



Engaging stakeholders effectively at all stages of the policy-making process is essential to sustain broader support for PCSD and its implementation

Austria

Main national policy frameworks and strategies rely on well-established multi-stakeholder advisory groups and a broad consultative process. Ministries, other governmental entities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, academia, political parties and interest groups (such as The Federation of Austrian Industries – IV and the Austrian Economic Chamber - WKÖ) took part in developing the Three Year Programme 2019-2021. SDG Watch Austria, a civil society platform to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria, went online in September 2017.

Belgium

Belgium strives for a participative process at all levels of policy making, including stakeholders inside and outside of the government. Advisory councils consisting of civil society and academia such as the Federal Council for Sustainable Development or the Advisory Council for Policy Coherence for Development contribute to PCSD.

Czech Republic

A number of stakeholder forums, academic institutions and voluntary associations exist to support SDG implementation in the agenda-setting phase and contributed to developing Czech Republic 2030, e.g. the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS), think-tank Glopolis, CSO consortium Mej se k svetu, the Charles University Environment Center, the Association of Social Responsibility and the Green Circle. Relevant ministries and government agencies are also engaged in dialogue with the private sector. The PCSD governmental body provides a platform for discussion and mediation among stakeholders

Denmark

Denmark has a tradition for inclusion and involvement of stakeholders and strives for a broad stakeholder engagement at all levels of policy making. The Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs held a number of meetings with relevant stakeholders, including representatives from civil society, business and investors, municipalities, youth organisations, academia and the independent national human rights institutions to discuss the process leading up to the UN HLPF in 2017 and 2018. In addition, the government included contributions from those stakeholders in the Voluntary National Review drafted for the HLPF 2017. Similarly, the government invites members of parliament and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the Danish delegation at the HLPF.

Estonia

The Sustainable Development Commission, a non-governmental umbrella organisation, meets four to five times per year. It holds thematic discussions and publishes focus reports with policy recommendations. It unites organisations from academic and industrial sectors, youth and local governance and connects non-governmental organisations in different areas of sustainable development. The Code of Good Engagement obliges government institutions to involve interest groups and the general public when making decisions that affect them.

Finland

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 NCSO 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 NCSO. 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.

Germany

The independent Sustainable Development Council advises the Federal Government on all sustainability matters. Its 15 members, last appointed in 2016 for a three-year term by the Chancellor, represent the three dimensions of sustainable development based on their professional and personal backgrounds. A Sustainability Forum is organized once a year by the Chancellery in order to give a selection of important stakeholders the opportunity to comment on sustainable development policy in Germany.

Greece

Consultation and high-level events are used to raise awareness, provide a space for multi-stakeholder interaction, and foster dialogue and partnerships on SDGs. Currently, two additional institutional set-ups for stakeholder participation are being considered: 1) establishment of a parliamentary committee, where all political parties are represented, to discuss SDGs and PCSD on a regular basis, and 2) an online consultation platform to provide a broad forum for participation to discuss, submit proposals and promote stakeholders' good practices on SDG implementation. Currently, the Economic and Social Committee of Greece (ESC), the constitutionally established institution responsible for conducting social dialogue on the country's general policy and in particular on economic and social issues, has assumed an important role in promoting systematic and structured consultation and dialogue on the effective implementation of SDGs at different levels and sectors.

Ireland

In June 2018, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment established a National SDG Stakeholder Forum. The Forum was established to bring together stakeholders working on, or involved in the promotion of the SDGs across Ireland and abroad. The Forum allows for policy makers, civil society, business and other interested parties to share experiences and information on SDG related activities at national and international level. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, as Chair of the Forum, feeds back through the Interdepartmental Working Group on relevant issues and aims to include stakeholder input in the design of National Implementation Plans.

Italy

The government involved a number of national public research institutes (namely the CNR, ISPRA, ENEA, and ISTAT) in the definition and implementation of policies to ensure an approach based on scientifically founded information. More than 400 Universities, research centres and NGOs were contacted for their factual and prospective inputs. Similarly, broad stakeholder participation was guaranteed during the drafting process of the Policy Planning Document of Italian Development Cooperation, which is structured along the 17 SDGs and is an integral part of the NSDS. In addition, Italian Law provides for a National Conference on Development Cooperation that strongly encourages engagement with civil society and other key stakeholders.

Japan

The Headquarters promotes consultations with stakeholders via SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings that include representatives from the related governmental agencies, NGOs/NPOs, academia, the private sector and international organizations. The SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting also conducts implementation reviews on the achievement of the SDGs. The Headquarters awards the "Japan SDGs Award" to highlight best practices of companies, local governments and CSOs. The first ceremony was held in December 2017. The dialogue at the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting also fed into the preparation of the Implementation Guiding Principles.

Latvia

Latvia fosters broad stakeholder participation, including through an informal working group on the SDGs, continuous opportunities for engagement throughout the policy-making process, public consultations, advisory councils and other forums. Policy drafts are regularly published on ministry websites under the section "public participation". The Civic Alliance Latvia is the largest umbrella organisations that engages with the Government. Its member organisation, the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) fosters participation of civil society organisations in SDG-related policy processes.



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Lithuania

Representatives from NGOs, business, academia and governmental and municipal institutions are members of the NCSD, making it a useful platform for addressing and solving conflicting interests. Intergovernmental working groups also include input from NGOs. Lithuania's national Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisation's Platform (NGDO) brings together 21 development and education NGOs, mainly to raise public awareness and provide civic education on sustainable development issues. Lithuania is currently working on closer and more formal involvement of the private sector, in particular in their international development co-operation activities.

Luxembourg

The launch of the Fair Politics barometer, a report by Luxembourg's national umbrella organization of NGOs (Cercle.lu), and the subsequent discussion in Parliament in December 2017, was a first step towards greater consideration of PCSD and the SDGs during the next legislative period. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs supports this ongoing advocacy. The ICD invites NGOs active in the development and cooperation sector to participate in its debates, attend its meetings and identify priority topics to be considered. An additional platform for reflection, discussion and advice/opinion on sustainable development, the High Council for Sustainable Development, consists of 15 persons from civil society and the private sector, and submits an annual report to parliament.

Mexico

Civil society, academia and the private sector participate as observers during sessions of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda. They contributed to developing the official position of Mexico during the negotiation process of the SDGs. The Office of the President has organised a series of regional forums in several states with more than 300 representatives from civil society, as well as the consultation for developing the National Strategy involving multiple stakeholders. AMEXCID launched the "Alliance for Sustainability" as a platform for dialogue and action including more than 50 leading enterprises in sustainability (sustainable production and consumption, climate change, energetic transition, water, financial inclusion, etc.), business organisations and business foundations to exchange information on how to integrate the SDGs into business models and design international co-operation projects based on the 2030 Agenda. In the context of international development co-operation, a first stage is being initiated through the mapping of civil society capabilities and, subsequently, training for strengthening capacities of society.

Netherlands

An SDG Charter was established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as 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.

Poland

Dialogue with stakeholders takes place through forums such as the Social Dialogue Council at central level and the Regional Social Dialogue Councils. Tripartite industry teams (representing the government, employers and trade unions) meet in these forums discuss and reconcile diverging interests related to the functioning of a given sector/industry. The Councils also help to implement and monitor flagship projects of the SRD within the regions.

Portugal

The preparation of the 2017 VNR benefited from a public consultation on implementation of the 2030 Agenda held in 2016. This process, which was led by a group of non-governmental CSOs with the support of Camões I.P. and the UN regional Information Centre for Western Europe, collected input on the operationalisation, evaluation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for the purpose of preparing periodical "shadow reports". Several multi-stakeholder workshops and seminars, as well as an online enquiry to reach more citizens, have also been organised.

Slovak Republic

In the ongoing process of defining national priorities for achieving sustainable development, Slovakia aims to involve a wide range of stakeholders, which should contribute to achieving lasting commitments. This includes academia, NGOs, the private sector, employer associations, city associations and civil society. Currently, stakeholders participate via an ongoing stakeholder participation process.

Slovenia

The new National Development Strategy commits the government to establish a Council for Development that will bring together all stakeholders and act as an advisory board to the Inter-Ministerial Working Group, a forum and a watchdog for sustainable development policies.

Sweden

Civil society organisations are invited to open hearings by the Multi-stakeholder National Committee, including also municipalities, academia, private sector and trade unions. The Scientific Council for Sustainable Development, established 2015, includes a panel of prominent researchers and provides a forum for dialogue between the government and the scientific community. Sweden held ambitious stakeholder consultation processes leading up to and following the 2017 HLPF. These consultations are also a part of the process to prepare a National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, using PGD as a tool.

Switzerland

Various instruments of direct democracy enable stakeholders to influence and determine government action at local and federal level, including referendums and popular initiatives on sustainable development. To ensure broad support and efficient implementation of the Swiss 2016-2019 Sustainable Development Strategy, key stakeholders from civil society, business, science, as well as the cantons and communes were involved in the design of the strategy and national action plan through a stakeholder dialogue running from November 2014 to May 2015. The outcomes of the dialogue also included contributions to Switzerland's long-term vision and sustainability development targets for 2030.