goals aimed at improving PCSD.

**Denmark**

The government is committed to foster policy coherence, taking an integrated perspective of national and global challenges for sustainable development. In 2017, the government launched a National Action Plan containing 37 concrete (mostly) national targets on SDG implementation as well as a new strategy for international development cooperation and humanitarian action titled "The World 2030". The Action Plan includes a specific chapter that highlights the importance the Danish government attaches to PCSD and the various mechanisms it uses to promote policy coherence on a national, European and international level.

**Estonia**

The parliament adopted the Sustainable Development Act in 1995, and in 2005 adopted the sustainable development strategy Sustainable Estonia 21, which serves as a strategic framework to implement the SDGs and includes a call to enhance PCSD for national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as articulated in the 2016 VNR. An initial framework for Estonian policy coherence will be established by 2020.

**Finland**

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.

**Germany**

The Chancellor stressed repeatedly Germany's commitment for an ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Federal Chancellery, in charge of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, the essential framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Greece**

The Greek National Growth Strategy, currently under elaboration, will be fully aligned to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This strategic framework will emphasise the crucial role of policy coherence in achieving sustainable development. Responsibility for the overall co-ordination and implementation of the SDGs at national level is assigned to the centre of government, i.e. the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG), to ensure commitment at the highest political level and whole-of-government involvement in SDG implementation.

**Ireland**

In its 2018 Voluntary National Review, Ireland specifies that the government is guided by the principle that "economic, social and environmental requirements [...] are fundamentally linked and interdependent on each other". The Strategic Objectives of Ireland's SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020, thus include a commitment to "identify opportunities for enhancing policy coherence" and to "support and promote policies and initiatives across government which contribute towards meeting the [Sustainable Development] Goals at home and abroad."

**Italy**

Italy's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) was approved in 2017 with policy coherence for sustainable development as one of the main pillars of the "external dimension". Policy coherence is also enshrined as an overarching principle in the Reform Law 125/2014. According to Art. 2, Italy makes the "utmost effort to guarantee that its policies, even when not directly linked to development cooperation, shall be consistent with the purposes and founding principles of this Law, so that they might foster the achievement of the development goals."

**Japan**

In 2016, the government established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all ministers in order to ensure commitment at the highest level. A new national strategy, The Implementation Guiding Principles, includes national priorities and indicators. The SDGs Promotion Headquarters agreed on the "SDGs Action Plan 2018" in December, 2017.

**Latvia**

In 2002, Latvia enacted its Sustainable Development Policy based on the 1992 Rio Declaration and its experience with balancing economic and social processes with environmental protection. Following a review of the European Union's Sustainable Development Policy in 2006, Latvia refined its national planning processes, allowing for broad consultation of stakeholders during the elaboration of the country's sustainable development vision Latvia2030. The document considers integrated planning across economic, social, ecological and cultural spheres as indispensable and strives to ensure inclusive policy making across all administrative levels and sectors. Accordingly, promoting policy coherence for sustainable development is a key principle of Latvia's development planning process as stated in its 2018 VNR.



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### Lithuania

The 2011 National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) lists policy coherence as a main implementation principle (19.6). The National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is chaired by the prime minister and includes political leaders at minister or vice minister level. Lithuania is committed to further strengthening dialogue with stakeholders and achieving policy coherence at all levels of Lithuanian society.

### Luxembourg

The third National Plan for Sustainable Development (NPSD), the implementation strategy of Agenda 2030, is currently being elaborated and will address PCSD. Since 2012, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Development Cooperation (ICD) is mandated by law to deal with PCSD and an explicit commitment is made in the current 2013-2018 government development program.

### Mexico

Mexico approaches implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a “commitment of the State”. A new National Council for the 2030 Agenda was established in April 2017. The federal government will launch a National Strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda, which is being developed by the Office of the President in collaboration with more than 50 different offices of the Federal Public Administration. The new strategy will set out national priorities and targets based on a broad consultation and dialogue with stakeholders.

### Netherlands

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.

### Poland

The Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD), adopted in February 2017, is Poland’s current framework for achieving the SDGs. The principle of policy coherence for development was incorporated in the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme 2016-2020 and adopted by the Council of Ministers.

### Portugal

The Council of Ministers Resolution 82/2010 provides a legal framework for policy coherence for development (PCD). Mechanisms have been in place for PCD since 2010. This legal framework recognises the need to ensure coherence between national policies which directly or indirectly affect developing countries. The Strategic Concept for Portuguese Cooperation 2014-2020 also states a political commitment to PCD. The importance of PCSD is affirmed in Portugal’s 2017 VNR.

### Slovak Republic

Policy coherence is one of the guiding principles in the national Agenda 2030 implementation strategy adopted by government in July 2017. National priorities will be presented by mid-2018.

### Slovenia

Commitment to more coherent and centralized policy planning for sustainable development is expressed in the new National Development Strategy 2030, adopted in December 2017. Slovenia further outlined its long-term development plans in its Vision 2050. A public financing Act was renewed to ensure that the sustainable development planning (implementation of the Slovenia’s Development Strategy 2030 through preparation of the Action plans) is integrated into the budgeting cycle.

### Sweden

The Policy for Global Development (PGD), relaunched in 2014, underlines the centrality of policy coherence to promote sustainable development. It means raising ambitions and involves a knowledge boost within the Government Offices of Sweden and its agencies.

### Switzerland

Switzerland’s commitment to sustainable development is enshrined in Articles 2 and 73 of the Federal Constitution from 1999. Pursuant to the Government’s 2016–2019 Sustainable Development Strategy, policy coherence for sustainable development is a priority issue for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national and international level. PCSD also figures prominently in the country’s annual Foreign Policy Reports and the 2018 Voluntary National Review.