

VNR Workshop 24 February

Session on Tools for integrated planning and reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 Chair: African Union Commission

Brief highlights on tools:

- ECA
- UNDP
- AUC/NEPAD
- OECD
- OSAA

Q&A/discussion: for participants to highlight or seek clarification on key areas of progress and main challenges encountered in integrated planning and reporting

- Sharing of successes, challenges, gaps and lessons learned
- Capacity needs
- Interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063
- Sustainable Development Goals in conflict and post-conflict settings
- Regional commonalities and regional peer learning
- Rolling out the tools

SLIDE 1. GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

- I will focus my presentation on the tools we are developing to support countries in addressing the governance challenges posed by the SDGs. Although they can play out differently depending on the country context, these challenges are often linked to strategic visioning, integrated planning, whole-of-government coordination, financing and budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Some of the most frequent challenges that countries are reporting include:
 - SDG implementation efforts are often disconnected from the mainstream policy agenda.
 - There are frequent gaps in the leadership capacities.
 - SDGs are often not yet integrated into core governance mechanisms (e.g. budget, public procurement).
 - There is little tracking of SDG implementation and impact.
 - There is often a lack of accountability and inclusiveness.
- Many of these challenges arise because of a lack of policy coherence. So our work aims at helping countries equip policy-makers with the necessary institutional mechanisms and policy tools to strengthen policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) – one of the key means of implementation.
- We do this in response to the growing demand by OECD Member and Partner countries to deal with the “how” of coherent 2030 Agenda implementation.

Transition: But what do we mean by PCSD?

SLIDE 2. PCSD DEFINITION

- PCSD is an approach to integrate the dimensions of sustainable development throughout domestic and international policy making. It has three main objectives:
 - Fostering synergies and maximising benefits across economic, social and environmental policy areas.
 - Reconciling domestic policy objectives with internationally agreed objectives.
 - Addressing the transboundary and long-term impacts of policies.
- PCSD is thus about addressing the complex interconnections among the SDGs and targets to effectively capitalise on synergies, while avoiding costly trade-offs and negative externalities beyond borders.

Transition: This is not an easy task – have developed an online toolkit to support countries.

SLIDE 3. PCSD ONLINE TOOLKIT

- The toolkit contains four main components:



Transition: We are also conducting institutional country scans and reviews to provide targeted support in specific governance areas...

SLIDE 4. COUNTRY SCANS AND REVIEWS IN LINE WITH EVIDENCE-BASED STANDARDS

- These studies explore how core governance systems are adapted to deliver cross-cutting policy objectives and support an effective and integrated implementation of the SDGs.
- For example, there are already a number of recent or ongoing OECD projects which aim to help countries strengthen their governance practices in support of the SDGs.
 - One can mention the recent partnership with the Slovak Republic to develop an SDG strategy and review the budget practices in support of the SDGs.
 - The Czech Republic and the OECD have collaborated to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for SDG co-ordination. Also: Malta, Romania, Poland etc.
- We also have experience of working jointly with UNDP in supporting the implementation of SDGs. For example, the MAPS project in Egypt – to assess the institutional arrangements for systematic cross-ministerial collaboration – was a multi-party collaboration including Egypt, the OECD and UNDP (as well as other UN agencies).
- This work is based on evidence-based standards, tools and guidance developed over many years.

Transition: The most recent such tool is the new Recommendation on policy coherence for sustainable development.

SLIDE 5. PCSD RECOMMENDATION: EIGHT GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PCSD

- The PCSD Recommendation provides countries with a comprehensive standard and tool for integrated SDG implementation. It consists of eight guiding principles organised around three pillars:
 - I. A strategic vision for implementing the 2030 Agenda underpinned by a clear political commitment and leadership to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.
 - II. Effective and inclusive institutional and governance mechanisms to address policy interactions across sectors and align actions between levels of government.
 - III. A set of responsive and adaptive tools to anticipate, assess and address domestic, transboundary and long-term impacts of policies.
- The principles refer to structures, processes and working methods that can facilitate improvements in policy coherence in governments from different political and administrative traditions.
- We are currently developing an implementation toolkit which would include more technical guidance, analytical tools as well as good practice examples to support countries develop institutional mechanisms for policy coherence.
- But institutional mechanisms are not enough – to meet these challenges, governments need to ensure that the institutions involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are equipped with skills, resources and digital tools to support effective implementation.
- Our work on Public Service Leadership and Capability encourages responsive and adaptive civil servants – with the empowerment, resources and agility needed to effectively and efficiently address fast-changing, ongoing and emerging challenges. We need a flexible workforce to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration – a prerequisite for effective SDG implementation.

Other tools – only mention briefly if there is time:

- Budgetary Governance to support governments implement budgeting frameworks that align strategic expenditure allocations with fiscal targets, medium-term priorities and development objectives.
- Regulatory Policy Evaluation assists countries in systematically evaluating the design and implementation of regulatory policy against the achievement of strategic regulatory objectives, such as those derived from the SDGs.
- Public Procurement ensures the strategic and holistic use of public procurement, which is key pillar of strategic governance and services delivery. Well-designed public procurement systems also contribute to achieving pressing policy goals such as environmental protection, innovation, job creation and the development of small and medium enterprises.

Transition: To bring all this work together...

SLIDE 7. GLOBAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- To bring all this work together, it is proposed to establish a virtual Governance Hub to provide a space for countries to share knowledge, experiences and enact reforms. The Hub would help to ensure global reach and impact in both OECD and partner countries, responding to growing demand for support.
- Support under the Hub to partner countries would be provided in partnership with UNDP.
- To ensure impact, we are currently undertaking **a broad consultation process**, which involves **pilot projects** and **regional consultations** – the meetings here this week represent the first such consultation and aims at assessing country needs and seeking the views of all stakeholders on the main governance bottlenecks and gaps for SDG implementation, particularly in policy coherence.
- **We want to hear from you** – believe that this initiative would benefit from the perspectives of VNR countries present here today and throughout the week, and also that VNR countries could benefit from the knowledge resources and tailored support the Global Hub would provide.
- **Invite the audience to participate in the online survey.** The initial results from the first two days of the Forum will be presented by my colleague on Wednesday in APRM's Side Event on Governance Mechanisms and Challenges for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. APRM will be an important partner for rolling out this initiative on the African continent and we very much look forward to working with them and other actors in the region.