

Policy Integration in Government in Pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals

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Main Objectives of the EGM

The SDGs are themselves cross cutting, addressing complex problems.

- Moving from Theory to Practice
- Base-lining government capacity
- Aligning output with the real world

Policy Integration Challenges

- Not business as usual – not normal practice – for governments to integrate
- Policy integration is a concept and set of practices subject to overlapping definitions and conceptual fuzziness
- Capability in Policy making varies:
 - In places it is well developed, particularly on a sectoral basis.
 - In some cases there is established collaboration, even joint policy making - this is rare.
 - Elsewhere the policy development process is absent or poorly understood.



Policy Integration Successes

- Rich examples of historical and contemporary policy integration experiences exist but are not documented with this purpose in mind
- Often policy cohesion has happened around ‘wicked’ issues.

For Example, Climate Change, where Politicians, Scientists, Economists and Citizens and others have come together to develop a common view of the problem and to develop solutions.



Policy Integration - Implications

- Implementation requires the mapping of linkages between sub-national, national, regional and global governance arrangements
- Joint problem solving raises questions about joint accountability
- Management of the political, economic, scientific and governance dimensions of policy integration will be critical to the success of SDGs.
- Clarification of expectations , where does contribution end and decision making begin?



Policy Integration - Implications

- Sectoral and inter-sectoral policymaking support one another.
- If integrated policymaking is to work, it should incorporate adequate understanding of the sectoral building blocks and sectoral incentives to participate.
- The SDG framework is both sectoral and inter-sectoral.
- May need to reshape other government operations for example budget allocation and accountability



Policy Integration - Implications

- The level of capability required to effectively integrate Economic, Social and Environmental goals and to ensure they are meaningful and owned by those affected is of a different order than has been required up to now.
- The challenges could be related to :
 - Skills – use of evidence, critical thinking, managing relationships
 - Existing machinery of government and working practice
 - Perceived loss of power and authority
 - Mindset – willingness to engage, to problem solve, to experiment, to manage risk



Policy Integration - Implications

- The process of “endogenizing” the SDGs is critical if they are to have meaning to people and inspire action.
- Knowledge networks and institutional mechanisms to support cross-boundary thinking and problem-solving are critical for integrated policymaking.
- A better sense is needed of how policy integration will play out across different regions and in different types of countries, such as the LDCs and countries emerging from conflict, and what sequencing of reforms may be implied given the different resources, capacities and governance systems.

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Thank You