# Indicator 17.14.1

**Indicator Name, Target and Goal**

**Indicator 17.14.1** Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

**Target 17.14** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

**Goal 17** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

**Definition and Rationale**

○   Definition

For the purpose of this methodology 'policy coherence of sustainable development' has been interpreted as the coherence between policies in general that cover the dimensions of sustainable development. This indicator is a composite indicator which covers mechanisms related to:

1. Institutionalization of Political Commitment
2. Long-term considerations in decision-making
3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination
4. Participatory processes
5. Policy linkages
6. Alignment across government levels
7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence
8. Financing for policy coherence

○   Concepts

Scope of "Sustainable Development": For the purpose of this methodology 'policy coherence of sustainable development' has been interpreted as the coherence between policies in general that cover the dimensions of sustainable development, rather than adopting a narrower definition of mechanisms put in place to support the coherent implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), so as to promote coherent policy for sustainable development well beyond the current agenda's timeframe. The policy coherence mechanisms set out in this methodology may therefore include mechanisms already in place

before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015.

The concept of Policy Coherence: The textual formulation of the indicator covers "policy coherence". In order to make the indicator universally applicable and adaptable to various national contexts, the mechanisms measured by the methodology cover a wide range of mechanisms that, although aiming to achieve the same objective, use slightly different language. In order to properly assess and report on this indicator, similar concepts such as "whole of government approach or "integrated approach" will be interpreted in the same spirit as the concept of "policy coherence". However, it is important that the used concept considers policies that cover the various dimensions of sustainable development. Hence, a mechanism focusing solely on the concept of policy coherence for development (which is often limited to coherence between Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other policies, in the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals) will not be considered by this framework.

○ Rationale and Interpretation:

Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development is important for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced and integrated manner; for ensuring coherence between policies at various levels of government; and for ensuring that policies in different sectors are mutually supportive and do not work against each other. It is also important in addressing the impacts of domestic policy internationally.

Policy coherence aims, as a minimum, to identify trade-offs and mitigate negative impacts between policies. At a more ambitious level, it should also aim to foster synergies and produce policies that mutually reinforce each other and to ensure that policies put in place are implementable and sustainable as they are inclusive of the concerned stakeholders' perspectives.

**Data Sources and Collection Method**

Based on the efforts of the Japanese government, including the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, data is collected.

**Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations**

○ Computation Method

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has developed a composite indicator framework for SDG 17.14.1 based on initial research on existing work, literature, partners and existing indicators on similar issues. This indicator includes 8 domains. Each domain is scored on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means none of the requested mechanisms are implemented, 10 means all the requested mechanisms are in place. The percentage of points out of the total 80 points is then computed for each country. Full details are in the document "Methodology for SDG-indicator 17.14.1: Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development".

Table 1: Scoring for mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

| Theme | National Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Institutionalized political commitment | 10 |
| 2. Long-term considerations | 7 |
| 3. Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination | 9 |
| 4. Participatory processes | 10 |
| 5. Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development, assessment of policy effects and linkages | 9 |
| 6. Consultation and coordination across government levels | 5 |
| 7. Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence | 10 |
| 8. Financial resources and tools | 5 |
| TOTAL | 65 |
| Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (%) | 81.25（Sum/80× 100%） |

○ Comments and limitations

There are many mechanisms that could be useful to assess at the national level which would be relevant to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. This methodology aims to provide a basis for countries to engage in discussions around what policy coherence means at the national level and how it could be improved. Such discussions and strategies to improve policy coherence that may results from it could feed into a country Voluntary National Review (VNR) or National Development Strategy or Plan development, to inform further efforts by the country to improve its ability to implement Agenda 2030 through better policy coherence.

**Data Disaggregation**

Not applicable

**References**

The methodology for calculating this indicator is available in the UNEP document "Methodology for SDG-indicator 17.14.1: Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development".

**Custodian Ministries of Data**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Custodian Ministries of Related Policies**

Cabinet Secretariat
Cabinet Office
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**International Organizations**

United Nations Environment Programme（UNEP）