



United Nations Office for Sustainable Development

Concept Note

2018 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

Incheon, 23-27 April 2018

Background

The Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is intended to provide policymakers in central and local government and policy shapers in the private sector and civil society with the concepts and tools for mainstreaming and implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through their work.

The executive course takes place as the 2030 agenda enters the third year of its 15 years of implementation. During the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development, which was under the overarching theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world," 43 countries have volunteered to present their national voluntary reviews to the HLPF, with Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 (and 17) under in-depth review, whereas 22 had done so in 2016, including the Republic of Korea. In 2018, the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF — taking place on 9-18 July) will review progress towards the 2030 agenda under the overarching theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies" with Goals 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 15 (Life on Land) in addition to SDG 17 (means of implementation and the global partnership). Some 48 countries will present their progress towards the 2030 Agenda with a focus on the above SDGs during the voluntary national reviews (VNRs). The work of the HLPF will serve as a backdrop to the course, while also focusing on implementing Agenda 2030 through the daily work of the participating policymakers and policy shapers.

Objectives:

- Knowledge and skills acquisition for integrating Agenda 2030 and the SDGs into ongoing and future activities
- Networking among public policymakers and non-state policy shapers
- Sharing experiences and peer-to-peer collaboration, across sectors and countries
- Learning from best practices and pitfalls in implementation
- Capacity building for sustainable development policymaking and policy-shaping
- Learning how to integrate sustainable development policy and practice using whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches

Structure

The course is structured around the five pillars of Agenda 2030 – people, prosperity, planet, peace and justice and partnership, recognizing that the five pillars are interconnected and need to be integrated in practical policymaking and operational activities for development.

Following an introductory module on the main concepts of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and progress so far, subsequent modules will cover the appropriate SDGs that fall under the people (SDG 6 and 7), prosperity (SDG 11 and 12) and planet (SDG 13 and 15) modules. Another module will be devoted to the global partnership and multistakeholder partnerships (SDG 17), including a part on whole-of-

government approach and whole-of-society approach as a means to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (Target 17.14) and develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (Target 16.6). A module on SDG 13 will also be added to the 2018 Executive Training for Policymakers' list of modules. A final module will explore the way forward and enable participating policymakers and policy shapers to return to the job with individual action plans.

Methodology

The course will consist of several interrelated modules, each covering concepts and issues of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, complemented by concrete policy practices and options. It will consist of formal presentations, group work and plenary seminar sessions. Preparatory reading and assignments will be requested of participants, with a chance to share views on line prior to the course. Group work will involve concrete policy exercises to apply the issues reviewed and assignments undertaken. The group work would also involve some role-playing simulation as well as structured debates. A half-day field trip to a project to illustrate the Korean experience in implementing Agenda 2030 and the SDGs is foreseen.