# Introduction

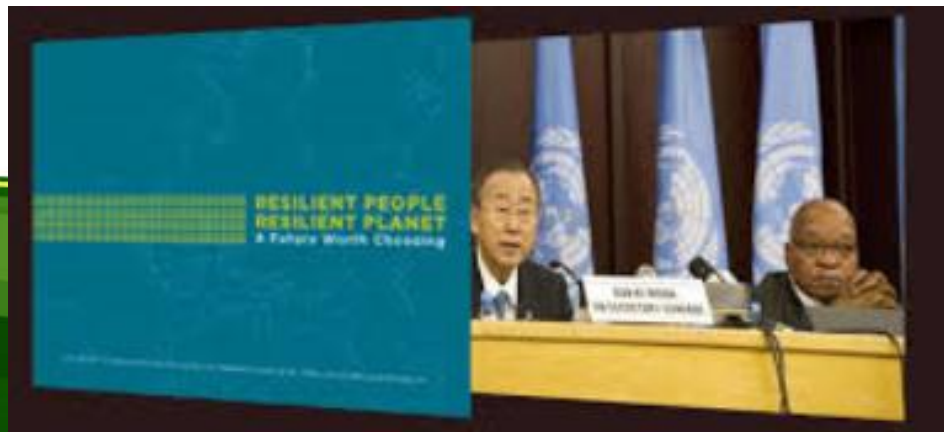## R. Alexander Roehrl, DESA/DSD

# 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



**Prototype Edition**
**Global Sustainable Development Report**
**Building the Common Future We Want**

# 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

#### Nexus

- Oceans-biodiversity-poverty
- Climate-land-energy-water-development

- Sustainable industrialization

### MOI and partnerships

- Means of implementation
- Disaster risk

### Follow-up an review

- Review of progress
- Measuring progress
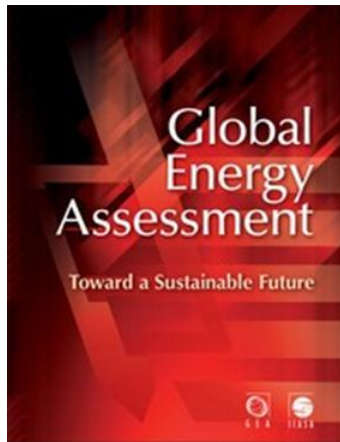- **Big data in Africa**

#### Countries in special situations

- LDCs
- SIDS
- LLCs

- Regional perspectives
- Selected subregions

# Mixed multi-stakeholder approach for inputs

# 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**

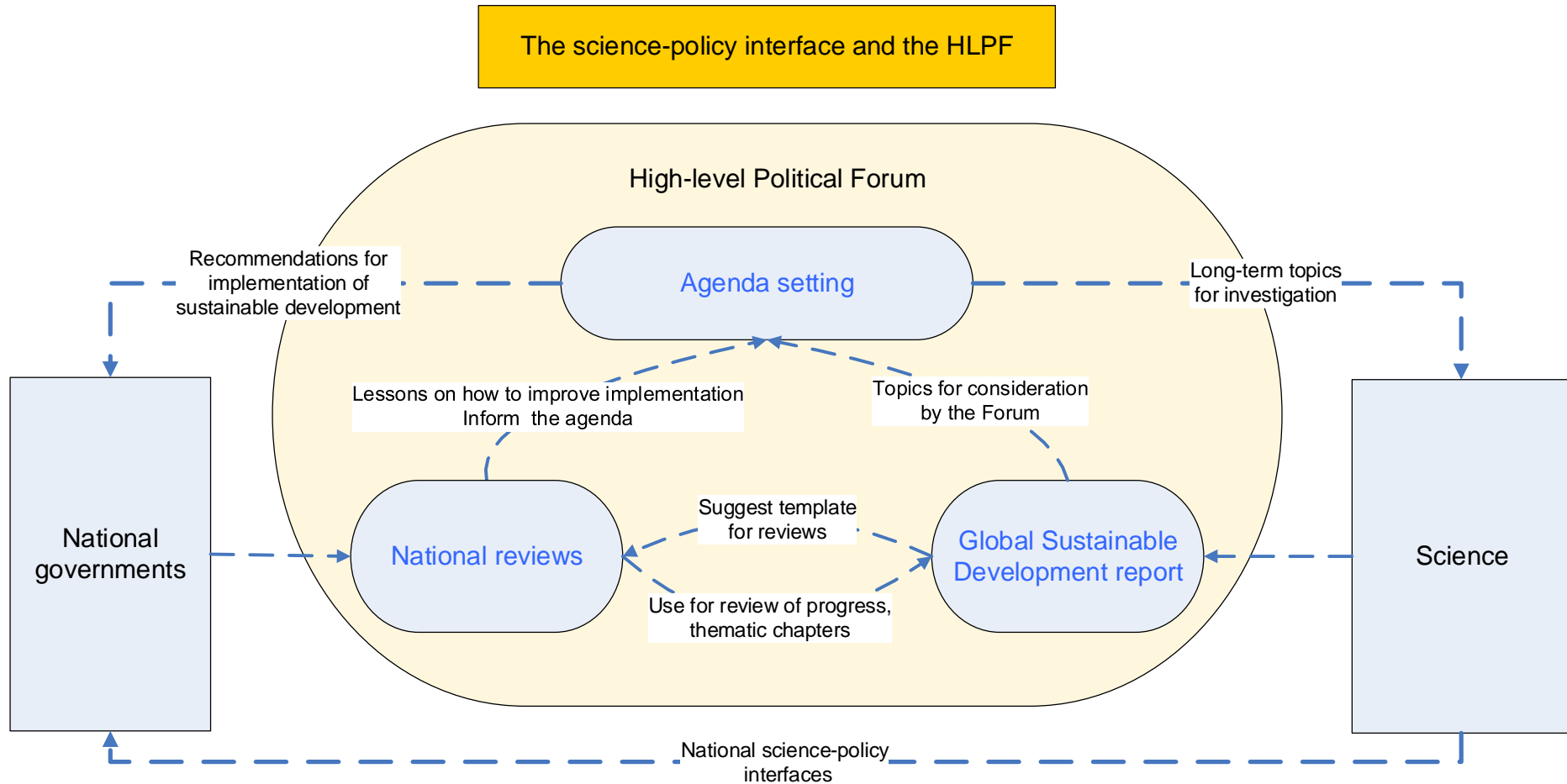**SG report E/2014/87 on "options for scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report"**

**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 2nd 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**

**Global Sustainable Development Report**

3. Monitoring of targets and indicators

UNDG interagency, replacing MDG report.

4. Sectoral in-depth reporting

Specialized agencies, UNEP/GEO, ILO, IPCC,…

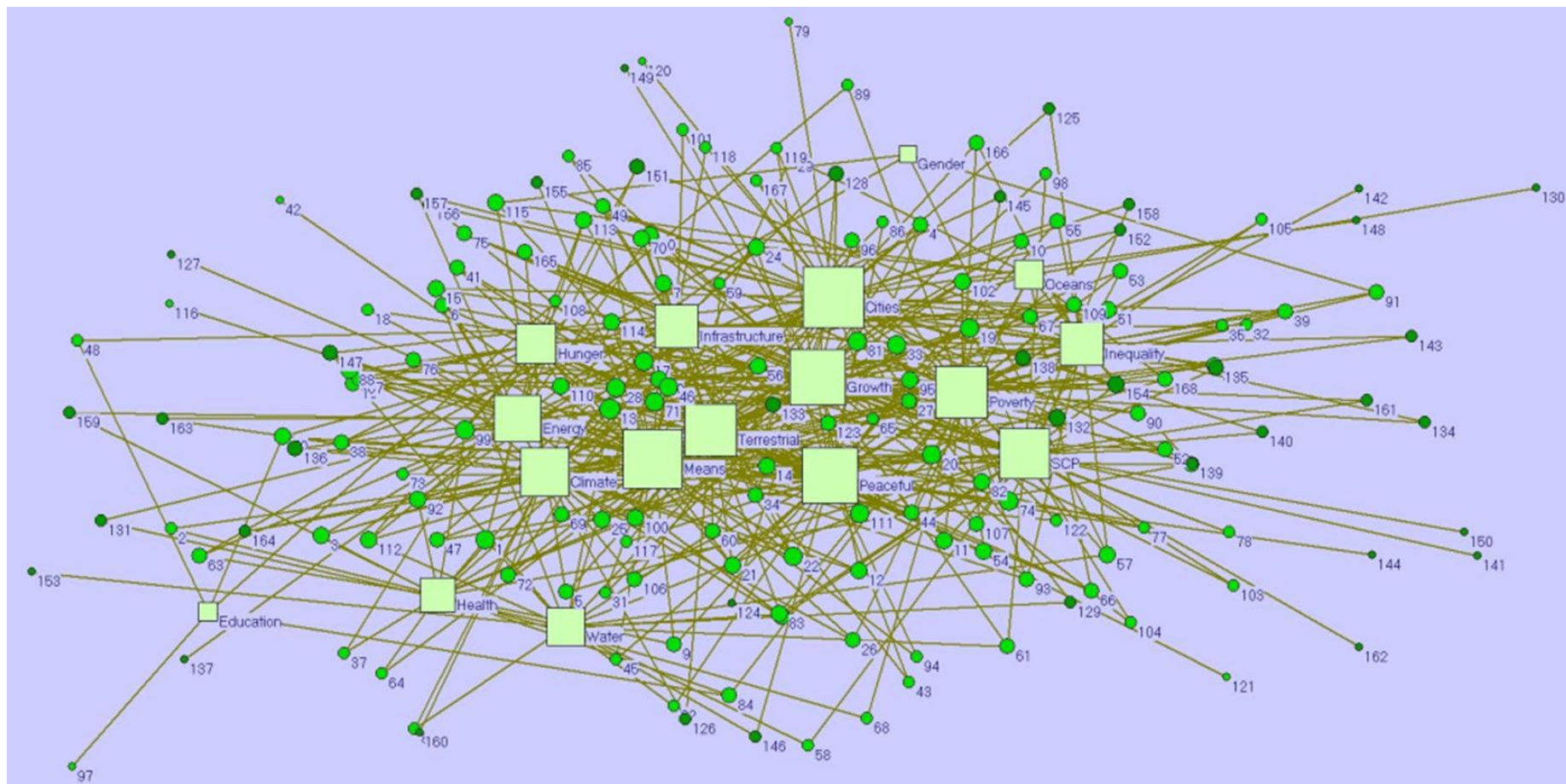# Towards a broader network of key stakeholders?

- **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

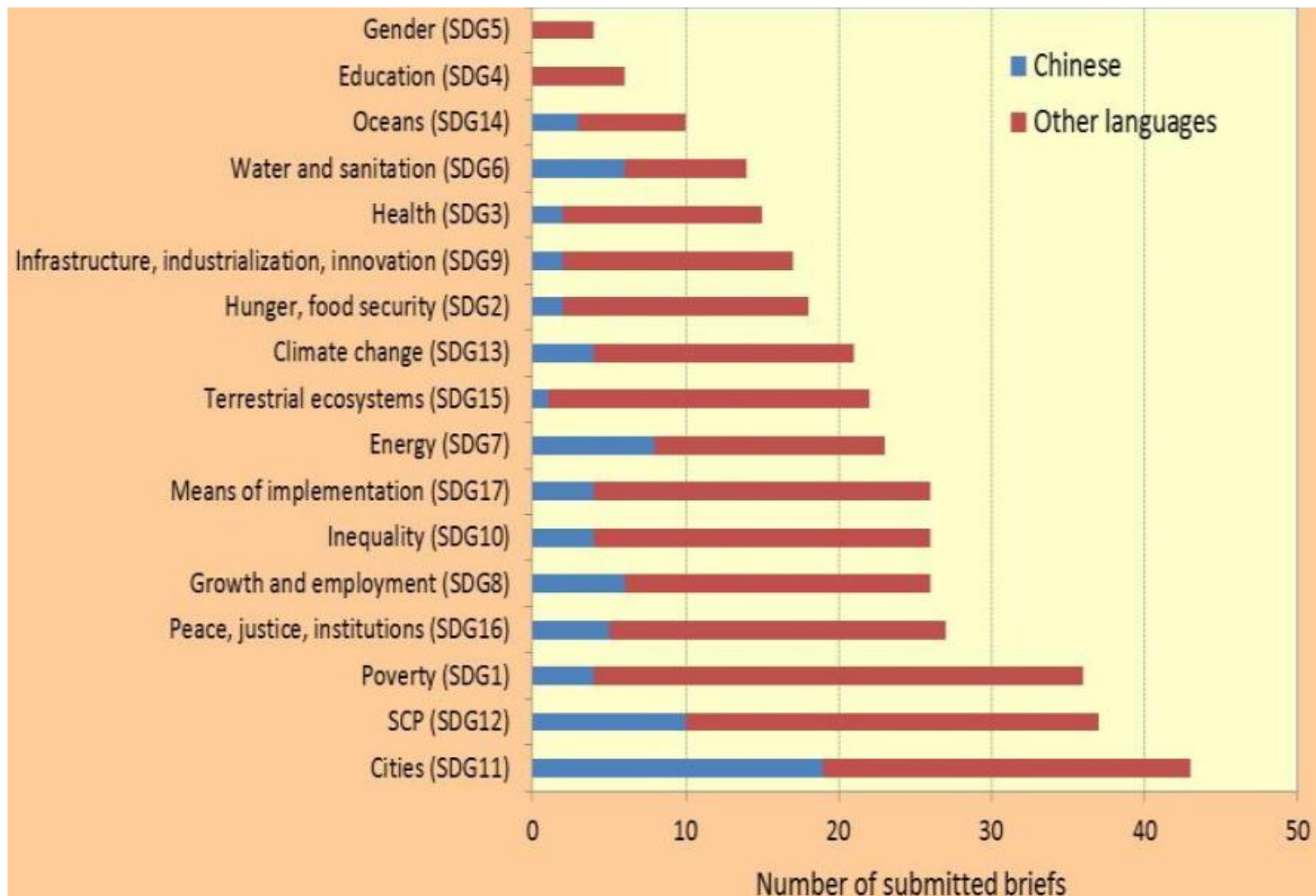- Policymakers exposed to a broad range of analyses, rankings, and advice on "emerging issues" from a multitude of perspectives.

- 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,
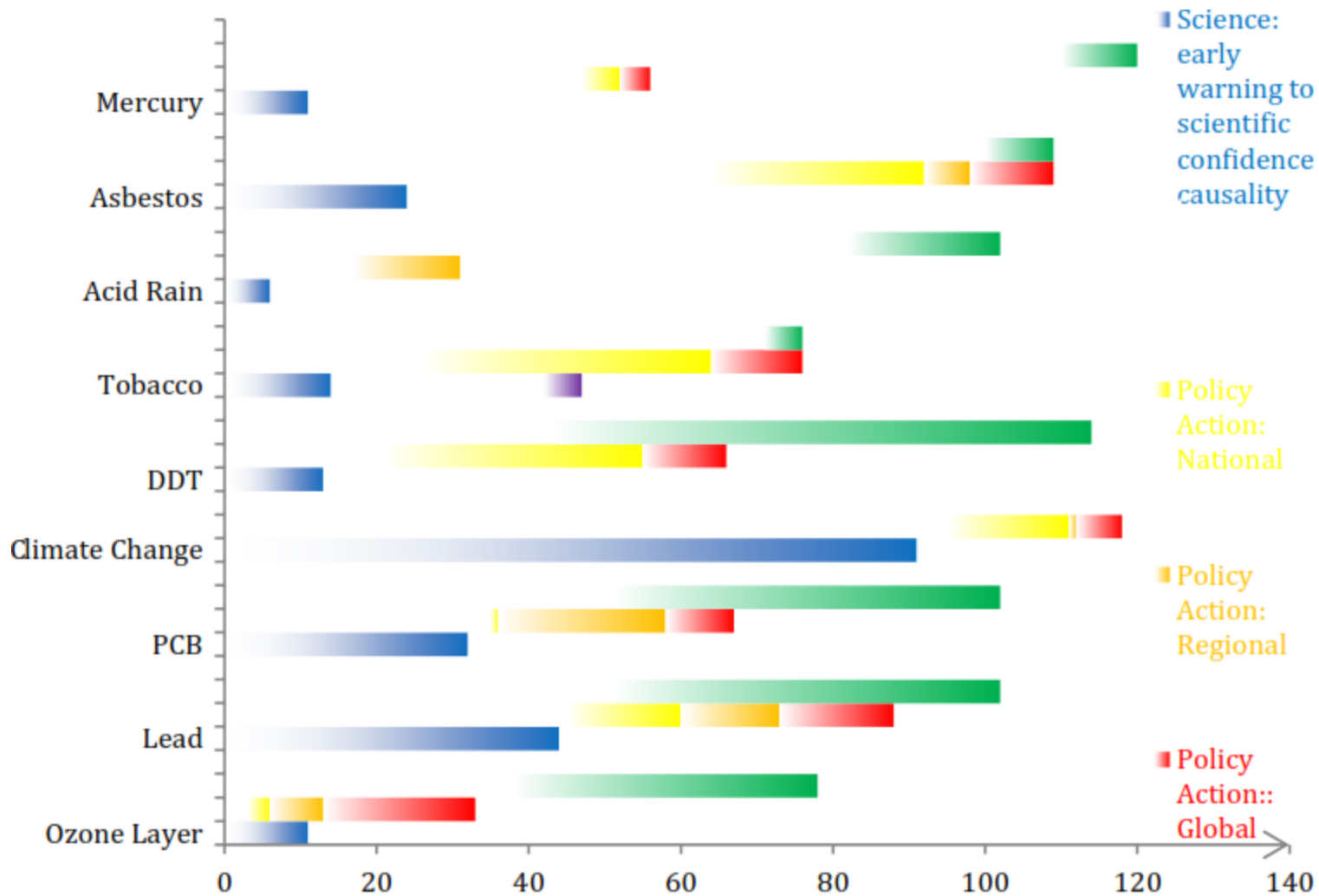
- Which criteria? Which sources?

# 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.

# 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

# Please speak your mind!

# Thank you.