

**Expert group meeting for the Global Sustainable Development Report:  
A systematic approach to science and technology issues for the  
attention of policy makers, Geneva, 28-29 May 2015**

# **Introduction**

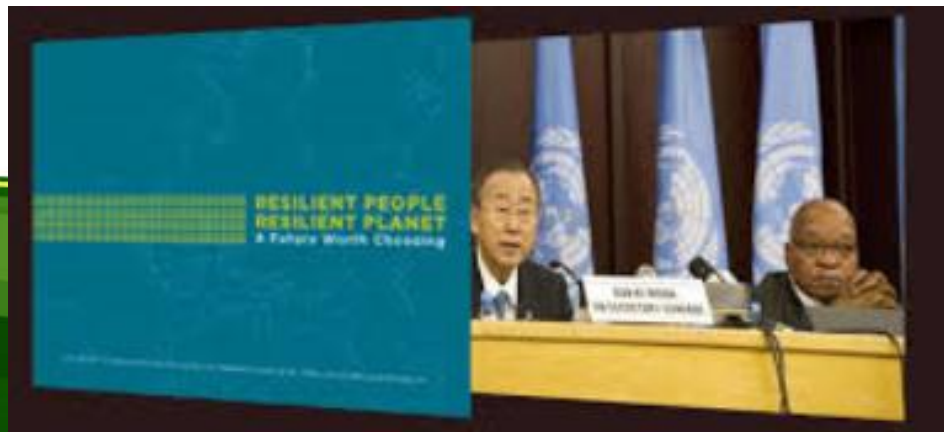
**R. Alexander Roehrl, DESA/DSD**

# Global Sustainable Development Report

## Context



Rio+20 decided to establish a universal, intergovernmental high-level political forum (HLPF) which would, as one of its functions, *“strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a **global sustainable development report ...”***



# A Prototype Edition of Global Sustainable Development Report (2014)

To illustrate

- Potential content;
- Alternative SD pathways for the future;
- Options of engaging the scientific community with policy makers.

Key sources of inputs:

- UN system, Member States, and Scientific Community



# Contents of 2014 and 2015 editions of the Reports

red: chapters in the Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report 2014

blue: chapters in the Global Sustainable Development Report 2015

## Science-Policy Interface

Science-policy interface

Assessments

Science digests

## Post-2015 development agenda

### Sustainable Development Goals

Integrated perspectives on SDGs

Sustainable development scenarios

Oceans-biodiversity-poverty

Nexus

Climate-land-energy-water-development

Sustainable industrialization

### MOI and partnerships

Means of implementation

Disaster risk

### Follow-up and review

Review of progress

Measuring progress

Big data in Africa

### Countries in special situations

LDCs

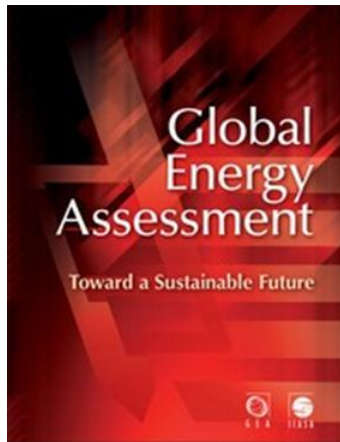
SIDS

LLCs

Regional perspectives

Selected subregions

# Mixed multi-stakeholder approach for inputs




A screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'All Our Ideas' website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'www.allourideas.org/sustainabledevelopmentprogress'. The website header includes the 'ALL OUR IDEAS' logo and navigation links: 'Cast Votes', 'View Results', 'About this page', and 'Manage this page'. The main content area features a poll question: 'Which message on global sustainable development progress do you prefer for Chapter III?'. There are two blue buttons for voting: 'World food production per capita rose by 22% from 1950 to 2000.' and 'Rapidly industrializing countries have reduced SOx emissions, but NOx and non-methane volatile organic compounds continue to grow rapidly.'. Below these is a grey button for 'I can't decide' with '0 votes on 165 ideas' underneath. At the bottom, there is a text input field labeled 'Add your own idea here...'. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open tabs: 'List of ongoing CLE...docx', 'Lund-University-Log...gif', 'lund logo godd.htm', and 'Ramma - EGM-Ma...pptx'. A 'Show all downloads...' button is also visible.



# SG report E/2014/87 on “options for scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report”

## Elements for agreement

- Value added
  - Focus
  - Type of content
  - Audience
  - Priority issues
  - Geographic scope
  - Time horizon
  - Emerging issues
  - Coordination of report process
  - Policy-relevant but not normative
  - Periodicity
  - Scientific methods
  - Capacity building
  - How to inform HLPF
  - Follow-up and review for SDGs/post-2015
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## SG report E/2014/87 on “options for scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report”

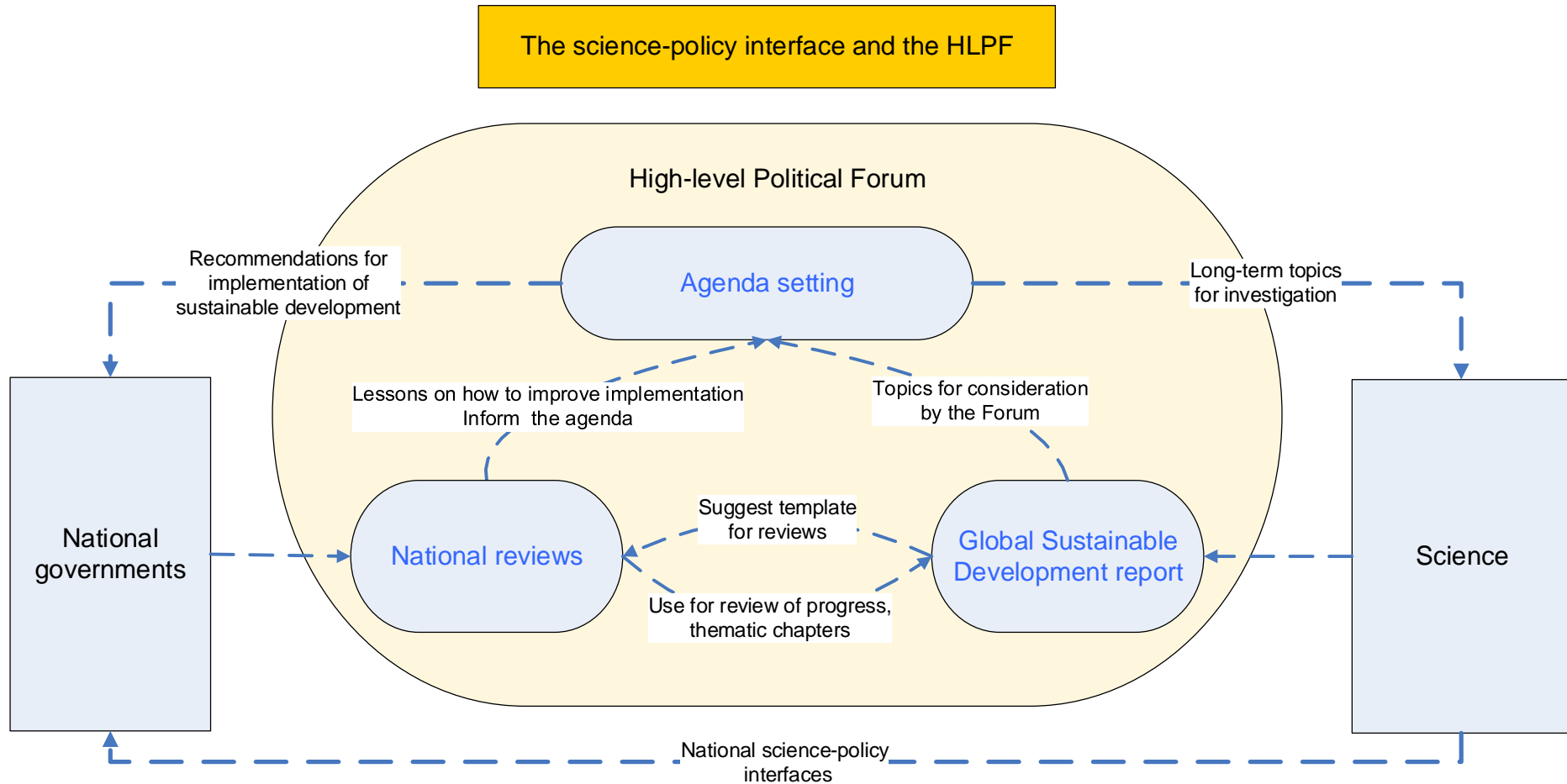
**Based on responses to UN questionnaire, the Secretary General recommended:**

- Option 1: Conventional UN flagship publication model
- Option 2: Multi-stakeholder model linked to voluntary national processes
- Option 3: Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Development

**Option 2 received most support from member States  
(Ministerial Declaration at 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the HLPF in 2014)**




# One idea on the science-policy interface and the HLPF



*Linking GSDR with capacity building activities at national and regional levels?*



## A propos follow-up and review for post-2015


- 1. Synthesis of national reviews on sustainable development**
  - 2. Science-policy interface, analysis of inter-linkages, data availability**
  3. Monitoring of targets and indicators
  4. Sectoral in-depth reporting
- Global Sustainable Development Report**
- UNDG interagency, replacing MDG report.  
Specialized agencies, UNEP/GEO, ILO, IPCC,...
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## Towards a broader network of key stakeholders?

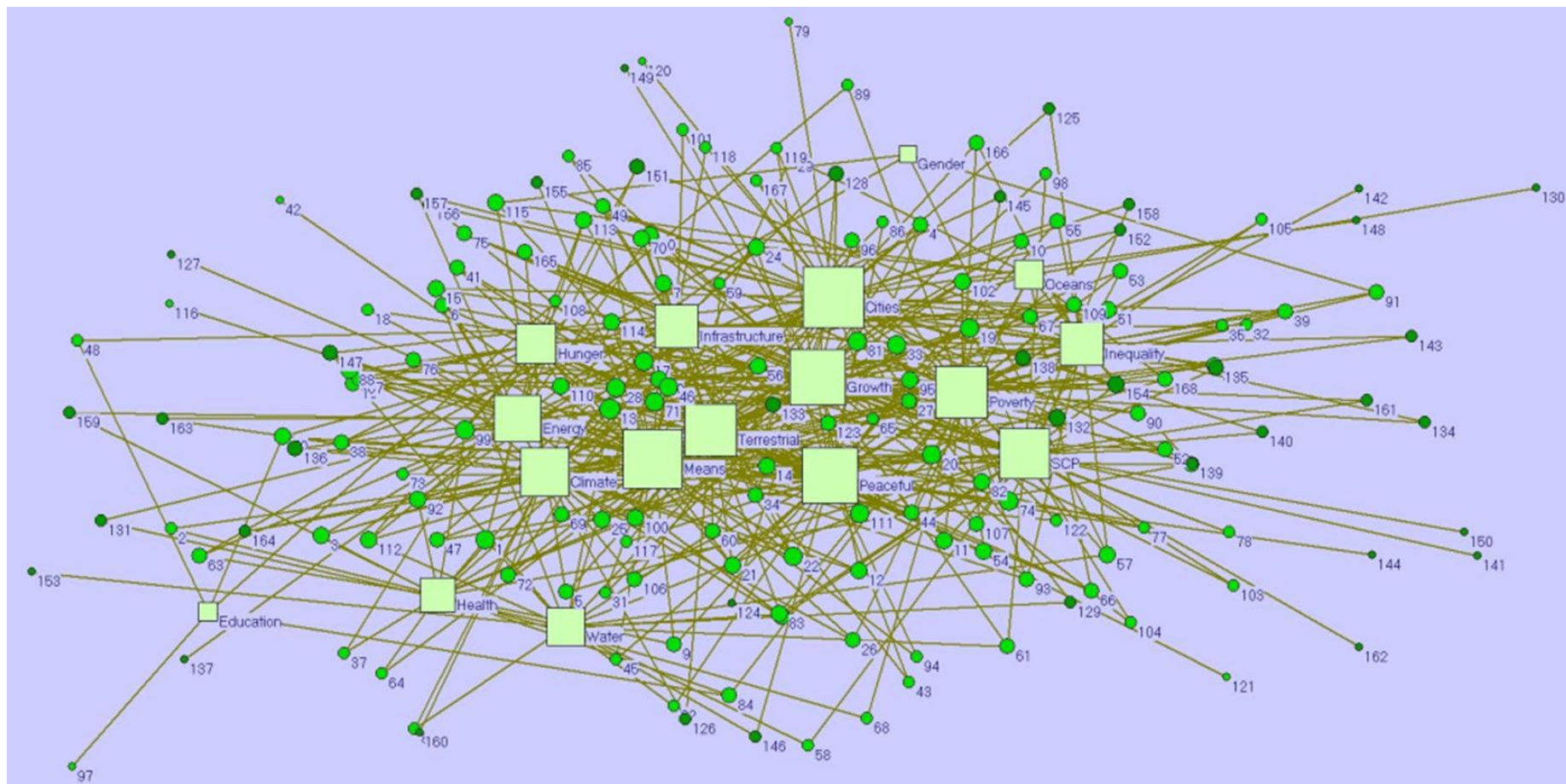
- **Representatives of key UN reports and outlooks:** DESA, Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, ECE, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, WB, UNU
  - **Chairs of key UN groups:** Committee for Development Policy, UN SG's Scientific Advisory Board, London Group, SE4All, GEO board
  - **Representatives of relevant non-UN organizations:** South Center, OECD, regional development banks, EC, AU
  - **Representatives from think-tanks of member States:** SDSN, Future Earth
  - **Academies of sciences:** World Academy of Sciences, IIASA, prominent national academies, the Inter-Academy Council
  - **Major Groups:** ICSU, ISSC, WBCSD
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## Draft Chapter 7 on

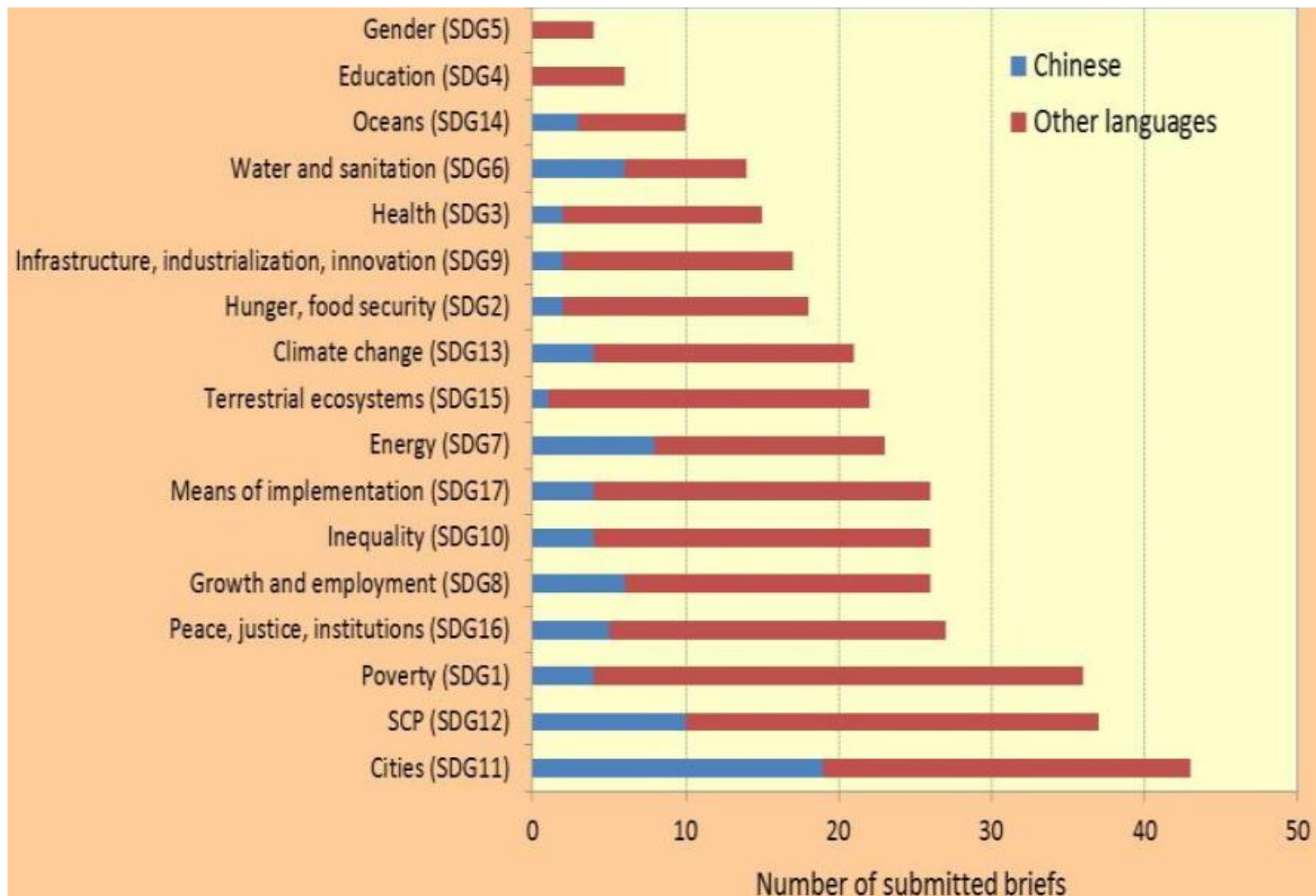
### “Science issues for the attention of policy makers” for GSDR 2015

- Policymakers exposed to a broad range of analyses, rankings, and advice on “emerging issues” from a multitude of perspectives.
  - Many existing UN mechanisms to identify “emerging issues” (typology suggested)
  - The open call for science briefs (187 accepted contributions from 367 natural and social scientists from 46 countries most of which from developing countries).
  - Big data applications emerging for all SDG areas
  - Early warning and science-policy time lags,
  - Which criteria? Which sources?
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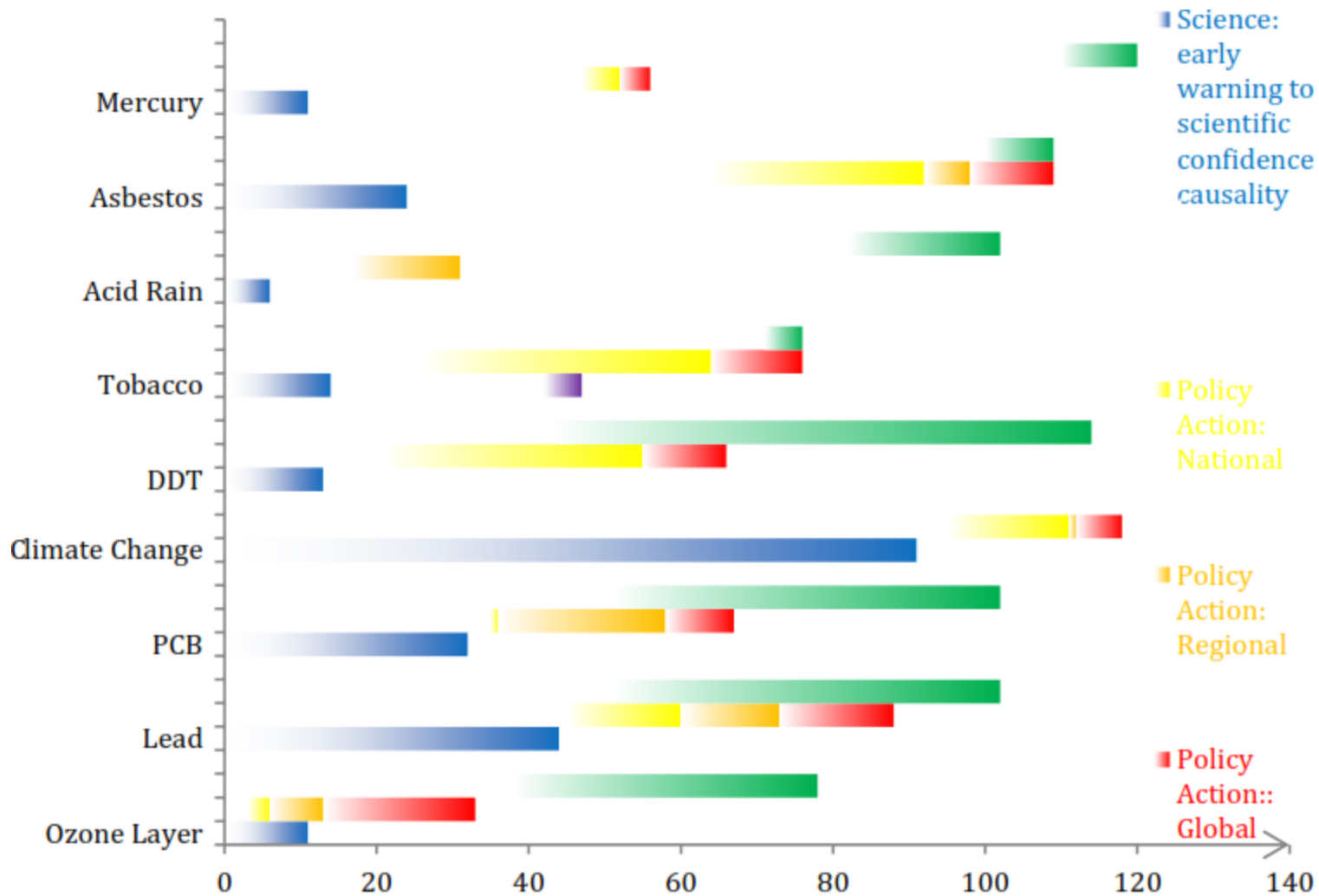
# SDG coverage of the submitted science briefs



# SDG coverage by all submitted briefs vs. those received in Chinese language



# Time lags between science and policy (in years)






# Meeting objectives

- Discuss approaches and methodologies for systematically identifying the range of issues for consideration by policymakers, in particular in the HLPF (building on chapter 7)
  - Ultimately to support policy deliberations on the GSDR at the High-level Forum in July 2015, with a view to strengthening the science-policy interface for sustainable development.
  - Results may also be useful scientific ideas for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the future.
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## Expected outputs

- Meeting report
    - Summary of approaches and methodologies for systematically collecting science and technology issues for the attention of policy makers, reflecting three dimensions of sustainable development
    - Recommendations for constructing systematic collection / index of science and technology issues for the attention of policy makers
    - Indicative commitments of possible collaboration and initial ideas for a work plan
  - After the meeting, we may want to cooperate on a paper to be submitted to an academic journal
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**Please speak your mind!**

**Thank you.**

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, wavy bands of green, transitioning from a lighter shade on top to a darker shade on the bottom.