



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Long term planning and system thinking: the need to develop, plan and monitor policies in an integrated manner

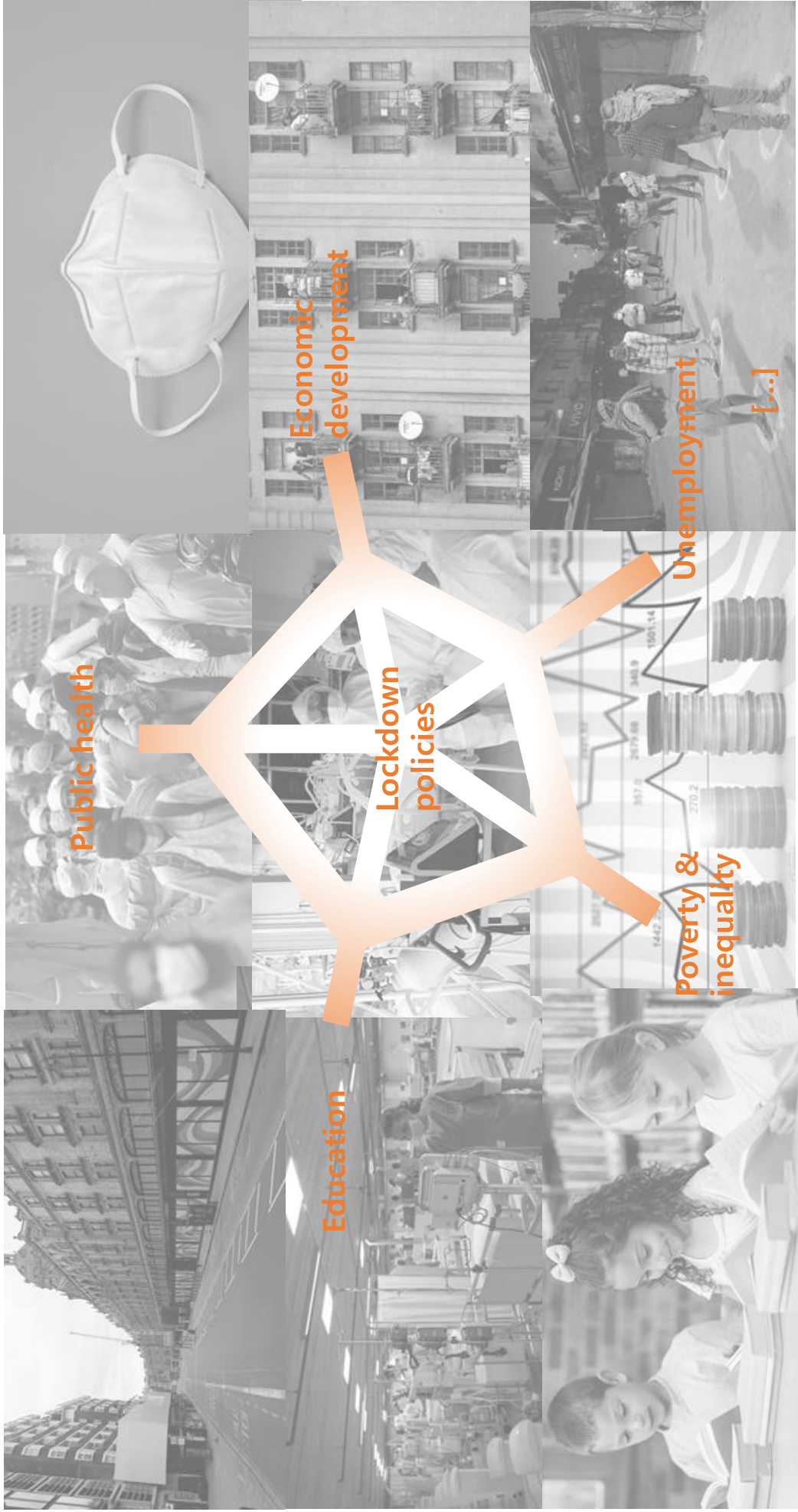
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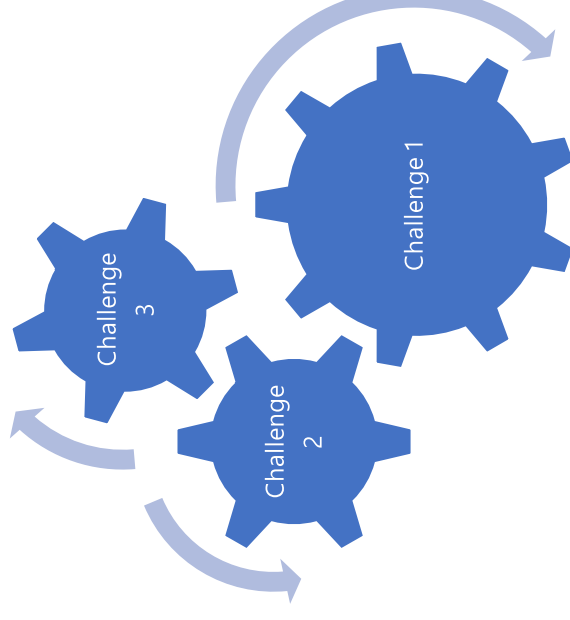


DESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government



Why?

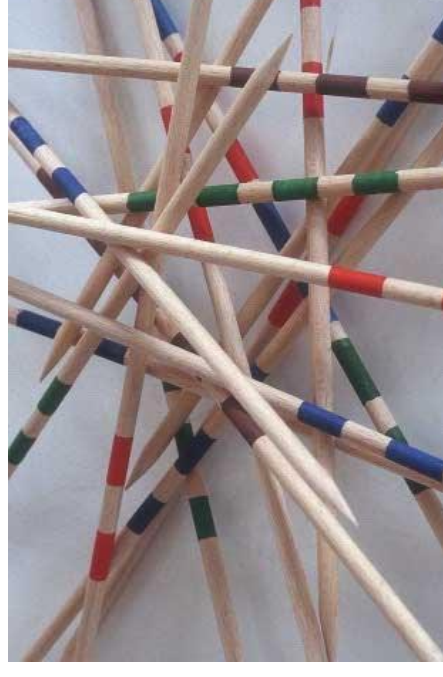
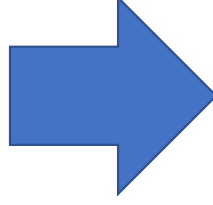
- Many complex policy challenges transcend sectoral boundaries because they are interrelated
- Government organization in sectoral ministries is less complex than real-world interdependencies of problems



- ✓ *Develop, plan and monitor policies in an integrated manner!*
- ✓ *Systems thinking to understand linkages*

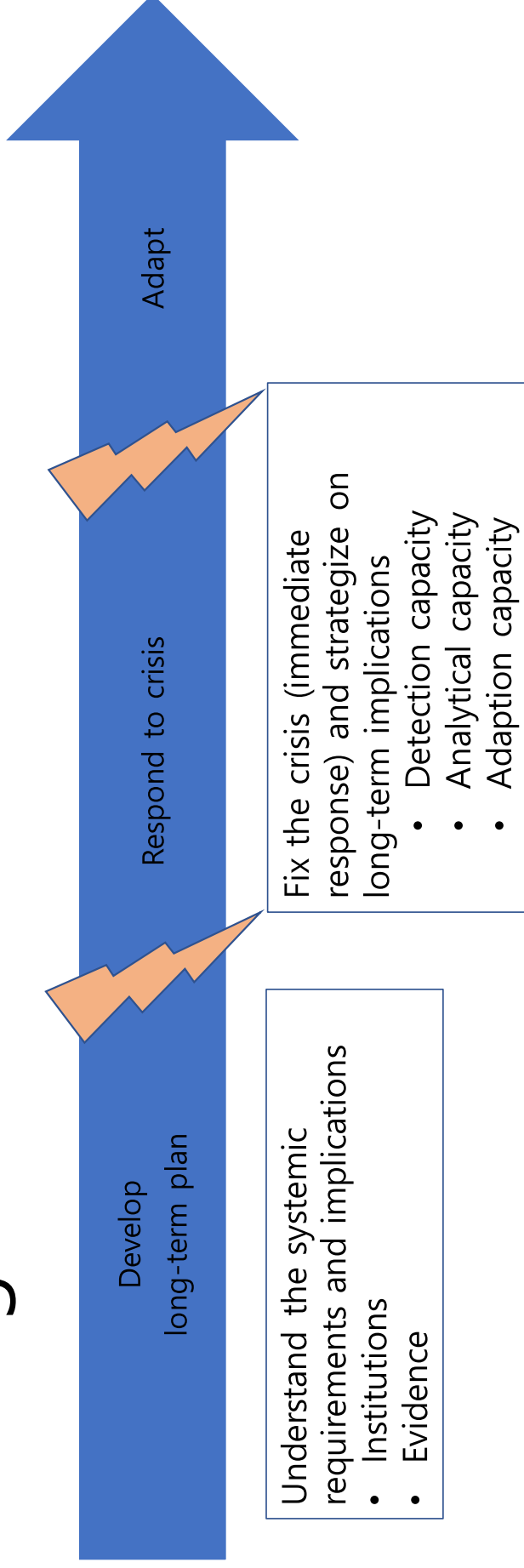
Systems Thinking

- To cope with complex (or: wicked) problems
 - Lack of a root-cause
 - Unpredictable
- To identify the interactions between different parts of a system
 - Linkages, synergies, conflicts, trade-offs
 - Various techniques



- Policy planning, making and monitoring
- Establish mechanisms to identify linkages, synergies, conflicts, trade-offs
 - Whole-of-government approaches, whole-of-society approaches
 - Reflect on institutions for coherence

How? Long-term planning and crisis management



Institutional capacity key to cope with long and short-term challenges!