

**2016 ECOSOC Integration Segment:
Implementing the 2030 Agenda through Policy Innovation and Integration
2 – 4 May 2016, UN Headquarters, New York**

Guiding questions for Member States' input to the Integration Segment

- 1) *What policy integration tools incorporating the different dimensions of sustainable development has your Government used at policy design, decision-making and/or implementation level? Which good practices or lessons could be shared?*

Sustainable development with its three dimensions focusing on social, ecological and economic aspects of development is not a new issue in German politics as the Federal Government has launched its National Sustainable Development Strategy in 2002. Since then, the strategy guides German policies towards sustainable development. As a frame of reference it is an important tool in achieving policy coherence among various policy fields by integrating all three dimensions in national policy making. In line with our cabinet's decision, the National Sustainable Development Strategy provides an essential framework for the national implementation of the 2030-Agenda. The Federal Chancellery is leading a process to revise this strategy in order to adapt it to the transformative 2030 Agenda by the end of 2016. The new strategy's national targets will be structured along the 17 SDGs. The German experience is that transparent and inclusive participation of civil society is key to ensure broad ownership and engagement in sustainable development processes.

- 2) *Explain the types of institutional framework arrangements that are in place in your country for the successful integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.*

As sustainable development is a guiding principle for all policies of the German government, the overall responsibility for the National Sustainable Development Strategy does not lie with one of the ministries, but with the Federal Chancellery. With the National Sustainable Development Strategy as the centerpiece, there exists an entire architecture comprising various institutions, mechanisms and instruments for its steering, monitoring and regular updates and revisions. The central steering body is the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development, chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery, which oversees the updating and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Strategy. The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, composed of 17 members of the Parliament, provides parliamentary advice, and evaluates the sustainability impact assessment of the Federal Government. In order to benefit from external expertise, the German government also established a Council for Sustainable Development in 2001. The Council advises the Federal Government on all matters relating to sustainable development and intensively engages in dialogues with the public on all sustainable development matters.

- 3) *Has your Government used innovative policy solutions – including (digital) technology, culture, traditional knowledge, creative combinations of traditional and new knowledge, new development models and strategies, among others – to reduce poverty and advance sustainable development?*

Science, technology and innovation can be key drivers for sustainable development and poverty eradication. If the innovation, investment, and job potential of a sustainable development pathway is fully utilized, this can simultaneously deliver inclusive sustainable growth and advance the transition to a low-carbon economy. At the same time, technology merely provides the tool to be used for the transition to a sustainable path, but often there is no one size fits all solution for the specific need of a country or a problem. Creating a sound policy and financial framework conducive for private investment to flow at scale would be the

most effective means to disseminate technology and knowledge. What matters most is a good mix of economic and legal instruments which trigger transformative developments in our societies. For example, Germany first introduced feed-in tariffs for renewable energies in the early 90s which gave investors the long term-perspective they needed. Ending silo-approaches between different fields through innovation does not only satisfy long term needs, but also yields immediate economic and social benefits. These are often due to synergy effects.

- 4) *What kind of trade-offs has your Government encountered in the use of innovative policy solutions to advance in objectives that are captured in the 2030 Agenda? Has your Government found room for decreasing those trade-offs and/or enhancing synergies by adopting an integrated approach?*

The process of adapting the German National Sustainable Development Strategy to the 2030-Agenda is still underway. However, some preliminary remarks can be given: it will cover national implementation measures with both internal and external effects as well as measures aiming at progress at international level. We are also reviewing our existing bilateral cooperation portfolios so as to ensure that all dimensions of sustainability are adequately addressed, that interlinkages are adequately reflected through integration, and that they reflect support for the global common good. National targets and indicators will be oriented along the global goals and indicator set but will be modified to match the German context.

- 5) *How do the civil society, academia and the private sector engage in promoting policy integration and the use, dissemination or development of technology for policy decision-making in your country?*

The German Federal Government has carried out regular Dialogue Fora with a broad range of stakeholders since before the Rio+20 Conference in order to exchange with stakeholders. In addition to this, the German Federal Government organized five Dialogue conferences between October 2015 and February 2016 aiming at including civil society stakeholders, academia, the business sector and other experts in the revising process of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, including the challenge and potential of a closer and more effective multi-stakeholder-collaboration envisaged in the 2030-Agenda. The consultation process will be continued and differentiated in the further process of revising the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2016. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched a national dialogue process called “Charter for the Future” in 2014. The Charter was jointly elaborated with broad involvement of civil society stakeholders (including inter alia business, science, churches and political foundations). It is a national multi-stakeholder-vision for development cooperation and sustainable living and its results will be considered in the revision process of the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

- 6) *Has your Government formed multi-stakeholder partnerships aimed at designing and/or implementing integrated policies and innovative solutions?*

The German experience is that transparent and inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders is the key to ensure broad ownership and innovative solutions for sustainable development. To this end, a comprehensive and nuanced multi-stakeholder approach is needed, which allows different forms of participation. We already formed multi-agent alliances, such as the ‘*alliance for sustainable textiles*’ (“Bündnis für nachhaltige Textilien”), the *German Water Partnership*, the ‘*German initiative for transparency in the extractive sector*’ (“Deutsche Initiative für Transparenz im rohstoffgewinnenden Sektor”), the ‘*German Energy Agency*’ (“dena – Deutsche Energie-Agentur) or the ‘*German Recycling Technologies*

and Waste Management Partnership', which are examples for the successful cooperation between different stakeholders.

7) *What can the ECOSOC system do to support countries in adapting their policy framework to advance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?*

The ECOSOC-System can support an effective and efficient review framework by contributing to HLPF leadership in SDG-review. To match the requirements of an integrated and inclusive follow-up, the HLPF should draw tailored inputs from the various bodies of the ECOSOC system on the basis of a common template. These inputs should be compiled into a SDG report for consideration by HLPF which should synthesize, compile and aggregate the various inputs. It would be most helpful if the ECOSOC functional commissions would elevate HLPF-reporting to a formal item of their work programs, thereby complementing or aligning their current reporting duties. The ECOSOC System also remains the focal point for coordinating the various operational activities within the UN development system.