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

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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) Establishing **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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERACTION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+3</td>
<td>Indivisible</td>
<td>Inextricably linked to the achievement of another goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+2</td>
<td>Reinforcing</td>
<td>Aids the achievement of another goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>Enabling</td>
<td>Creates conditions that further another goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Consistent</td>
<td>No significant positive or negative interactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>−1</td>
<td>Constraining</td>
<td>Limits options on another goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>−2</td>
<td>Counteracting</td>
<td>Clashes with another goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>−3</td>
<td>Cancelling</td>
<td>Makes it impossible to reach another goal.</td>
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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
SOME COUNTRY EXAMPLES
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

Figure 2: Correlation of the objectives set in the Society’s Commitment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda
Figura 4. Puntos prioritarios definidos por la Secretaría Técnica de los ODS

Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible:
- ODS 1: Fin de la pobreza.
- ODS 2: Hambre cero.
- ODS 3: Salud y bienestar.
- ODS 4: Educación de calidad.
- ODS 5: Igualdad de género.
- ODS 6: Agua limpia y saneamiento.
- ODS 7: Energía accesible y no contaminante.
- ODS 8: Trabajo decente y crecimiento económico.
- ODS 9: Industria, innovación e infraestructura.
- ODS 10: Reducción de las desigualdades.
- ODS 11: Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles.
- ODS 12: Producción y consumo responsables.
- ODS 13: Acción por el clima.
- ODS 14: Vida submarina.
- ODS 15: Vida de ecosistemas terrestres.
- ODS 16: Paz, justicia e instituciones sólidas.
- ODS 17: Alianzas para lograr los objetivos.

Alianzas con:
- Academia
- Instituciones públicas
- Gobiernos locales
- OEF
- GSG
- Sector privado
- SNU

Fuente: elaboración propia