Expert group meeting on policy integration in government in pursuit of the SDGs
28-29 January 2015, United Nations Headquarters, New York

AGENDA

Wednesday, 28 January (Conference Room D)
Policy integration challenges in government administration

Session 1: Setting the scene (9:30-11:00)
1. Welcome and introduction – Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs
2. Policy integration challenges in the post-2015 development agenda – Ms. Diana Alarcón, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNDESA
3. Overview presentation – Mr. Scott Fritzen, Associate Provost, New York University, Shanghai
4. Initial discussion
   Moderator: Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs

Session 2: Policy frameworks and institutional arrangements (11:00-12:30)
• When have efforts to promote horizontal integration in government been most productive?
• How have traditional institutional arrangements been reorganized to be more flexible, adaptive, effective and collaborative in order to promote integrated policy-making?
• When might it be most difficult to connect policy processes in pursuit of the SDGs?
• What are some proven indicators of policy integration in government administration?
   Lead participant: Ms. Sharon S. Dawes, Professor Emerita, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, State University of New York

Session 3: Dealing with complexity, uncertainty and risk (14:00-15:30)
• What are the most appropriate systemic responses to increased complexity?
• Do regulatory reform and risk management reduce uncertainty of administrative outcomes?
• When and where has an informed citizenry contributed most effectively as partner and source of information?
• What are the risks of not adopting an integrated approach?
• How can negative and unexpected behaviours in policy processes be mitigated?
   Lead participant: Ms. Magdalena A.K. Muir, Research Associate, Arctic Institute of North America, Calgary

Session 4: Tensions between integration and decentralization (15:30-17:00)
• What is the experience of decentralized administration with policy integration?
• How can an efficient balance of integration and decentralization be achieved?
• Where do tensions arise in agenda-setting across levels of government?
• How have successful local administrations dealt with such integration challenges as land use and migration in urban development plans, tax policies, etc.?
   Lead participant: Mr. Paul Smoke, Professor, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University

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Results of the discussion of day 1 and key messages (17:00-18:00)

• What are the required technical, cultural and socio-economic conditions to facilitate integrated policy development processes in pursuit of the SDGs?
• What are the enablers and constraints of policy integration in government administration in pursuit of the SDGs?
• What should the institutional development priorities be for different groups of countries?
• What can be possible incentives?
• Where are the gaps in our understanding of the current state of policy integration?

Moderator: Mr. Scott Fritzen, Associate Provost, New York University, Shanghai

Thursday, 29 January (Conference Room A)
Practical ways to strengthen policy integration in pursuit of the SDGs

Session 5: Assessing government capacity for policy integration (9:30-11:00)

• What joint planning, delivery and accountability arrangements are in place?
• What are the skills gaps among public sector policy analysts and how can they filled?
• What institutional arrangements might be considered to address inequalities in government capacity for policy integration within a country, for example between urban and rural areas?
• What is the role of budgeting?

Lead participant: Mr. Reinhard Steurer, Associate Professor, Institute of Forest, Environmental and Natural Resource Policy, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Session 6: Operational approaches and tools (11:00-12:30)

• What vision and values underpin current approaches to policy integration in government administration?
• What analytical tools are available and needed in pursuit of the SDGs?
• How successful have these tools been under different conditions?
• What are the likely costs of integrated policymaking in government agencies?

Lead participant: Ms. Hildegard Lingnau, Senior Counsellor, Development Co-operation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Session 7: Facilitating role of ICT and e-government (14:00-15:00)

• When is investment in ICT most beneficial to integration of policy processes?
• What is the proper role and positioning of ICT authorities in pursuit of SDGs?
• What can be expected of the “data revolution” and “big data” initiatives?
• What role has social media played in policy integration initiatives?

Lead participant: Mr. Adegboyega Ojo, Research Fellow, Insight Centre for Data Analytics, National University of Ireland, Galway

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Session 8: Prospects for low- and middle-income countries (15:00-17:00)
- In view of the reality of developing countries, to what extent can integrated policy development in government administration be realised?
- What are the special challenges of LDCs in achieving policy coherence?
- What methods and tools of policy integration can be built into public administration when restoring core government functions in countries emerging from conflict?
Moderator: Ms. Laura Rival, Lecturer, Department of International Development, University of Oxford
Fellow presenters:
- Mr. Jairo Acuna-Alfaro, Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme
- Mr. Sanjay K. Pandey, Professor, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Results of the discussion of day 2 and key messages (17:00-18:00)
- How can we move towards policy integration in practice?
- Is there a natural sequence for low-, middle- and high-income countries?
- Where are the gaps in our understanding in practical approaches to integrated policymaking in government administration?
Moderator: Ms. Margaret Saner, Chair, United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Closing