

Input for GSDR 2023 - Webinar, DRAFT Concept Note

26 October 2021, 2:30-4:00 pm GMT+2

Designing and Evaluating Coherent Policies and Measures for the SDGs- Scientific Insights for the 2023 GSDR

For the “decade of action and delivery”, the SDG Summit in 2019 has called for accelerated action. To speed up implementation, the Independent Group of Scientists that produced the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) called for identifying *integrated* transformational pathways and suggested to apply *several “levers”* and to forge action coalitions around those. Moreover, given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) asked for *integrated measures* to bring forward a sustainable and resilient recovery. Yet set back further by the pandemic no country is on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In their voluntary national reports (VNRs) to the HLPF member states provide hardly any substantial insights about multiple-win policies or coherent policy packages to achieve the SDGs and to recover better.

Climate change presents one of the biggest threats to sustainable development and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. Urgent action to halt climate change and deal with its impacts (SDG 13) is integral to successfully achieving all other SDGs. Yet again, it is all too clear in the run up to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow (31 October – 12 November 2021), that countries are far behind in achieving the low-carbon and climate-resilient path envisioned by the Paris Agreement. Reporting on nationally determined contributions (NDCs) shows comparable gaps in ambition, preciseness, and integration as displayed by the VNRs.

Together, the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement provide guidance for a sustainable, low-carbon recovery from the pandemic. But there are also conflicts in interests. Policy coherence may aid the pursuit of multiple goals. We ask: *What policies or integrated policy packages deliver best on promoting synergies and addressing conflicts?*

Moreover, scientists as well as policymakers need to look deeper into the underlying *contextual factors* that hamper or strengthen policy coherence, such as the institutional predeterminants for policy design and implementation unique to each national context. Across countries then, these factors that may explain successful integration and implementation need to be analyzed and aggregated to pool knowledge for cross-fertilization and peer-learning from experience.

The international Independent Group of Scientists for the 2023 *Global Sustainable Report (GSDR)* is seeking inputs from experts from various disciplines from across the world. They are requesting contributions, inter alia, in the form of case studies on how to accelerate progress across a range of SDGs, demonstrating practical applications of the interlinkages across goals and targets.

We want to present research results that are based on such case studies. The webinar sets out to discuss research on the integrated assessment, evaluation and comparative analyses of transformative and integrated policy interventions. We invite all participants to help us pool knowledge on this.

A short paper will be drafted and submitted as input for the 2023 GSDR.

Hosts: *German Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpi2030)*
 & *SWP German Institute for International and Security Affairs*

Agenda:

2:15 pm	<i>Briefing with presenters</i>	
2:30 pm	<i>Welcome & Introduction</i>	<i>Marianne Beisheim, SWP German Institute for International and Security Affairs</i>
<i>Examples / Case studies:</i>		
2:40 pm	<i>Using the NDC-SDG connections tool for designing coherent policies</i>	<i>Adis Dzebo, Stockholm Environment Institute</i>
2:50 pm	<i>Climate-smart digitalization</i>	<i>Marcel Dickow & Christian Löwe, German Environment Agency</i>
3:00 pm	<i>Climate-smart shifting of subsidies</i>	<i>(tba)</i>
3:10 pm	<i>Approaches to comparative analysis and evaluation across countries</i>	<i>Johannes Meuer, ETH Zürich</i>
3:20 pm	<i>Comments and Call for Inputs for 2023 GSDR</i>	<i>Åsa Persson, Stockholm Environment Institute and Independent Group of Scientists to draft the 2023 GSDR</i>
3:30 pm	<i>Discussion of presented and other ideas for transformative integrated policy interventions</i>	<i>All participants</i>
4:00 pm	<i>Debrief with presenters</i>	

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