



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

Session 4- Supporting national action through HLPF outcomes

Monday, 29 June 2015, 10am-1pm

The General Assembly mandated the HLPF to provide leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development; review progress in the implementation of commitments; identify emerging issues; and continue to enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. At its inaugural meeting in July 2014, the HLPF highlighted the “*intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development,*” ... and ... “*underline[d] the need for a coherent approach that integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development*”: economic, social and environmental.

Achieving effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development goes beyond merely “aggregating” independently formulated policies across the different domains. It entails taking into account inter-linkages among different areas of policy at the formulation stage. Integrated planning for, and implementation of, national sustainable development strategies has remained challenging. Member States noted this challenge by recognizing in the Rio+20 Outcome Document the inadequacy of sector-based strategies and calling for “*holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development*” (paragraph 40) and the “*need for more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national ... level*” (paragraph 101).ⁱⁱⁱ Integration is, therefore, the foundation of overall policy coherence. In the context of a universal, integrated sustainable development agenda post-2015, it can be expected that integration issues will be at the center of policy concerns.

At the global level, long-term sustainable development scenarios have consistently shown that approaches based on multiple goals allows for the identification of significant co-benefits, while highlighting trade-offs that cannot be identified from purely sectoral approaches. Cross-sectoral linkages also have implications for the financing of sustainable development objectives, as investment made to achieve a given goal will influence the approach, resourcing and effectiveness of the delivery of others. Understanding these inter-linkages and co-dependencies across sustainable development objectives is critical to accurately assess investment needs and enhance investment effectiveness.

The HLPF provides a forum for sharing national experiences and good practices on sustainable development. This role and the resulting knowledge could be very useful for strengthening capacities at the national level for the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies plans and strategies.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What kind of mechanisms should be established to assist countries in learning about the outcomes of the HLPF?
2. How can countries be supported to incorporate their sustainable development goals into national planning and implementation in an integrated and coherent manner?



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3. How can all stakeholders be involved in making the transformation from sectoral to integrated sustainable development planning and implementation?