Untangling the mess
The Importance of Interconnectivity and Policy Coherence to Achieve Sustainable Development

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Centre for Policy Dialogue

Why interconnectivity?

The Agenda 2030 – the SDGs present an alternative development paradigm –

- with the ambition to achieve all aspects of human and ecological wellbeing
- It recognizes – inequality and ecological destruction and limited resources

Universality – must benefit ALL

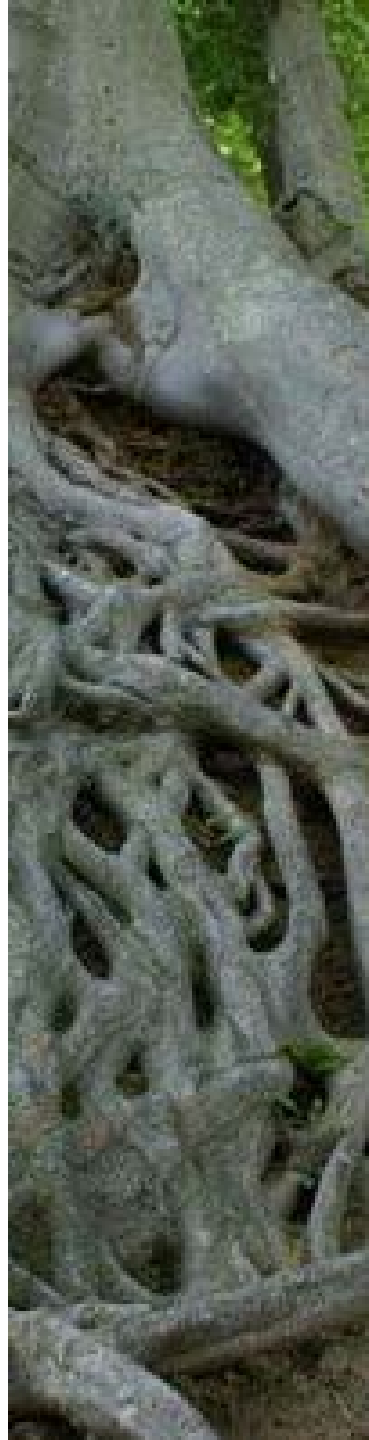
Indivisible/integrated – must achieve all three domains

Transformative – go beyond BAU, alternate systems thinking

It necessitates redefining the development agenda – global to local

Requires the acceptance of interconnectivity

Acceptance that ALL domains are equally important and have positive and negative relationships



Achieving interconnectivity

For countries to implement the SDGs it requires setting an agenda that reflects the sustainable principles AND policy coherence

Not so simple

- plugging the targets into sectoral plans or cherry picking
- Dangers of retro-fitting (transitional but needs to progress
- It cannot happen as ad-hoc or spill over effects

Policy coherence is key to move forward

Policy inconsistencies will have crippling effects on the poor and will sideline one aspect or another

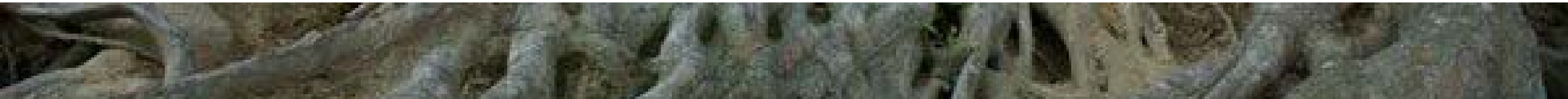
Achieving Policy Coherence in the context of the SDGs

CONTENT

1) Must **balance** the three domains
2) Explicit recognition of **interlinkages**
3) Establising **sectoral coherence** (Positive reinforcement /negative impact
4) link between **domestic and global** (within countries, among countries, between the international agreements

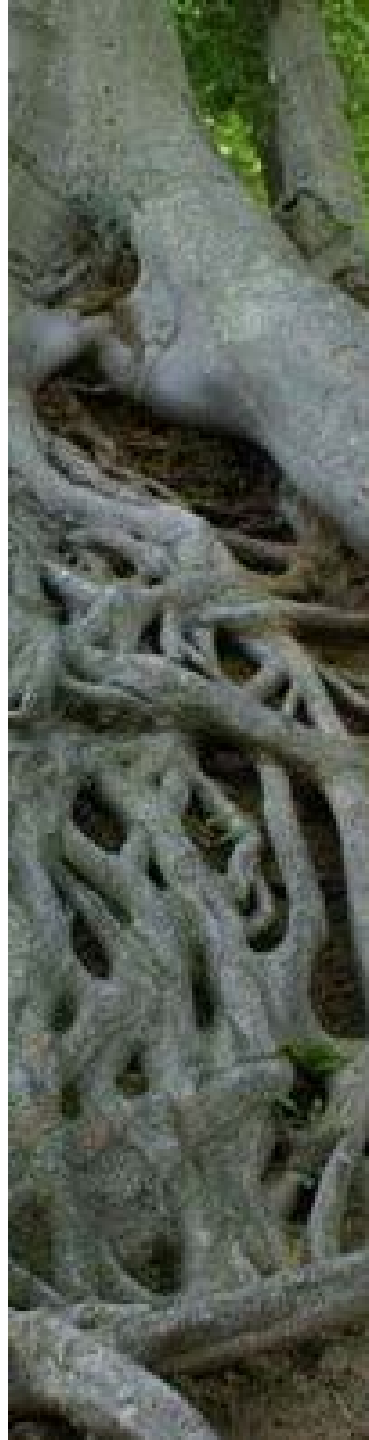
PROCESS

1) Starts with a **visioning** – acceptance that SD is the development paradigm
2) Cannot be **parallel process** (i.e SD agenda as the environmental mandate)
3) **Legal status** or parliamentary support
4) Linked to **budgets**
5) **Centrally AND locally** driven
6) Engage **multiple actors**



A practical first step to achieve policy coherence

Need to take stock or map the policies and programs that exist and relevance to SDGs
(Sri Lanka's Ministry of SD and WL has collated relevant min/depts. by SDGs and its targets)

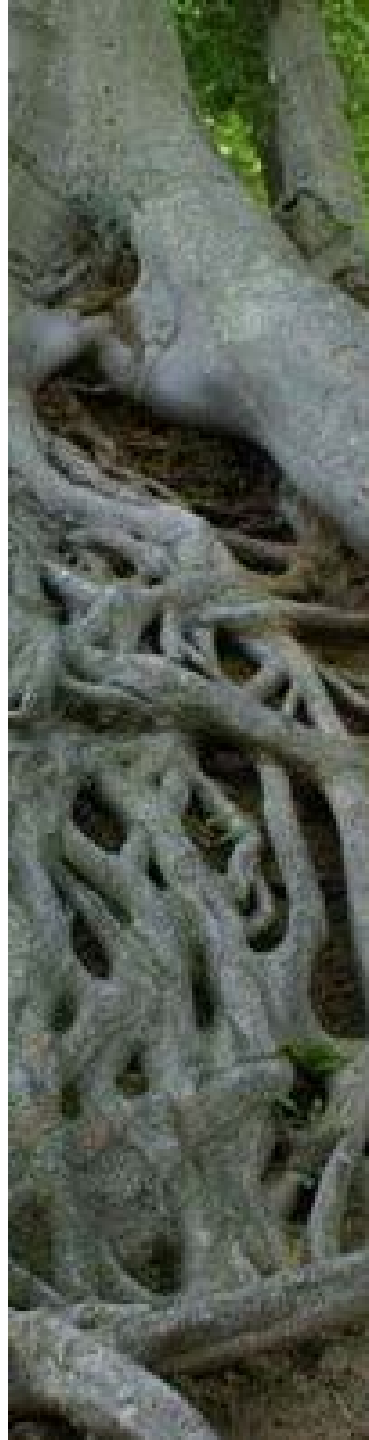


Tools for achieving Policy Coherence

- The nexus approach energy – water – food nexus
- iSDG
- Network Analysis
- Interlinkages in the SDGs/either on weighting system on linkages and domains, or based on data/stats

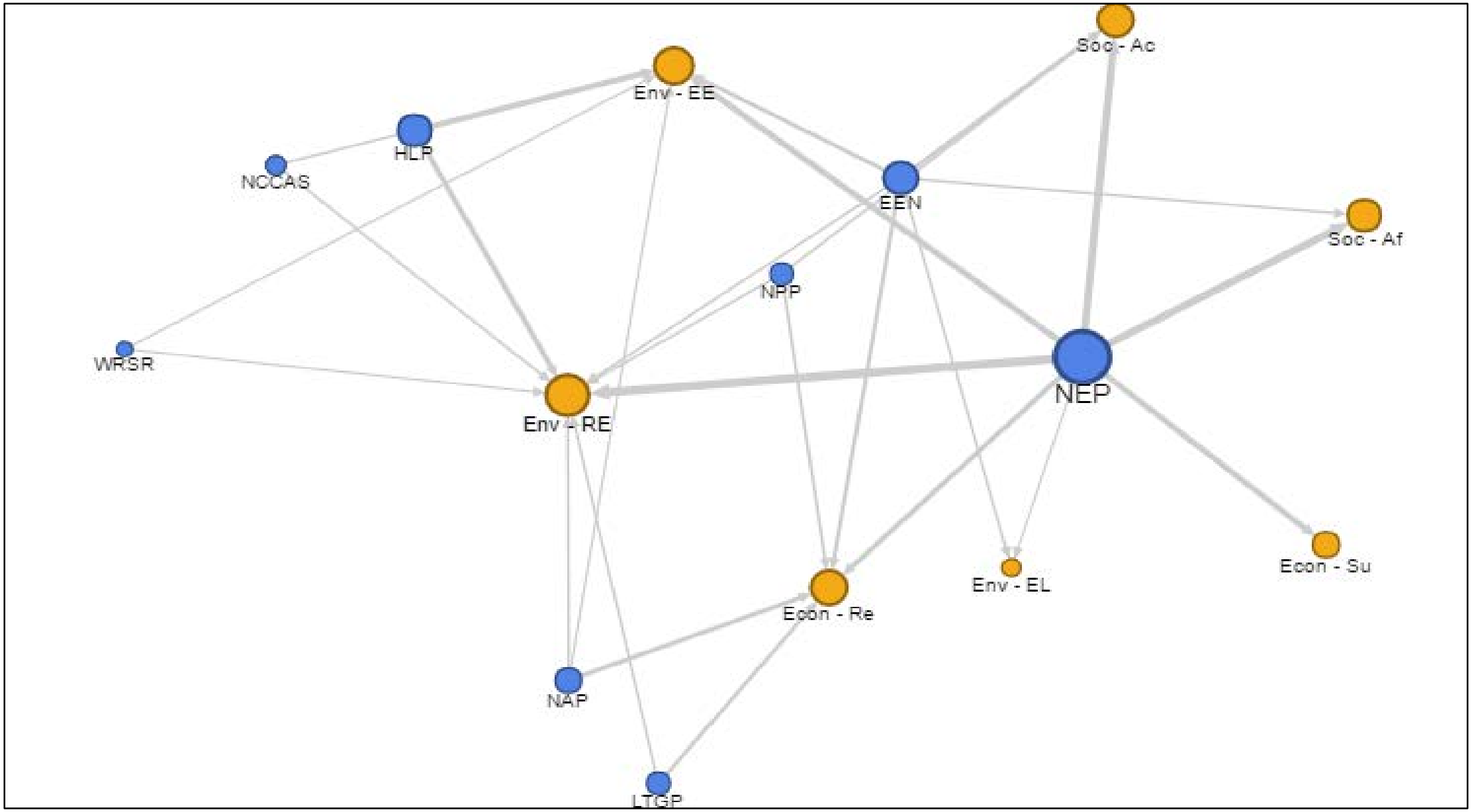
System of weighting (nillson et al 2016)

INTERACTION	NAME	EXPLANATION
+3	Indivisible	Inextricably linked to the achievement of another goal.
+2	Reinforcing	Aids the achievement of another goal.
+1	Enabling	Creates conditions that further another goal.
0	Consistent	No significant positive or negative interactions.
–1	Constraining	Limits options on another goal.
–2	Counteracting	Clashes with another goal.
–3	Cancelling	Makes it impossible to reach another goal.



Network Analysis – For Policy

- Useful tool to show multiple connections, strength of the connection and Direction
- It can be used to visualise complex links systematically using a grading criteria (positive reinforcement and negative trade offs).
- The visual shows the strongest links, relationships AND missing links and provides an objective basis to improve or modify policies
- The process of grading should be done in a multi stakeholder group.
- means to avoid cherry-picking goals and to rationalise targets/goals.
  - point to clusters of sectors and policies that can be integrated/need to resolve
- For energy – it told us that at least in ambition there was a push towards renewable energy, but there were contradictions with FF energy use as well as lack of clear sectoral integration – to transport, industries and agriculture/land use
- It also showed us how varied policy documents can be!! Mandates vs what
- BUT they are the most publically available information


Soc - Ac
Env - EE
HLP
NCCAS
EEN
Soc - Af
NPP
WRSR
NEP
Env - RE
Econ - Su
Env - EL
Econ - Re
NAP
LTGP

SOME COUNTRY EXAMPLES

Finland

Government Implementation Plan for 2030 Agenda

Adopted in February 2017

FOCUS AREAS

Sustainable economy

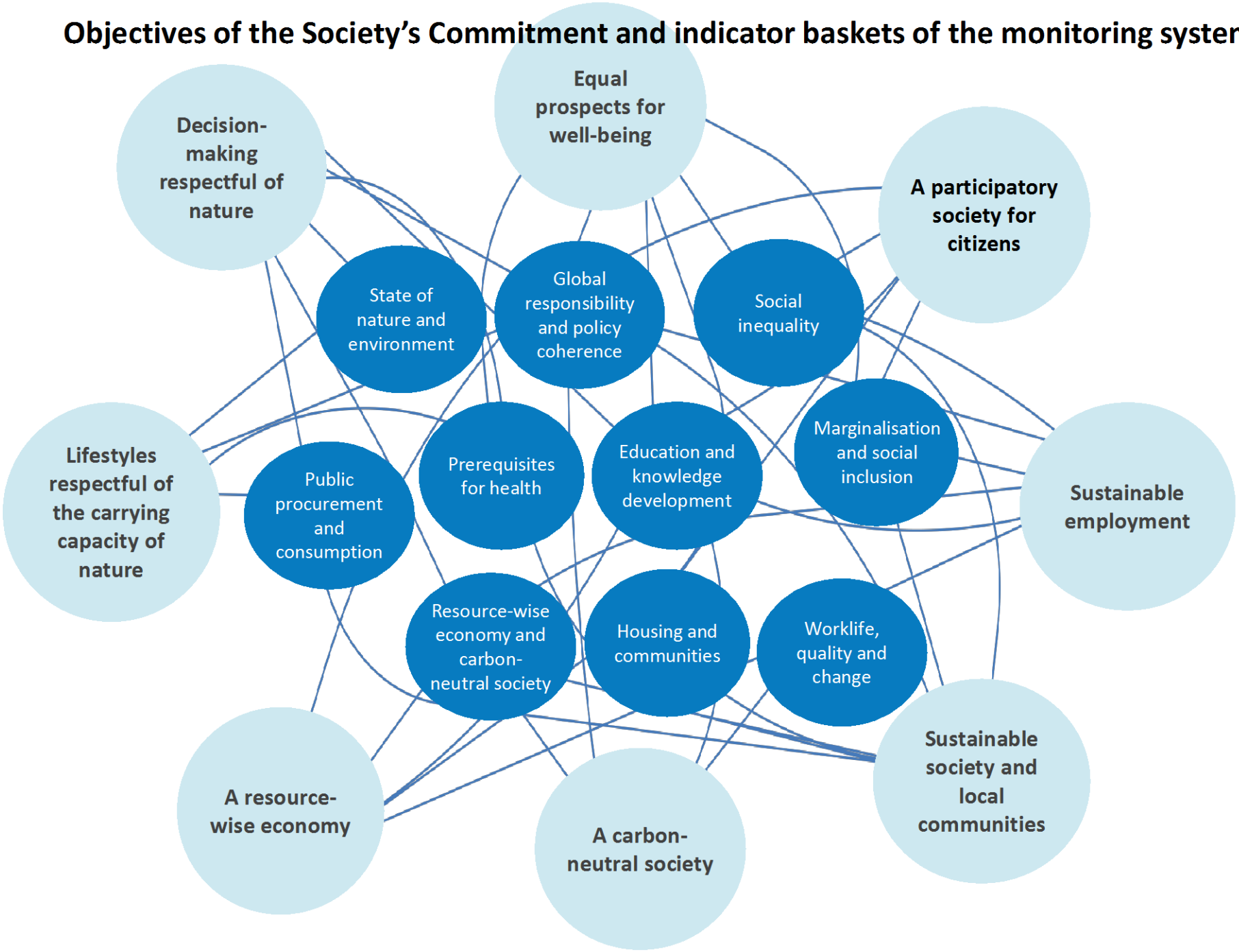
- Carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland
- Non-discriminating, equal and competent Finland

POLICY PRINCIPLES

- Long-term action and transformation
- Policy coherence and global partnership
- Ownership and Participation

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

Finland


Objectives of the Society's Commitment and indicator baskets of the monitoring system
Equal prospects for well-being
Decision-making respectful of nature
A participatory society for citizens
State of nature and environment
Global responsibility and policy coherence
Social inequality
Lifestyles respectful of the carrying capacity of nature
Public procurement and consumption
Prerequisites for health
Education and knowledge development
Marginalisation and social inclusion
Sustainable employment
Resource-wise economy and carbon-neutral society
Housing and communities
Worklife, quality and change
A resource-wise economy
A carbon-neutral society
Sustainable society and local communities

Finland

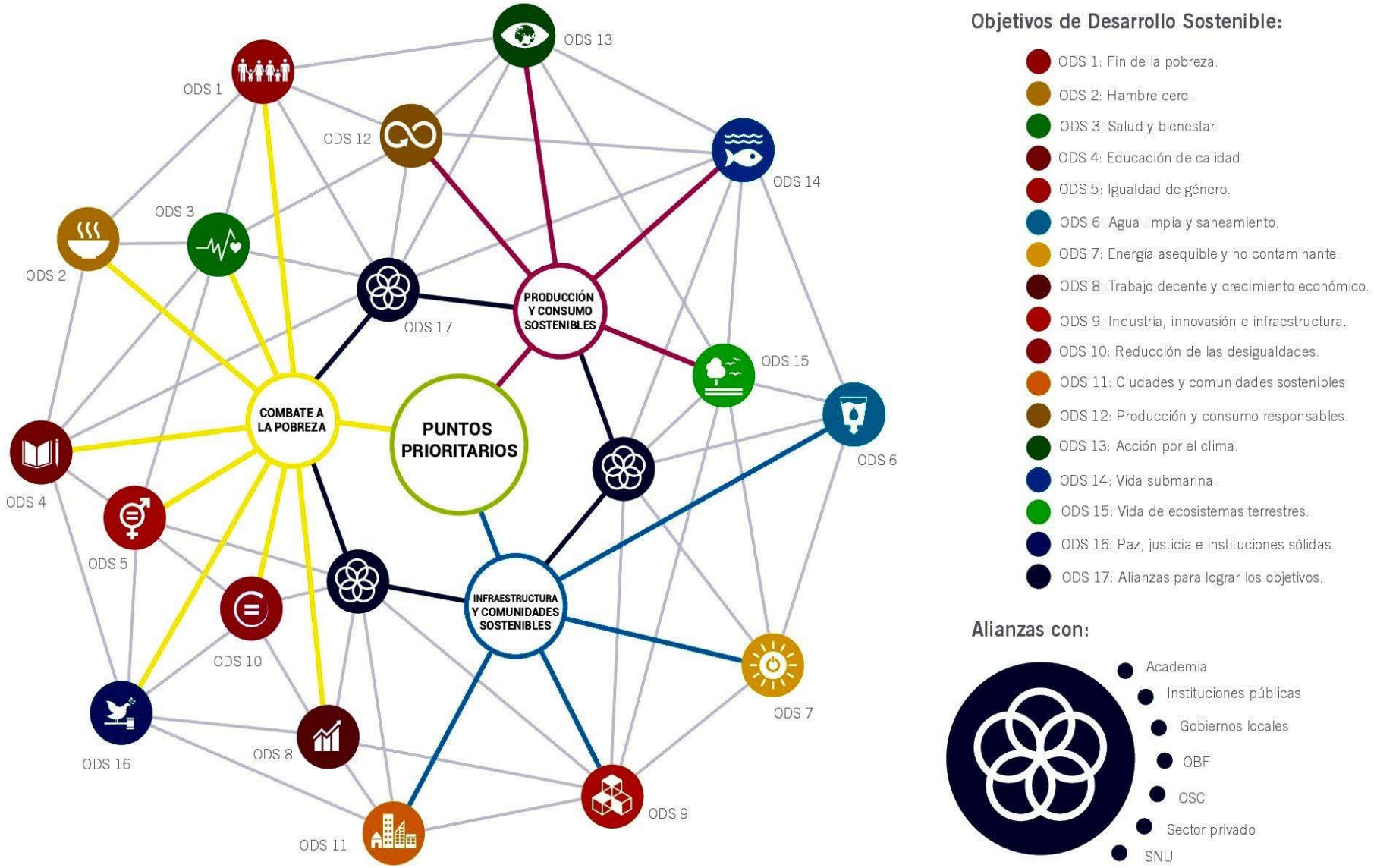
Objectives of the Society's Commitment:

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda:

Figure 2: Correlation of the objectives set in the Society's Commitment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda

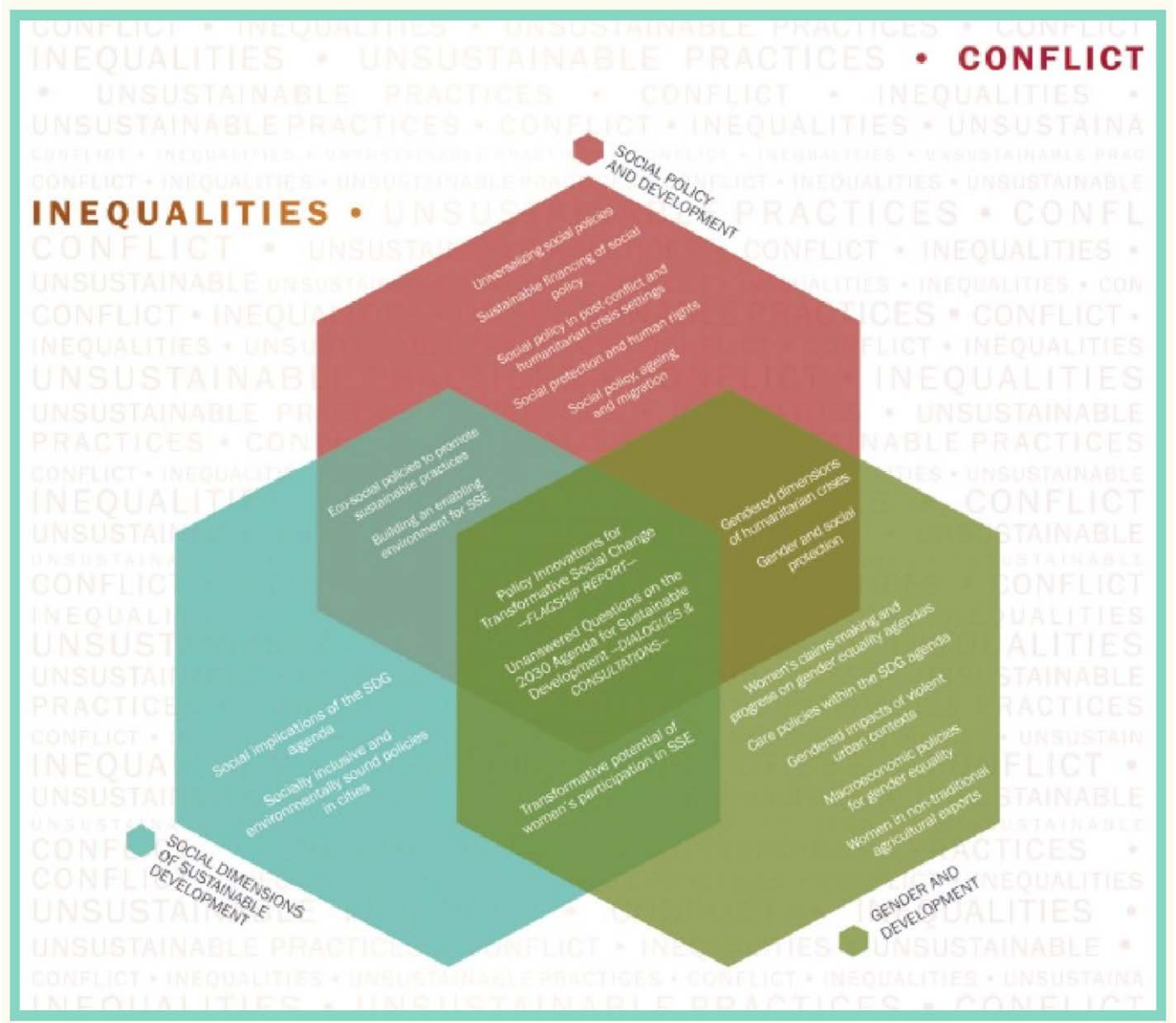
Costa Rica

Figura 4. Puntos prioritarios definidos por la Secretaría Técnica de los ODS



Fuente: elaboración propia

UNRISD


• CONFLICT
INEQUALITIES •
SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT
Universalizing social policies
Sustainable financing of social policy
Social policy in post-conflict and humanitarian crisis settings
Social protection and human rights
Social policy, ageing and migration
Eco-social policies to promote sustainable practices
Building an enabling environment for SSE
Gendered dimensions of humanitarian crises
Gender and social protection
Policy innovations for Transformative Social Change —FLAGSHIP REPORT—
Unanswered Questions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development —DIALOGUES & CONSULTATIONS—
Transformative potential of women's participation in SSE
Social implications of the SDG agenda
Socially inclusive and environmentally sound policies in cities
Women's claims-making and progress on gender equality agendas
Care policies within the SDG agenda
Gendered impacts of violent urban contexts
Macroeconomic policies for gender equality
Women in non-traditional agricultural exports
SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT