Integration Segment
8-10 May 2017

Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?

Conference Room Paper

Executive Summary

As part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council's efforts to provide policy guidance on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Integration Segment aims to showcase best practices and lessons learned on integrated approaches aimed at poverty eradication as well as innovative solutions that are being developed. Based on contributions received from Member States and the United Nations system[1], this paper presents efforts to mainstream poverty eradication and aims to contribute to the Segment's deliberations by providing policy recommendations.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marks a renewed commitment to not only reduce, but to end poverty in all its forms. The MDG period has seen sharp decreases in poverty rates, especially income poverty. However, progress has been uneven and many countries have suffered severe setbacks. Economic growth around the world "has not necessarily translated into inclusive outcomes and shared prosperity, and in some cases, has exacerbated poverty and inequality".[2] Eradicating poverty in a sustained manner, globally and across all segments of society, will require making the eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies, in order to build on synergies, avoid setbacks and minimize negative trade-offs across economic activities. But what will it take to effectively mainstream poverty eradication?

Integrated approaches to poverty eradication offer opportunities for governments to develop policies that maximize the benefits of the three dimensions of sustainable development and address the breadth of the 2030 Agenda as well as other internationally-agreed roadmaps, such as the Addis-Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. This will require horizontal integration across policy areas and vertical integration across all segments of societies and the national, regional and international levels. Policy integration needs to be translated into institutional mechanisms that facilitate multi-sectoral analysis and coordination through sustained leadership, and foster multi-stakeholder collaboration. Science, technology, and innovation offer new tools to support integrated policy making and action. While technological progress facilitates better data collection on interlinkages and multiple manifestations of poverty, this progress needs to be accompanied by increased capacity to analyze large amounts of information to design effective poverty eradication strategies.

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[1] This Conference room paper draws on contributions submitted by Guatemala, Finland, Romania and the Republic of Serbia, as well as by the following ECOSOC subsidiary bodies: CCPCJ, CEPA, CDP, CND, CSocD, CSTD and UNFF. The paper further draws on inputs received on the theme of the Council from the following UN system entities: CBD, IFAD, FAO, ITU, DPAD, DPADM, DSPD, OSAA, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNODC, UNSD, UNU, WFP and WHO. These contributions are available on the ECOSOC Integration Segment website at: https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/984039
[2] UNDP & UNRISD, http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/sustainable-development-goals/global-trends--challenges-and-opportunities-in-the-implementatio.html

I.   Introduction

From 8 to 10 May 2017, the Integration Segment of the 2017 cycle of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will focus on the theme of *"Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: What will it take?"*. In line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the integration segment will consolidate inputs from Member States, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders. The deliberations of the Segment will promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development as reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and spelled out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Contributing to the main theme of the 2017 ECOSOC cycle "*Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"*, the Integration Segment will (1) consider national experiences, best practices and lessons learned on integrated policy-making for poverty reduction; (2) provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to identify and discuss opportunities and challenges in developing integrated approaches to address poverty in all its forms and dimensions in a sustained, inclusive and sustainable manner; and (3) consolidate inputs from the ECOSOC system showcasing how the system supports Member States in their efforts to design integrated policies aimed at poverty reduction in the SDG era.

The Integration Segment offers a unique opportunity to bring together key stakeholders to assess the status of integration and coherence of actions on the Sustainable Development Goals, and to provide action-oriented recommendations feeding into the preparations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

This conference room paper consolidates the inputs received from Member States and ECOSOC Functional Commissions. It further draws on analytical work conducted within DESA and on contributions received from the United Nations system on the annual theme of the Council. The paper aims to contribute to integrated approaches to poverty eradication, guided by the following question: *How can poverty reduction objectives be mainstreamed, across policy areas (horizontally) and at all levels (vertically), to meet the ambition of the 2030 Agenda and to 'leave no one behind'?*

First, the paper seeks to clarify the concept of policy integration[3] in relation to the 2030 Agenda and its focus on multidimensional deprivations (*Section II*). Second, national experiences of integrated programming, cross-border and regional projects, as well as global initiatives aimed at poverty reduction, illustrate possible ways to maximize synergies and to manage trade-offs between policy interventions (*Section III*). Third, policy instruments and institutional mechanisms with the potential to facilitate integrated approaches will be explored in *Section IV*. Finally, the paper provides recommendations to guide integrated policy-making for poverty reduction and to leave no one behind as essential elements of the 2030 Agenda (*Section V*).

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[3] The concept of policy integration still lacks conceptual clarity. This paper therefore proposes a working definition, please see p. 3.

II.   Multidimensional poverty in the context of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the eradication of poverty is "the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development". The international community has further committed to "leave no one behind" in its endeavour to implement the plan of action "for people, planet and prosperity" in collaborative partnership by 2030.[4]

As development needs of countries are ever more diverse, today's poverty landscape is different than at the time of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The distribution of poverty has shifted from low-income countries to middle-income countries, which are home to more than 70 percent of the world's poor. Furthermore, more than 75 percent of people in developing countries live in societies where income is more unequally distributed than in 1990.[5]

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that poverty in all its forms constitutes a challenge for developing and developed countries alike. Growing economic and social inequalities as well as the effects of climate change threaten to reverse development gains and to push people back into poverty. While the human development approach that underpinned the MDGs recognized that poverty constitutes a multidimensional phenomenon beyond income poverty, the 2030 Agenda and the set of SDGs at its core, make the interlinkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - explicit and reflect the complexity of the development challenges of our time.

Policies that maximize the benefits of the three dimensions of sustainable development and minimize trade-offs across different goals and targets can be defined as *integrated policies.* Concepts of policy integration were explored in more detail in a recent policy brief by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.[6] Integrated approaches are key to address the breadth of the SDGs, e.g. the targets listed under SDG 1 contain a wide range of issues, such as social protection systems, equal rights to economic resources, resilience of the poor and reduction of vulnerability to climate-related events. Making poverty eradication an integral objective of all policies thus involves *horizontal integration* across different thematic policy areas. Coherence should not only be ensured across ministries, but also between subnational and national poverty reduction strategies as well as regional and international frameworks. The policy-design stage therefore requires to involve a wide range of stakeholders,

> *SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere*
> *1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day*
>
> *1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions*
>
> *1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable*
>
> *1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance*
>
> *1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters*
>
> *1.A Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions*
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> *1.B Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.*

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[4] A/RES/70/1

[5] http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/

[6] https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/publication/desa-policy-brief-policy-integration.pdf

such as sectoral experts, policy-makers, civil society, the private sector, academia, and to pay particular attention to the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable. This process can be described as *vertical integration.* Leadership is required to ensure that both *horizontal* and *vertical integration* are pursued throughout the policy cycle, encompassing agenda setting, policy formulation, implementation and evaluation.

While the development and implementation of integrated policies may seem complex and cost-intensive, such policies yield results over a long-term and allow to build resilience. The ability to recover from or adjust easily to shocks seems particularly relevant in today's dynamic global environment. The importance of bringing together poverty eradication and environmental viability in a single integrated framework, that is the 2030 Agenda, is beginning to be understood. Climate change and the depletion of limited natural resources particularly affect the world's poorest: 70 percent of the world's 1.2 billion people living below the poverty line largely depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.[7] Natural disasters are an existential threat to Small Island Developing States and have a disproportional impact on the poorest households, which tend to lose a higher proportion of their productive assets. Global average annual loss due to disasters is estimated to increase up to $415 billion by 2030 due to investment requirements in urban infrastructure alone.[8] Further evidence reveals that unsustainable use of natural resources and climate change results in a loss of up to 22% of total annual GDP in African countries.[9] Likewise, "the effects of climate change, including the recurrent cycles of drought, desertification and land degradation continue to hinder progress [...], particularly in light of their effect on the agriculture sector and the related low harvests and increase in food prices".[10]

Both eradicating poverty and halting global warming are cross-cutting issues to the achievement of which many of the other goals and targets will contribute. While priority areas for action may vary between countries, the 2030 Agenda makes clear that the SDGs are a network of goals and targets that will 'rise or fall together'. Investments in sustainable energy (SDG 7) not only help to curb climate change (SDG 13) but also improve air quality (SDG 11) and thereby the health of the local population (SDG 3).[11] Healthy people fare better in terms of education (SDG 4) and productivity (Goal 8), which are important elements to overcome poverty and to reduce vulnerabilities.

Integrated poverty eradication strategies require broadening the policy focus: policy-makers will not only need to understand the interlinkages between the SDGs but also how the latter relate to areas that have not traditionally been at the centre of development cooperation. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) notes that its work on the world drug problem is closely linked to the question of eradicating poverty. The Commission considers the economic and environmental aspects of illicit cultivation of drug crops as well as social aspects that can be conducive to drug use, thereby also touching on aspects related to health (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), inequalities (SDG 10) as well as the rule of law and the prevention of

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[7] See inputs provided by UNDP, p. 32.
[8] See inputs provided by UNISDR, p. 81.
[9] See UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative in Africa, 2008-2012, Collected Country Economic Analysis.
[10] See inputs provided by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), p. 29.
[11] https://www.eda.admin.ch/content/dam/agenda2030/en/documents/20151117-flyer-agenda2030_EN.pdf

corruption (SDG 16).[12] Similarly, the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) focuses on the rule of law and effective criminal justice systems which are important elements of an enabling environment for sustainable development[13].

A multidimensional focus allows to better understand where different segments of society are experiencing poverty to design a nuanced set of policy responses. Women, children and youth, and the elderly as well as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons are particularly exposed to poverty. A human-rights lens should therefore be applied throughout the policy-making and implementation processes. Women's empowerment and gender equality as well as the involvement of youth are key enablers to the success of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, poverty eradication strategies should be complementary and pursued over the lifecycle, ensuring equal opportunities for children and youth to thrive, tackling the issue of 'the working poor' and addressing the needs of the elderly. In this regard, Romania has launched various programmes to assist vulnerable mothers and their new-borns, to facilitate the socio-professional integration of young people through an integrated package of support services, including housing, education, health and occupation, and to provide support to the elderly through the "Grandparents of the community" project.[14]

To achieve SDG 1, the international community has committed to "create sound policy-frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions"[15]. While there is consensus that context-specific, integrated approaches are required to implement the 2030 Agenda and to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind, the challenge lies in translating these commitments into coherent strategies and institutional arrangements at the national, regional and international level.[16] Tackling poverty in a sustained, inclusive and sustainable manner is thus intrinsically linked to the question of governance and the quest for institutional mechanisms that facilitate policy coherence and integrated policy-making. Possible contradictions between goals and targets at the international level may be reflected at the national level, within and between ministries. At the same time, understanding these interactions is an opportunity to avoid side effects and achieve progress across many areas, thereby reducing vulnerabilities.

The landmark multilateral agreements adopted in 2015 provide a unique opportunity in this regard: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda complement and reinforce each other. Synergies can also be created between the 2030 Agenda and regional frameworks, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063, and by aligning national poverty reduction programmes with the SDGs.

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[12] https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CND.pdf
[13] https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CCPCJ.pdf
[14] Inputs provided by the government of Romania,
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/Romania.pdf
[15] SDG 1, Target 1B. A/RES/70/1
[16] See also Report of the expert meeting on readying institutions and policies for integrated approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Vienna, 14-16 December 2016.
http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/Report%20Vienna%20meeting%20FINAL.docx.pdf

III.   Approaches to integrated policy-making for poverty reduction

Mainstreaming the SDGs in national policies offers countries the opportunity to ensure that no one is left behind in "education (SDG 4.1-4.4), healthcare (SDG 3.8), employment (SDG 8.5-8.6), social protection (SDG 1.3), water and sanitation (SDG 6.1-6.2), public procurement (SDG 12.7) and information-sharing (SDG 12.8), energy (SDG 7.1), reliable infrastructure (SDG 9.1), including sustainable housing (SDG 11.1), transportation (SDG 11.2) and environmentally sound systems, such as waste disposal (SDG 12.4-12.5)".[17] Both poverty measurements and solutions aimed at poverty reduction therefore need to factor in a broad range of issues which intersect and interact in dynamic ways.

Based on contributions received from Member States and the UN system, this section presents country-led efforts to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in planning and budgeting processes. It also illustrates, where appropriate, how the UN system can support countries in addressing the multiple, intersecting deprivations that trap people in poverty.

a.   National examples of integrated programming

The *World Economic and Social Survey (WESS) 2014/2015*[18] provides an extensive review of the economic, social and environmental policies that successfully contributed to the achievement of the MDGs. The success was defined by the positive impacts of these policies on poverty reduction and other social outcomes, as well as the level of integration and coherence built across policy areas. The survey found that, in most countries, successful policies to achieve the MDGs were part of countries' long-term development policies aimed at poverty reduction and social development.

Social protection for all and job creation remain key components of successful poverty eradication strategies.[19] Specific policies in the form of social protection will pay off not only in the short term by contributing directly to the reduction of poverty, but also in the long run by indirect effects in terms of enabling households to invest in human capital and productive assets.[20] Moreover, vertical and horizontal inequalities can be reduced as people are moving up the income ladder over time. However, social protection schemes should be complemented by inclusion policies that go beyond traditional social security instruments and can be defined as "a set of interventions and processes ensuring that those living in poverty or at risk of poverty and exclusion gain access to opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life and to enjoy a standard of living that is considered normal in the society in which they live"[21].

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[17] See inputs provided by DPADM, p. 19.
[18] See inputs provided by DPAD, p. 17. https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/2015wess_es_en.pdf
[19] See inputs provided by CEPA, p. 1.
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CEPA.pdf
[20] See inputs provided by the United Nations University, p. 89.
[21] http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/docs/sf_social_inclusion_en.pdf. See input provided by UNDP, p. 55.

The experience of *Finland* is particularly illustrative in this regard. Finland's welfare state comprises social insurance, social security benefits and social and health services. Social insurance covers pensions, occupational accident insurance, unemployment security, health insurance and parental benefits. Together with social security benefits, these constitute income security. Social insurance allows everyone residing or working in Finland to be insured against social risks such as old age, incapacity for work, unemployment, sickness and loss due to the death of a breadwinner. Everyone is entitled to basic security, including those who have not paid insurance contributions based on earned income. Thus, the principle of 'leaving no one behind' has been at the core of the country's social policy. In addition to universal social protection systems, Finland has launched an experiment of universal basic income for the period of 2017–2018. The basic income is financial assistance that the recipients will receive every month, unconditionally and without means testing. The participants' employment situation will be monitored during the experiment. Participants who find employment during the experiment continue to be paid a basic income. The experiment is expected to produce valuable information on whether a basic income could increase employment rates and simplify the social security system.

Peru's National Strategy for Development and Social Inclusion ("Incluir para Crecer") constitutes another example of integrated and inclusive programming.[22] Since the country's continuous economic growth has not benefitted all segments of society, the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion was established in 2011. Inclusion programmes target all stages of the lifecycle: childhood nutrition, early childhood development, development of teenagers, economic inclusion and protection of the elderly, and aim at closing gaps in public services and infrastructure. Thus, interventions of various ministries are linked to the Development and Social Inclusion Policy, encompassing access to and use of rural electricity, telecommunications, rural habitat, economic inclusion in rural areas, water and sanitation programmes as well as comprehensive health insurance.

In addition, Peru's strategy to improve living conditions in rural areas aims at integrating small-scale farmers into the marketplace through an integrated package of actions related to water management, local and foreign market access, and agricultural capacity building. Rural development policies include investments in indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers, along with opportunities for women and youth. The Local Resource Allocation system further allows small-scale farmers to oversee funding for technical and other assistance to rural development projects.[23]

As the structural nature of poverty is as much related to inadequate social protection policies and systems to reach all people as it is linked to unsustainable natural resource management, disasters and conflict, resilience across sectors is an essential enabler of poverty reduction, social protection and income security. Understanding the interlinkages between energy, water and the agricultural sector is crucial in this regard. Nexus-approaches and multi-sector planning can support countries in examining how decisions regarding one resource impact others, thereby identifying potential trade-offs. Case studies in Ethiopia and Myanmar reveal the potential of these approaches to sustainably develop hydropower and biofuel production, while

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[22] http://www.midis.gob.pe/incluirparacrecer/descargas/include_to_grow_2014.pdf and http://www.midis.gob.pe/incluirparacrecer/lograremos.php
[23] http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/en/country/approaches/tags/peru

preserving ecosystems and the livelihoods of rural communities, as well as ensuring food and water security.[24]

Countries efforts to enhance resilience are supported by UN system entities. Initiatives include, amongst others, technical assistance provided by UNDP to "green" social programmes and training by the World Food Programme (WFP) in handling techniques and improved storage to reduce post-harvest losses. 400 Ugandan smallholder farmers who have benefited from the programme reduced post-harvest losses by 98% in 2013. A similar model was piloted in Rwanda, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.[25] Furthermore, the Rio+ Centre, UNDP RSC Africa and the African Risk Capacity (ARC) are working on a Methodological Guide on channelling climate finance into Cash Transfer (CTs) systems to build resilience in the Sahel and the Greater Horn of Africa.[26]

The large number of requests addressed to UN Country Teams to assist governments in designing multi-sectoral approaches reflects the growing recognition that it is essential to achieve the right balance between economic growth, inclusiveness and the sustainable use of the environment and its natural resources if poverty is to be eradicated over the long term.[27] As 'no one size fits all', each country needs to identify the main obstacles and bottlenecks to sustainable development, in general, and poverty eradication in particular. A comprehensive policy framework maximizing synergies across policy areas and all segments of society also includes strengthened financial management and budgeting practices to ensure public revenues are available to fund critical investments that benefit the poor while sustaining the environment and natural resources. Enhanced regulatory processes to inspect and enforce investment compliance and social and environmental safeguards are equally important.

b. Cross-border and regional initiatives

Inputs received from Member States further highlight that embarking on an effective and sustainable development process requires embedding poverty reduction strategies in a broader framework of multisector national development and regional integration. *Romania* adopted and harmonized national social policies with the European acquis in all sectors, addressing issues related to the labour market, social assistance, working conditions, income, housing, education, health and personal development. Similarly, the *Republic of Serbia* developed and adopted its national poverty reduction strategy (PSR) on the premise that poverty must be tackled as an integrated issue, placing it within the broader national development strategy and the long-term perspective of adhering to the European Union. The PSR was a first multisector national strategy, with ownership of all national and local stakeholders, the academic and business community, social partners and civil society.

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[24] https://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/SEI-initiative-nexus-2015.pdf and https://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/SEI-DB-2013-Nexus-Blue-Nile-Ethiopia.pdf
[25] See inputs provided by WFP, p. 96.
[26] See inputs provided by UNDP, p. 54.
[27] UNDG Results Report, *Together Possible: Gearing Up For the 2030 Agenda,* 2016. https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2016doc/executive-summary-undg-2015-results-report.pdf

Furthermore, natural resources, such as rivers or biosphere reserves, require an integrated approach beyond national boundaries. The *European Union's Strategy for the Danube Region* acknowledges that environmental issues, such as pollution or invasive species, are directly connected to economic and social challenges. The Strategy identifies twelve priority areas in which it encourages cross-boundary cooperation of nine EU Member States, three accession countries and two neighbourhood countries in the Danube River Basin.[28] These areas of collaboration aim at enhancing opportunities through sustainable development of waterways and rail-road-air mobility, energy, culture and tourism, water quality, mitigating environmental risks, preserving biodiversity and landscapes, promoting the knowledge society and skills development, fostering competitiveness of enterprises, building institutional capacity as well as providing security to the 115 million inhabitants of the region.

As another example, the *Trifinio Fraternidad transboundary biosphere* is an environmental preservation initiative that also strengthens regional integration in Central America. The tri-national biosphere reserve located between El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, includes key biodiversity areas, such as Montecristo National Park and a variety of forest ecosystems that play an important role in regional development, including through the promotion of coffee activities, conifer forest extraction, and agro-tourism.[29] The initiative emphasizes integrated development through the diversification of activities. These include a permanent process of enhancing economic productive capacities, improving people's quality of life through employment, health and other initiatives, while protecting the environment.[30]

Likewise, cross-boundary infrastructure projects such as the road sector are key to create opportunities for socio-economic development. However, building grey infrastructure often comes at an environmental cost. In the *Asia-Pacific region*, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) therefore works towards transforming the road sector into a key vehicle for sustainable development. Considering the high levels of energy consumption by the road sector and the need to curb CO_2 emissions, as well as the economic potential of building better transportation systems and the social value in making them safe, ESCAP is working with a wide range of partners to develop 'green' and safe transport. Beyond the region itself, the Commission also supports the Asian Highway network, a regional transport cooperation initiative aimed at enhancing the efficiency and development of the road infrastructure in Asia, supporting the development of Euro-Asia transport linkages and improving connectivity for landlocked countries.[31]

c. Global initiatives

An integrated approach to policy-making has implications for the type of technical assistance provided to countries by the international community. As poverty reduction strategies should be grounded in each country's specific context and circumstances, international organizations can facilitate knowledge sharing and support countries in building capacity to assess policy

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[28] http://www.danube-region.eu/about/priorities

[29] http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/latin-america-and-the-caribbean/el-salvadorguatemalahonduras/trifinio-fraternidad/

[30] https://www.oas.org/dsd/publications/Unit/oea29s/oea29s.pdf

[31] http://www.unescap.org/our-work/transport/asian-highway/about

options for integrated solutions to their specific development challenges. This is particularly relevant in the case of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Lessons learnt point out that there are at least three pathways leading to graduation with different implications for productive capacity and overall progress towards achieving sustainable development.[32] Eradicating poverty at the global level by 2030 will require to pay particular attention to this group of countries, while also acknowledging the needs of other countries in special situations. Various country groupings therefore require different national strategies and differentiated support from the international community.

The United Nations system works towards creating an enabling environment to eradicate poverty in all its forms by setting norms and standards. Weak global economic growth, volatile world financial markets, and high levels of unemployment, as well as humanitarian crises and the effects of climate change often hamper progress on multidimensional poverty and require international cooperation across multiple areas. For instance, the CCPCJ provides Member States with a platform to ensure that international policy is based on the rule of law and integrity, which positively influences outcomes across the 2030 Agenda, and which is essential to the eradication of poverty. In their contributions to the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha in April 2015, Member States stressed that the rule of law had helped to build trust between the State and its citizens, enabled investments, improved fiscal performance and inclusive growth, while promoting transparency, accountability and stability, and the fight against corruption in all its forms and at all levels.[33]

More specifically, UN entities support integrated approaches to poverty eradication that promote economic, social and environmental resilience. In an effort to measure its impact on poverty reduction, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) conducted an impact assessment that found that 139 million people and 24 million families have been reached for all projects during the 2010–2015 period. The range of activities targeting these beneficiaries was designed to broadly improve the well-being of poor rural people. Beneficiaries included 18 million active borrowers and 26.6 million voluntary savers, highlighting IFAD's focus on financial inclusion.[34] Furthermore, numerous farmers have been trained in agricultural practices, such as crop production technologies, livestock production, and natural resource management. The study revealed that inclusive rural transformation is crucial for sustainable progress in reducing poverty and hunger. However, inclusive rural transformation will not happen automatically. It is the result of deliberate policy and investments measures related to land tenure, gender equality and women's empowerment, connecting smallholders to markets, creating opportunities for young rural people, and climate change adaptation.

Climate mainstreaming, i.e. incorporating considerations of climate-related risks and opportunities into investment and policies, recognizes that smallholder farmers are among those most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Mechanisms to channel climate finance to smallholder farmers so that they can access information tools and technologies that help build their resilience to climate change should be at the centre of this approach. Policies oriented to promote decent rural employment for youth and to prevent and combat child labour in

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[32] See inputs provided by CDP.
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CDP.pdf
[33] Inputs provided by CCPCJ,
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CCPCJ.pdf
[34] See inputs provided by IFAD, p. 5.

agriculture are particularly important as about 75% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and 88% of the world's 1.8 billion youth live in developing countries, mostly in rural areas.[35]

The *R4 Rural Resilience Initiative* developed by the World Food Programme (WFP) and Oxfam America in collaboration with the Swiss Re Group, tested a comprehensive approach to risk management and climate change adaptation to help communities become more resilient. R4 has been scaled up to Ethiopia, Malawi, Senegal and Zambia. The initiative has been recognized as a leading example of the integration of safety nets, climate-risk insurance and resilience-building. R4 has broken new ground by enabling the poorest farmers to obtain access to crop insurance by paying with their labour through insurance-for-assets schemes that are integrated into safety net programmes. Impact evaluations in Ethiopia found that insured farmers save more than twice as much as those without insurance and invest more in seeds, fertilizer and productive assets such as draught animals. Women, who often head the poorest households, achieved the largest gains in productivity by investing in labour and improved tools for planting. In Senegal, R4 participants were better equipped to face the effects of a recent drought.[36]

Similarly, WFP's *Food Security Climate Resilience Facility (FoodSECuRE)* constitutes an innovative approach to reinforce anticipatory response to extreme weather events and to build climate resilience for the most food-insecure people. FoodSECuRE supports community-based action in three ways by triggering: (i) early action based on climate forecasts to provide funding to support community-level resilience building before climatic shocks occur; (ii) early response by providing funding to support early action in response to large scale climate shocks (e.g. complementing existing government led mechanisms); (iii) post-disaster resilience-building by providing predictable multi-year funding for resilience interventions following a climate disaster.[37]

Mainstreaming efforts supported by the international community also address the link between biodiversity loss and poverty. Several conservation measures feature innovative mechanisms, mainly in rural areas. These include: payments for Ecosystem Services (including REDD+), ecotourism, sustainably-managed fisheries and no-fish zones, community forestry, non-timber forest products, mangrove restoration, protected area jobs, agroforestry, grassland management, and conservation of agricultural diversity.[38] Evidence suggests that schemes such as REDD+ and Ecosystem Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) also have extensive social, economic and environmental benefits. Ecosystem-based solutions are often more cost-efficient and sustainable compared to grey infrastructure. However, analytical work found that these mechanisms by themselves do not guarantee poverty reduction. It is necessary to ensure that the benefits generated by such mechanisms reach the poorest and the most vulnerable by embedding rights-based approaches into policy designs and accountability of such interventions through monitoring and reporting.

Notwithstanding global mainstreaming initiatives and capacity building support, country-led efforts are key to integrate social, economic and environmental objectives to eradicate poverty

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[35] See inputs provided by FAO, p. 10.
[36] See inputs provided by WFP, p. 99.
[37] See inputs provided by WFP, p. 100.
[38] CBD Technical Series No. 55. Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: A State of Knowledge Review.

into development planning and budgeting processes. This requires to draw the link between growth, inequality and poverty reduction in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services, sustainable land management and desertification, water and ocean governance, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable energy, extractive industries, chemicals and waste management, as well as green economy and financing.

IV. Policy instruments facilitating integrated approaches to poverty eradication

While integrated approaches as such are not new to policy-makers, the extent to which the SDGs require to address the interlinkages between the goals and targets is unprecedented. Policy integration is thus not 'business as usual' and requires incentives, innovation and investments for institutional change.

a. Science, technology and innovation

Science, technology and innovation offer new opportunities to monitor poverty and devise evidence-based policies targeting 'those farthest behind'. Although synergies can be created across many goals and targets, the latter may be perceived as conflicting. Collecting and analysing evidence to inform the policy-making process is therefore crucial. The 2030 Agenda stresses the need for disaggregated data which helps to track the benefits of poverty eradication policies, initiatives, and projects for different vulnerable groups. The results achieved for those farthest behind should be the key criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of those policies.

Better mapping and understanding of poverty experiences at the individual, household and community levels is equally important in this regard.[39] Different indices to measure multidimensional poverty, such as the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)[40], have been developed and continue to be improved. The UNDP-UNE *Poverty-Environment Initiative* collaborates with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and UN Environment's World Conservation Monitoring Centre to adapt the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index to also capture the deprivation of access to benefits from environment and natural resource use. The new, "greened" multi-dimensional poverty methodology will be piloted in African countries in 2017.[41]

When precise linkages and their causes are understood, there are improved chances to design policy and practice in more integrated, coherent and innovative ways. Integrated evidence coupled with institutional capacity building support has contributed to more sustainable policies across sectors in *Malawi*. 18% of household incomes in Malawi are derived from natural resources which are being undermined by unsustainable natural resource use. If soil had been significantly reduced and lost agriculture yields recovered, approximately 1.88 million people

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[39] See inputs provided by CSocD, p. 4,
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CSocD.pdf
[40] The MPI was developed by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development. It combines twelve equally weighted indicators in six dimensions of deprivation, namely education, health, basic rights, housing, income and employment. An individual is in "multidimensional poverty" if he or she suffers from 5-7 types (indicators) of deprivation, and in "severe multidimensional poverty" if he or she suffers from 8 or more deprivation. http://www.ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/

[41] See inputs provided by UNE, p. 66.

would have been lifted out of poverty between 2005 and 2015.[42] Inequalities are further undermining sustainability efforts. By closing gender gaps in agricultural productivity, crop production could be significantly increased and lift people out of poverty.[43] Based on this evidence, poverty-environment-related objectives have been included in the national five-year development plan, in district profiles, in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and climate sector policies as well as in annual budget guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Planning and in the Public Sector Investment Programme. These policy and budgetary changes are helping to ensure environmental sustainability in a way that reduces poverty on the ground and contributes to inclusive economic growth.

In addition to improved measurement methodologies, information and communication technologies (ICTs) facilitate data collection and guide policy action across all sectors. "Big data" and machine learning can be used to forecast epidemics, medical necessities, environmental disasters, and poverty levels. Metadata digital footprints such as call duration and frequency allow to predict socioeconomic, demographic, and other behavioural traits with high accuracy. With respect to food security, big data can be used in the fight against chronic hunger and undernutrition. A programme coordinated by UN Global Pulse, the Indonesian government, and the World Food Programme used public tweets mentioning food prices to develop a real-time food index.[44] Similarly, the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture uses big data on weather and crops to better adapt to climate change. Early warning systems like the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Cloud-Based Global Crop Monitoring System have played critical roles in disseminating country and region-specific information to help farmers maximize productivity.

Furthermore, ICTs are creating opportunities for pro-poor financial inclusion. Innovations in credit and payment, e.g. mobile payment systems such as M-Pesa, are not only transforming mechanisms of transactions and finance, but also have the potential to reach and meet the needs of millions of people without access to formal financial services.[45] Crowdfunding, peer-to-peer lending and social impact bonds are new ways to access capital, creating alternative sources of finance and contributing to business and community initiatives that might not be able to obtain funding through traditional credit markets. This opens up avenues for people to pro-actively address the specific poverty issues they face.

Evidence suggests that broadband Internet and ICTs are associated with greater economic growth, jobs and productivity. The ongoing ICT revolution is transforming existing sectors and fuelling new businesses such as the "apps" economy. In order to draw on its full benefits, not only will access need to be enhanced but capacities and skills need to be built. The demand for both basic and more advanced ICT skills cuts across all sectors, from agriculture and construction to education and service industries to ICT jobs themselves, in both developing and developed countries.

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[42] UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative Malawi, *Economic Analysis of Unsustainable Natural Resource Use in Malawi*, 2011.
[43] UN Women, World Bank, UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative *Cost of gender gap in agricultural productivity: Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda*, 2015.
[44] Inputs provided by CSTD,
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CSTD.pdf
[45] Inputs provided by CSTD,
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CSTD.pdf

This trend also emphasizes the potential of private sector development. In *Malawi*, UNDP, UKAid and KFW worked together with the Government to establish the Malawi Innovation Challenge Fund. The Fund provides matching grants to help finance innovative projects by the private sector operating in Malawi with potential commercial viability, growth and/or replication. Projects seek to maximize the impact on the poor by creating employment, increasing incomes, and allowing the poor to participate in markets not previously open to them. Ten projects financed from the Fund's first round in 2014 across the two Funding windows (manufacturing and agriculture sectors) are on-going. Results at this point reveal that benefits have been generated through an increase in incomes, jobs for the poor and consumers reached by the Fund's project portfolio. A second round of project competition has recently been launched adding a third funding window on logistics – a critical issue for a land-locked country such as Malawi.[46]

As another example, the "Urban Innovation Marketplace" pilot project in *Kenya* takes advantage of the country's three parallel dynamics: the youth bulge, advancements in information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the national devolution process affecting towns and cities.[47] UN-Habitat partnered with @iLab Africa at Strathmore University, Ericsson and Samsung to develop, test and implement "tech" innovations together with youth and county authorities. The project aims at bridging the gap between young, tech-savvy urban youth and county authorities, to connect young voices, often marginalized and from informal settlements, with governance and meaningful participation through ICTs.

Consequently, pro-poor and inclusive innovation can liberate poor and marginalized groups from poverty by providing affordable solutions to their basic needs and bringing about social and economic opportunities. Low-cost medical products and services, such as affordable ultrasound scanners or locally developed eye care solutions detecting eye diseases, can serve the needs of untapped markets and significantly improve the lives of the poor. Inclusive innovation policy initiatives can also strengthen entrepreneurial skills of people living in poverty, and thus help them to ensure a living. A change in the approach to technology and the way that technology results influence economic and social change requires a coordinated approach, widening the policy focus of innovation systems both in terms of the actors involved and the means of interaction and collaboration.

b. Capacity building

Harnessing the potential of technologies for poverty reduction also requires investments in knowledge networks and institutional mechanisms to support cross-sectoral information sharing and the development of problem-solving capacity. Indeed, "when technological progress is skill biased, a skill mismatch can offset the positive effect of technology-driven structural change and lead to a net increase in inequality".[48] Therefore, expanding education and training programs, especially in ICT and related areas, are critical aspects to be explored along with education policies that match labour-market needs. Other factors of an enabling environment include gender-sensitive approaches to technology development and dissemination, and

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[46] See inputs provided by UNDP, p. 49.
[47] See inputs provided by UN-Habitat, p. 74.
[48] See inputs provided by UNIDO, p. 78.

regional and international collaboration. Technology foresight and assessment must be in place to manage potential technological risks while maximizing potential improvements to poverty reduction efforts.

Recognizing the crucial role of data and innovations in the process of poverty eradication, the United Nations University provides technical capacity building in a variety of developing countries. The *4th National Poverty Assessment* in *Mozambique*[49] and the *Viet Nam Access to Resources Household Survey (VARHS)*[50] are two examples of efforts to provide robust data for poverty eradication. Enhanced data collection has also to be accompanied by the capacity to analyse large amounts to assess the needs of those in extreme poverty and to translate the analysis into poverty eradication strategies.

Policy integration thus requires enhanced capacities to ensure that resources and techniques are available to conduct case-specific evaluations. Governments have been expanding capacities to conduct integrated strategic analyses of future outcomes of current policies on the various dimensions of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Several initiatives are supporting countries in this endeavour. The Millennium Institute has developed the iSDG model which allows to simulate future scenarios resulting from current development strategies and the impact of possible policy interventions, thereby facilitating the analysis of synergies and trade-offs.[51]

The iSDG model builds on the Threshold21 (T21) model which has been applied to 15 countries, including less-industrialized countries such as *Malawi* and *Banglades*h, and industrialized countries such as the United States and Italy. In *Mali,* the T21 model was applied to support the country's poverty reduction strategy and analyse the coherence between the strategy and the MDGs. The *Kenyan Government* also used the model to analyse the risks of climate change on multiple economic sectors and to develop more coherent adaptation policies that encourage sustainable development, poverty eradication and increased wellbeing of vulnerable groups within the context of Kenya's Vision 2030 programme.[52]

Similarly, the Arizona State University has developed innovative "decision theatres" to foster an interdisciplinary understanding of integrated policies. Faced with the challenge of optimizing energy investments and promoting long-term prosperity, *Mexico* worked with the Decision Theatre to build a holistic model that allows for various investment scenarios and their impact on socio-economic variables to be simulated in real time.[53]

Successful policy-integration thus requires capacity building as well as awareness-raising towards systems-thinking and collaborating across disciplines. The sectoral building blocks of an integrated approach need to be fully understood, to fully mobilize all relevant stakeholders around an integrated and inclusive approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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[49] https://www.wider.unu.edu/news/good-news-poverty-and-well-being-mozambique-fourth-national-poverty-assessment-published
[50] https://www.wider.unu.edu/event/policy-workshop-vietnam-access-resources-household-survey-varhs
[51] http://www.millennium-institute.org/integrated_planning/tools/SDG/index.html
[52] http://www.millennium-institute.org/integrated_planning/tools/T21/timeline.html, see year 2011
[53] https://dt.asu.edu/projects, see Sustainability, Mexico Energy Reform

c. **Institutional mechanisms**

Besides horizontal integration across sectors, making poverty eradication an integral part of all policies requires mainstreaming poverty objectives throughout all parts of government, at the national, subnational and municipal level. During its 55th session, the Commission on Social Development pointed out that further progress in eradicating poverty would not require "new policies per se, but rather a better integration of existing programmes and ensuring coherence among them"[54]. As negative interactions between targets and goals may be the result of weakness in institutions or governance procedures, institutions need to be equipped with tools for horizontally and vertically integrated policy making and norm-setting for poverty eradication.[55]

Whole-of-government approaches can be facilitated by institutional coordination mechanisms that are chaired at the highest political level. To be effective these coordination mechanisms should demonstrate leadership and promote a clear vision for the implementation of the SDGs, including budgeting issues. Many countries have created such inter-ministerial mechanisms. In *Guatemala*, the National Urban and Rural Development Council (Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano y Rural), anchored in the Constitution, is responsible for the coordination of the national development plan "K'atun Nuestra Guatemala 2032" and the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda.[56]

In *Finland,* a coordination secretariat at the Prime Minister's Office comprised of representatives of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office, ensures planning, preparation, coordination and national implementation of the countries sustainable development policy. The coordination secretariat's work is supported by a sustainable development coordination network bringing together representatives of all ministries. In turn, those representatives act as sustainable development focal points in their respective administrative branch. This ensures that a sustainable development perspective is mainstreamed horizontally across ministries and enables an integrated approach to policy-making. Furthermore, political decision-making is informed by evidence collected through the broad-based indicator work of the Finnish Sustainable Development Follow-up Network. The National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee oversee the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Both committees are also part of the coordination mechanism encouraging participation in Finland.[57]

Similar cross-sector coordination mechanisms have been established in the *Republic of Serbia:* the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and the Coordination Body for Roma Inclusion

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[54] See inputs provided by CSocD, p. 4.
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CSocD.pdf
[55] Report of the expert meeting on readying institutions and policies for integrated approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Vienna, 14-16 December 2016.
http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/Report%20Vienna%20meeting%20FINAL.docx.pdf
[56] Inputs provided by the government of Guatemala,
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/Guatemala.pdf
[57] Inputs provided by the government of Finland,
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/Finland.pdf

facilitate an integrated approach on these specific issues across ministries.[58] Similar bodies such as the Working Group on Poverty Measurement have proven useful to monitor and coordinate issues that require the attention of a wide range of stakeholders.

Furthermore, mapping exercises can help to determine interrelations and interdependencies among targets but also to identify their often fragmented 'institutional homes'. While complex in nature, mapping exercises facilitate to take stock of governments' existing capacities and help to identify gaps. Such processes can support the creation of adequate institutional and budgetary arrangements to "ensure that sectoral policies are informed by the possible impact of actions on related areas and on poverty in particular"[59]. At the individual level, this also requires setting incentives for civil servants in national administrations to promote poverty reduction objectives and relating their daily work to the longer-term goal of poverty eradication.

In addition, integrated analysis of policies evaluating their impact on other policy areas are conducted in several countries. *Switzerland* applies integrated methods in the form of sustainability assessments which are "intended as instructions on how to evaluate Federal Government initiatives (laws, programmes, strategies, concepts and projects) to assess their compliance with the principles of sustainable development".[60] An MS Excel-based tool supports government officials to conduct these assessments.

As another example, the government of *Bhutan* has developed the Gross National Happiness (GNH) Policy Screening Tool to evaluate, monitor, set goals and to raise national consciousness about conditions that are conducive to happiness. The screening tool is used by the GNH Commission to assess and review all draft policies, programmes and projects based on the four pillars of the Gross National Happiness approach, including good governance, sustainable socio-economic development, environmental conservation and cultural promotion. It allows to balance the nine domains of GNH (living standards, education, health, environment, community vitality, time-use, psychological well-being, good governance, cultural resilience and promotion) in all policies, as well as in the activities of other segments of the economy such as private sector initiatives.[61]

Pro-poor and gender-sensitive budgeting can further facilitate the mainstreaming of poverty eradication into all policies. However, governments require assistance to strengthen financial management and budgeting practices to ensure public revenues are available to fund critical investments that benefit the poor while sustaining the environment and natural resources.[62] Participatory budgeting procedures are interesting in this regard. In *Brazil,* processes that involve citizens in decisions on how public funds are spent have been launched at the community level in over 250 cities between 1990 and 2008.[63]

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[58] Inputs provided by the government of the Republic of Serbia, https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/Serbia.pdf
[59] Inputs provided by CEPA, p. 3. https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CEPA.pdf
[60] https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/data/assessing-sustainability/assessing-sustainability-within-the-federal-government.html
[61] http://www.gnhcentrebhutan.org/what-is-gnh/four-pillars-and-nine-domains/
[62] See inputs provided by UNE, p. 68.
[63]https://publications.iadb.org/bitstream/handle/11319/5309/Assessment%20of%20Participatory%20Budgeting%20in%20Brazil%20.pdf?sequence=1

Consultation processes and inclusive institutions not only "ensure that the right mix of people, skills and resources will be involved in the policy-making and implementation process"[64] but also that decisions are made in line with the public interest. Consequently, people will feel strongly about the implementation of these decisions. The commitment to 'leave no one behind' thus implies institutional change towards more inclusiveness and accountability. In turn, this implies that mainstreaming poverty eradication goes beyond the responsibility of government entities: Parliaments, local authorities and the judiciary can play an important role to hold the government accountable to pursue poverty reduction objectives.

Local authorities are often better placed to understand the needs of citizens and to identify the most vulnerable in their constituencies. CEPA has thus recommended the adoption of 'local Agendas 2030' or 'local SDG achievement plans' with a strong focus on those farthest behind, to be developed through local consultation processes. These initiatives could build on existing mechanisms such as Sustainable Development Councils and local Agendas 21, created in many countries following the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

d. Multi-stakeholder participation and partnerships

Whole-of-government approaches need to go hand in hand with 'whole-of-society' approaches. During the deliberations of the 55th session of the Commission for Social Development it was noted "that integrated and sustained approaches to poverty reduction require a shift in the understanding of poverty, from a purely governmental problem, to a societal one, that requires partnerships at all levels of society" and that values individuals as their own development agents. Panellists further stressed that promoting "inclusion must take place in the context of a social consensus of solidarity to support people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations"[65].

Contributions received from Member States also point out the importance of understanding the 2030 Agenda as a broad-based programme that requires all stakeholders, municipalities, educational institutions, NGOs and companies, to work together and to pursue the SDGs as integral part of their activities. While governments are responsible for ensuring equal access to a basic level of social and health services, which is defined by law in some countries, these services are provided by municipalities.

Evidence further suggests that people's meaningful involvement can enhance the effectiveness of poverty reduction measures. Inclusivity and multi-stakeholder partnerships are thus crucial in the design of poverty reduction strategies. While consultation processes engage a variety of stakeholders in the design phase of strategies, citizens also need to be involved in the implementation and be given the possibility to provide feedback on the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes. Likewise, innovative approaches are required to involve those farthest behind at which poverty eradication strategies are directed, thereby enabling them to become their own development agents. Collaborative platforms, facilitated by information and communication technologies, are innovative solutions that can allow for effective and efficient vertical integration.

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[64] Inputs provided by CEPA, p. 3.
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CEPA.pdf
[65] Inputs provided by CSocD, p. 2-4.
https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/CSocD.pdf

Collaborative platforms provide a space for sharing information and best practices and can therefore strengthen the capacity of local communities in the long term. The UNDP Africa Regional Programme is creating an online portal to serve as a "one-stop shop" consolidating all existing relevant information of the "entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa"[66], including information on networks, mentoring programmes and funding. Similarly, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) uses youth networks to help empower young farmers in terms of market access and political participation, working with partners from the private sector, ministries and civil society.[67] Furthermore, IFAD's public-private-producer partnerships model that connects smallholder farmers and private sector companies has proven effective in attracting pro-poor investments to the rural agriculture sector. These initiatives can be complemented and leveraged through agricultural applications, such as the "Index-Based Livestock Insurance" created by the International Livestock Research Institute. The insurance scheme provides financial protection based on a rainfall index in the Horn of Africa.[68]

In the same vein, UNDP's *Green Commodities Programme* supports the creation of National Commodity Platforms "that identify game-changing actions to advance sustainable development and reduce poverty via sector-specific value chains".[69] In *Costa Rica*, the programme supported the creation of the *National Platform for the Responsible Production and Trade of Pineapple* which brings together all stakeholders involved in the value chain from international buyers such as Tesco and Walmart to the government, small-scale producers, traders and civil society.

Likewise, the *National Palm Oil Platform* launched in *Indonesia* in 2014 by the Ministry of Agriculture has encouraged collaboration across groups and has helped to reconcile sustainability concerns with the economic potential of the palm oil industry. Multi-stakeholder working groups have been established to support small-scale farmers, environmental management and monitoring, governance and mediation as well as smallholder certification and market access. The initiative has assisted in aligning the national Palm Oil Standard with the international voluntary scheme used by international stakeholders which is essential to facilitate the industry's contributions to long-term sustainability, employment and anti-poverty efforts.

e. Promoting policy coherence

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes the need for a coherent and coordinated approach to policy-making, implementation, and review and follow-up across all sectors, tailored to national realities. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is at the heart of UN coordination, linking the setting of global norms with their implementation, providing overall guidance on sustainable development and identifying emerging issues. While Functional Commissions coordinate substantial contributions on sectoral issues, e.g. the Commission on Social Development (CSocD) on a wide range of social development issues and the UN Forum on

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[66] See inputs provided by UNDP, p. 50.

[67] See inputs provided by IFAD, p. 9.

[68] https://ibli.ilri.org/category/about-ibli/

[69] The programme is active in Costa Rica (pineapple), Dominican Republic (cocoa), Ghana (cocoa), Indonesia (palm oil) and Paraguay (soy and beef). See inputs provided by UNDP, p. 63 and http://www.undp.org/content/gcp/en/home.html

Forests (UNFF) on forest-related matters, ECOSOC connects the sectoral policy guidance received from its subsidiary bodies, thereby creating an 'ecosystem' of expertise.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, ECOSOC invites its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work relating to its annual theme. Covering a wide range of issues related to SDG 1, several Functional Commissions, including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs[70] and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice[71] discussed their contributions to the Council's 2017 main theme on "*Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges*" during their annual sessions. The 55th session of the Commission for Social Development[72] addressed the priority theme of "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all". In addition, the Commission held high-level panel discussions on the emerging issue of "Promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: youth development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and on "Leaving no one behind: poverty and disability". It was noted that the 2030 Agenda should be implemented by, for, and with persons with disabilities in order to leave no one behind.

Stressing the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment and the eradication of poverty, the Commission on the Status of Women focused on "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work"[73], with a particular focus on the empowerment of indigenous women. Noting that the feminization of poverty persists, the Commission reiterated that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are vital for achieving sustainable development and ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. Structural barriers to gender equality and gender-based discrimination in labour markets should be overcome and unpaid and informal care roles in the health and social sectors should be transformed into decent work. The Commission further recognized the important contribution of rural women and girls to poverty eradication, sustainable development and food security and nutrition, especially in poor and vulnerable households.

Furthermore, the Commission on Population and Development explored the implications of changing population age structures for sustainable development by focussing on youthful and ageing societies at its 50th session.[74] On a global scale, these changes include a decline in the number of children and youth as a proportion of the world's population, stability in the relative size of the working-age population, and rapid growth in the share of older persons. An ageing population requires attending to the potential adjustments needed for the long-term sustainability of social security and pension systems.

Likewise, the priority themes of the 20th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), to be held in Geneva from 8 to 12 May 2017, are indirectly linked to SDG 1: 'New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the SDGs' and the 'The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030'. Recognizing the importance of forests for sustainable livelihoods, the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) agreed on

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[70] The CND 60th session was held in Vienna from 13-17 March 2017.
[71] The CCPCJ 26th session will be convened in Vienna from 22 to 26 May 2017.
[72] Convened on 12 February 2016 and from 1 to 10 February 2017.
[73] http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2017/L.5
[74] The CPD 50th session was convened in New York from 3-7 April 2017.

the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) at its 2017 Special Session.[75] The UNSPD provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation. The Strategic plan encompasses six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030. The universal action plan supports the objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests and aims to contribute to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Paris Agreement, thereby fostering coherence, collaboration and synergies at the international level.[76]

Action to guide coherence across all sectors is at the heart of the work of the UN Statistical Commission. At its 48th session under the theme "Better data, better lives", the Commission agreed on a draft resolution on the global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets, and recommended it to ECOSOC for adoption.[77] The initial set of global indicators will be refined annually, comprehensively reviewed in 2020 and 2025, and complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels to be developed by Member States.

Consequently, ECOSOC can build on and integrate the expertise of its Functional Commissions to provide truly integrated policy guidance to Member States. The Council's deliberations constitute a unique platform to address cross-cutting issues and to promote the mainstreaming of poverty eradication across all policy areas. Furthermore, the collaboration between the CCPCJ and the Statistical Commission on the collection and quality of criminal justice statistics showcases how synergies between the functional commissions can be created to strengthen the ECOSOC system as a whole. However, effectively linking the work of its subsidiary bodies to the Council's annual theme also requires an effective and streamlined structure and meeting cycle that is aligned with and supports the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda.

Based on its mandate, ECOSOC is also well placed to reach out to a variety of stakeholders. As a global meeting space, it fosters dialogue among policymakers, parliamentarians, as well as representatives from civil society, philanthropy and the private sector. Written inputs received from Member States point to the challenge to bring forth national efforts in poverty eradication in multilateral fora at the regional level as this would require a common platform for scrutiny of poverty-related phenomena.[78] ECOSOC can thus respond to the need for more constructive and interactive exchanges on lessons learned, best practices and challenges in aligning international, regional, national and local policy frameworks for poverty eradication. Lessons learned should also include the trade-offs that may have been encountered in using integrated policy frameworks for poverty reduction. Bringing together practitioners at the forefront of poverty eradication, local authorities, policy makers and academic expertise, the Council is well-placed to generate a genuine dialogue across disciplines and across all levels.

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[75] The 12th session of the UNFF will be convened in New York from 1-5 May 2017.
[76] https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/026/18/PDF/N1702618.pdf?OpenElement
[77] Held in New York from 7-10 March 2017. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/Resolution_on_Indicators_Clean_Version-E.pdf
[78] Inputs provided by the government of Finland, https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/Finland.pdf

V. Recommendations on integrated policy-making

In conclusion, several policy recommendations emerge from the contributions received as well as from the above considerations.

If poverty is to be eradicated in a sustained and inclusive manner, progress needs to be achieved across all SDGs and targets. Integrated approaches offer the opportunity to maximize the synergies between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Thorough evaluations of how interventions in one policy area may impact other sectors will enable policymakers to better manage potential trade-offs between SDGs and targets. These evaluations will eventually foster resilience when encountering development challenges in the future.

Policy integration connects sectoral expertise, and facilitates the coordination of different actors to enhance the effectiveness of policies aimed at poverty eradication. While integrated approaches as such are not new, the explicit focus on interlinkages of the SDGs implies that policy integration is not 'business as usual' and therefore requires incentives, innovation and investments for institutional change.

Tackling poverty in a sustained, inclusive and sustainable manner is thus intrinsically linked to the question of governance, and the quest for institutional mechanisms that facilitate policy coherence and integrated policy-making. This requires sustained leadership for multi-sectoral analysis and continued commitment to cross-sectoral and multi-level collaboration.

Policy integration also requires capacity building to fully mobilize the potential of all relevant stakeholders around an integrated and inclusive approach to the implementation of the SDGs, and to poverty eradication in particular. While technological progress facilitates better data collection on interlinkages and multiple manifestations of poverty, this progress will need to be accompanied by increased capacity to analyze large amounts of information to design effective poverty eradication strategies.

Information and communication technologies can also be used to establish collaborative platforms with the potential to facilitate multi-stakeholder participation and effective partnerships for poverty eradication. This paper has presented some initiatives of Member States and United Nations entities aimed at information sharing, collaboration and coordination. The lessons learned from these initiatives can guide further improvements and knowledge sharing to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in collaborative partnership.

Annex List of contributions received

- Contribution by the government of Finland
- Contribution by the government of Guatemala
- Contribution by the government of Romania
- Contribution by the government of the Republic of Serbia
- Contribution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Contribution by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Contribution by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- Commission by the Commission on Population and Development
- Contribution by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- Contribution by the Commission on Social Development
- Contribution by the Commission on the Status of Women
- Contribution by the United Nations Forum on Forests

Contributions received from the United Nations system on the overall 2017 theme of ECOSOC *"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"*

- Contribution by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Contribution by the Development Policy and Analysis Division, UNDESA
- Contribution by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management, UNDESA
- Contribution by the Division for Social Policy and Development, UNDESA
- Contribution by the Food and Agricultural Organization
- Contribution by the United Nations Environment Programme
- Contribution by the International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Contribution by the International Telecommunication Union
- Contribution by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- Contribution by the United Nations Children Fund
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