



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

Session 7: Changing approaches to policy making: the role of the SDGs

30 June 2015, 10 am – 1.00 pm

The broad consultations on the post 2015 development agenda showed that people everywhere aspire to peace and security, freedom, development, and a safe, clean environment – they want to live in dignity, in a just and secure world and a healthy planet. They want to have decent jobs and effective institutions. These issues are pressing necessities. Political leaders and scientists alike have long acknowledged that these issues are closely inter-linked and require integrated approaches.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their associated targets form a set of global, shared aspirations to be achieved by the year 2030. These goals and targets aim at capturing the advances required for transformation towards sustainability and lasting shared prosperity. Many of the goals are interlinked, and their achievement in conjunction to one another often involves synergies and trade-offs. Hence, integrated strategies that consider the goals simultaneously will need to be considered to successfully implement the SDGs.

Chapter 2 of the Global Sustainable Development Report 2015, “*Integrated Perspectives of the Sustainable Development Goals*”, focuses on this issue. It shows that the SDGs as proposed by the GA open working group explicitly acknowledged the importance of interdependences among goals by including targets under each goal that refer to other goals as well. The chapter also presents views from the scientific community, which emphasize an even greater number of links among the 17 goals. The Global Sustainable Development Report notes that integration can be seen from three complementary angles; (a) integration across economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development for any substantive issue; (b) integration across substantive areas of what is to be developed or sustained; and/or (c) integration across a wide range of geographic and time scales.

The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, *The Future We Want*, recognized the need for global, integrated and scientifically-based information on sustainable development. Such information, analysis and coherence of sustainable development policies aiming at achieving different SDG targets will be required in order to successfully implement the new framework a success. This session intends to discuss the related conceptual and practical challenges and opportunities.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. Do we know how to integrate the SDGs into planning and policy making at all levels, balancing economic, social and environmental dimensions? How can we best learn from one another in this regard?
2. How can the SDGs be integrated into national strategies and policies in a manner that takes into account their interconnectedness, with a view to moving away from silo approaches?
3. What are opportunities and barriers for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, at national, regional and international levels?
4. How can the HLPF foster policy coherence and ensure that it addresses the SDGs in an integrated manner, including in its reviews?