BUILDING COHERENT RESPONSES FOR A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

Evidence from a recent OECD survey

Tatyana Teplova,
Head of the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Goals Division
OECD Public Governance Directorate

24 June 2020
18th ESDN Workshop
Achieving the SDGs through a Sustainable and Just Transition: Challenges and responses to Covid-19
WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?
Governance challenges were seen as a key impediment to SDG implementation

- 79% of the policy practitioners indicate that they are struggling with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 77% perceive governance or leadership-related challenges as an obstacle to SDG implementation.

Areas where governance related challenges are seen as an obstacle to achieve policy coherence in support of SDGs (percentage of respondents):

- Strategic long-term vision: 82%
- Stakeholder engagement: 77%
- Political commitment and leadership: 76%
- Whole-of-government integration: 76%
- Policy and financing impacts: 75%
- Policy integration: 74%
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation: 74%
- Subnational engagement: 73%
- I do not know: 2%
- Others: 1%

Survey in early 2020 with 595 expert participants (thereof 310 policy makers) from Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, North America, Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, Asia Pacific.
Policy coherence and governance for sustainable development are ever more important NOW

- Need to protect recent gains in achieving the SDGs
- Ensure that long-term efforts for “building forward better” are not undermined by short-sighted responses
- Need to balance short-term recovery measures and international commitments, e.g. climate change
- Need for coordinated exit strategies to build a long-term recovery

- 72% of respondents think that COVID-19 will impact their capacities to achieve the SDGs by 2030
- 80% respondents think the SDGs is the map for recovery;
- 44% of the governments are more aware of the need to factor in long-term impact;
- the first driver for bouncing forward with PCSD agenda is increased sensitiveness of the public opinion around long-term environmental and social concerns
- 11% stated there is an increased government attention to international commitments
- more than half of the respondents think Governments are more aware of the need to work across silos;
- 40% of respondents engaged sub-national levels of government in emergency and recovery plans
**PCGSD is essential to align economic, social and environmental recovery measures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obstacles in managing policy trade-offs</th>
<th>Mechanisms to address them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>lack of ownership and commitment</strong> to incorporate sustainable development issues</td>
<td>Make explicit reference of PCSD as operational principle in official recovery plans, and set milestones for its implementation and a body in charge of it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inability of <strong>coordination mechanisms</strong> to resolve trade-offs and policy divergences</td>
<td>Establish coordination mechanisms and build capacities for identifying policy inconsistencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties in effectively assess <strong>policy impacts</strong></td>
<td>Use combined ex ante sustainability assessments and policy foresight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexity in <strong>integrating sustainability</strong> considerations into governance processes</td>
<td>Strengthen and adapt core governance mechanisms (e.g. budget, procurement, impact assessment, cross-sectoral dialogues, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of <strong>accountability and inclusiveness</strong></td>
<td>Enhanced stakeholder participation, and increased opportunities to work closely with the private sector</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OECD SUPPORT ON GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COHERENCE FOR SDGS
OECD support to efforts to align recovery with global commitments: towards the Hub on PCGSD

- **OECD PCSD Recommendations** and governance-related **Standards**
- **Tailor-made advice and country support** to align recovery with international commitments (Paris Agreement, Global compact on migration, Due Diligence guidance, etc.)
  - **Dedicated support to EU countries** refocusing the EU Semester into an instrument that integrates SDGS
- **Online portal and practical tools** to strengthen capacities and institutional mechanisms, e.g.,
  - **Observatory on PCGSD** to provide stakeholders with resources and tools to address key policy coherence challenges
  - **Self-assessment checklist**
I. A strategic vision for achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in an integrated and coherent manner

1 Political Commitment and Leadership
   to foster whole-of-government action for PCSD

2 Strategic Long-term Vision
   to support policy coherence and orient the government and stakeholders towards SDGs

3 Policy integration
   to capitalise on synergies and benefits across economic, social and environmental policies

II. Effective and inclusive institutional and governance mechanisms to address policy interactions

4 Whole-of-Government coordination
   to mitigate divergences between sectoral priorities and policies

5 Subnational engagement
   to promote coordinated actions and enhance coherence across levels of governments

6 Stakeholder engagement
   to sustain broader support for PCSD and its implementation

III. A set of responsive and adaptive tools to anticipate, assess and address impacts of policies

7 Policy and financial impacts
   to inform decision-making, increase positive impacts and avoid potential negative impacts

8 Monitoring, reporting and evaluation
   to collect qualitative and quantitative evidence on the impact of policies and financing, and report progress on PCSD
## OECD good governance standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Leadership and Capability</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Government</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Integrity</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Equality in Public Life</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgetary Governance</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Procurement</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Government Strategies</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Fiscal Institutions</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance of Critical Risks</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance of Public-Private Partnerships</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Governance as a key lever for transformation
## Targeted country support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slovak Republic</td>
<td>Development of SDG strategy and review of budget practices in support of SDGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Strengthening existing institutional mechanisms and capacities for policy coherence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Strengthening of institutional mechanisms for SDG co-ordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Needs assessment for targeted administrative capacity-building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Capacity Building Programme for Civil Servants on sustainable development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Strengthening institutional arrangements for the implementation of the revised SN national strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Integration of the SDGs in the budget process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Capacity building for embedding SDGs into policy and budget planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PCGSD for enhancing EU policy-making and recovery plan form COVID 19

- The EC recovery plan includes key elements that can guide towards a sustainable and resilient recovery (no one left behind, green and digital transformation pillars).
- It needs the adoption of a PCGSD approach to support sustainable growth and the alignment of the EU semester with the SDGs.
What is the current situation?

- 0. Not applicable
- 1. Not in place
- 2. Building Block under development
- 3. In place, not implemented
- 4. In place, partly implemented
- 5. In place, functioning

### Policy Coordination

- Is there a formal mechanism for coordination on sustainable development?
- Is the coordinating mechanism located strategically within the government organisational structure to promote coherence and resolve policy conflicts?
- Are there clear mandates and arbitration processes for preventing and resolving policy conflicts?
- Does the coordinating mechanism provide opportunities for informing ex-ante on domestic policy-making as well as on its interface with foreign policies?