Complexity, Uncertainty and Risk in the Building and Sustaining Trust in Government in Implementing SDGs

By

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For

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Introduction

An European vision of the SDGs that incorporates aspects of government administration.

Considering complexity, uncertainty and risk integration across multiple SDGs in the context of government administration in response to 5 questions and using case study approach.
SDGs in the Outcome Document including Goal 16 which most relevant for public administration

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
*Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
European Vision of the SDGs and Accountability

On 2 June 2014, the European Commission adopted the communication in relation to the SDGs: A Decent Life for All: From Vision to Collective Action

Vision and Principles

1. Universality and differentiation based on national circumstances

2. A transformative agenda that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development and also addresses new challenges

3. Accountability
European Vision of the SDGs and Accountability

Focus on accountability for the SDGs under the Communication
A Decent Life for All: From Vision to Collective Action

Vision and Principles
3. Accountability
“Fundamental requirements of the future framework should be accountability, transparency and effective review of progress. .... A new framework also provides an opportunity to develop a global mechanism endorsed and supported at the highest political level to ensure that national governments and other actors, including the private sector, are held accountable for the implementation of the framework, to review progress rigorously, to accelerate action and to press for additional actions wherever necessary. Civil society, local authorities and the private sector should play a key role in advancing action and accountability. Key to promoting transparency is the collection, publication, assessment and easy accessibility of data and information on the pace of progress made, nationally and internationally. ... This implies the need for regular reviews of progress, commitments and implementation through a robust institutional framework, involving all stakeholders.”
Question 1: What are the most appropriate systemic responses to increased complexity

*Examples of systemic responses to complexity*

Coordination of activities and approaches by national sector agencies and departments, eliminating silos and allowing more integrative approaches.

Engagement of industry, academia, civil society and public.

Scaling up beyond national governments to regional level, and scaling down from national level to local governments and communities, including considering changes required for at regional and local implementation, and that local government may be most appropriate implementation level.

Accountability measures for appraisal and accreditation that independent objective and broadly accepted.

Role of e-Government in implementing SDGs and post-2015 sustainable development agenda

Utilizing forecasting, scenarios, games, big data and analytics, supporting information communications technology (ICT) role.

Role of open transparent inclusive communications for SDGs
Case Studies under Question 1

Regional UN approaches such as the UN DESA integration of water scarcity, energy and agriculture

Sustainable Tourism: The UN General Assembly Resolution, “Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection”, calls on UN Member States to adopt policies that promote ecotourism highlighting its “positive impact on income generation, job creation and education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger”.

- Global Sustainable Tourism Council Destination Criteria,
- Partnerships identified for the Third International Conference on SIDS (September 2014) and
- Small Islands - Green Destinations model

Circum-Arctic: Arctic Council, Member States and six Permanent Participants (indigenous peoples organizations that span two or more countries), Northern Forum; Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region.

Role of e-Government and sustainability, particularly at local level and engaging private sector and civil society, building on approach in the UN E-Government Survey.
Case Study: Integrating SDGs for Water, Agriculture, Energy and Climate for West Asia and North Africa

This portion of the presentation draws upon joint research paper- Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals to Achieve Integrated Approaches to Water Scarcity, Agriculture and Energy for West Asia and North Africa*

* aess.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=939971&mo

Relevant SDG Goals:
Introduction of the Outcome Document
Goal 2: Food security including sustainable agriculture
Goal 6: Water
Goal 7: Energy
Goal 13: Climate
Goal 16: Peaceful and inclusive societies
Goal 17: Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals Through Technology, Capacity Development and Partnerships
Case Study: Integrating SDGs for Water, Agriculture, Energy and Climate for West Asia and North Africa

Key linkages and implications of SDGs for West Asia and North Africa

Financial Approaches for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

Community Based and Owned Approaches to Water Scarcity, Agriculture and Energy for West Asia and North Africa that Support Sustainable Development Goals*

* See Summary of Community Based and Owned Approach at euccnews.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/aarhusuniversity-eucc-june4-2014-communitybasedmicrohydro-briefdescription.pdf
Case Study: Integrating SDGs for Water, Agriculture, Energy and Climate for West Asia and North Africa

Governance Framework and Tools for West Asia and North Africa Slides

- Beyond Silos to Integrated Policymaking Under the Sustainable Development Goal

- Integrated Water Planning to Address Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa
Case Study: Integrating SDGs for Water, Agriculture, Energy and Climate for West Asia and North Africa

Figure 1: CLEWD model for Mauritius, Global Sustainable Development Report, 2014.
Case Study: Considering Jordan and Potential Integration of Water Scarcity, Agriculture and Energy

- Water
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Integrated Resource Management
Case Study: Considering Jordan and Potential Integration of Water Scarcity, Agriculture and Energy

- Water
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Figure 3: Percentage of DES by food groups, in 2005-2007

- Cereals 46%
- Vegetable oils 14%
- Sweeteners 15%
- Milk/milk products 5%
- Meat/offals 6%
- Fruit/vegetables 5%
- Pulses/nuts/oilcrops 5%
- Starchy roots 2%
- Other 1%
- Eggs 1%

Note: values <1% (animal fats and fish/shellfish) are not shown.

Source: FAOSTAT
Case Study: Considering Jordan and Potential Integration of Water Scarcity, Agriculture and Energy

- Water
- Agriculture
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Primary Energy Supply by Source (2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>85.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydro</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biofuels &amp; Waste</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal / Solar / Wind</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Energy Production (kt of oil equivalent)

Net Annual Energy Imports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Tariff (USD/kWh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>$0.115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar PV</td>
<td>$0.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar CSP</td>
<td>$0.183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass from waste</td>
<td>$0.122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biogas</td>
<td>$0.081</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Energy production (kt of oil equivalent)

Energy imports, net (% of energy use)
Case Study: Integrating SDGs for Water, Agriculture, Energy and Climate for West Asia and North Africa

Preliminary Recommendations*

Considering water energy and agriculture nexus, and applying an integrated approach to planning based on the SDGs can lead to water, food, and energy security. An integrated approach aids in identifying externalities across sectors which may otherwise be overlooked.

Public and private finance, financial approaches, instruments and options and a range of public private partnerships support government, the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the SDGs.

Community based and owned management supports integration between different levels of government within a country, and also represent a local grassroots bottom up approach to SDG implementation.

Community based and owned projects assist in the implementation of those SDGs requiring community and public engagement and involvement.

Modeling and assessment tools such as CLEWD illustrate the numerous benefits of an integrated approach to resource planning, and can support broad implementation of many SDGs with the expansive focus on climate, land, energy, water and development.

*From Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals to Achieve Integrated Approaches to Water Scarcity, Agriculture and Energy for West Asia and North Africa for International Conference on Sustainable Development Practise: Advancing Evidence Based Solutions for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda (September 17-18, 2014, New York City)
Case Study: Sustainable Tourism, and Roles for Cities, Coasts and Islands, including Small Island Developing States

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
11.b by 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
12.b develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
14.7 by 2030 increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
Case Study: Sustainable Tourism, and Roles for Cities, Coasts and Islands, including Small Island Developing States

Sustainable Development Goals and Targets and Tourism

The SDGs and targets discuss the role of cities, coasts and islands for adapting and mitigating climate, and the role of the goals for sustainable economic development, including sustainable tourism. The goals and targets describe the role that sustainable tourism can play for Small Island Developing States and all states. Last, the goals and targets stress the role and importance of monitoring to ensure any sustainable tourism is truly sustainable.

Third International Conference for Small Island Developing States

The UN SIDS International Conference included a focus on sustainable tourism and partnerships. The Small Islands – Green Destinations* is a partnership registered with the SIDS Conference that offered an assessment tools and database to contribute to sustainable economies of SIDS, and make them more attractive and competitive tourist destinations. By identifying strengths and challenges, SIDS can develop and implement individually suitable sustainable destination strategies, becoming visible in global tourism market. Included optional assistance in identifying energy and water projects and finance.

*For further information, see: greendestinations.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SIDS-Green-Destinations-Final.pdf
Case Study of the Arctic Council

The case study considers the Arctic Council (AC), AC Member States and six Permanent Participants; the Northern Forum; and the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region.

The Arctic Council was established in 1996 as a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Arctic Council Member States are Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States of America. In addition to the Member States, the Arctic Council has the category of Permanent Participants.
Evolution of Arctic Council

Eight Arctic nations established the Arctic Council in 1996 as high-level forum for implementing Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). Working Groups were established, with invited Permanent Participants from indigenous peoples, and Observers from interested non-Arctic states and institutions.

Next stage was the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Scientific Report (2004), and, since then, continuing assessments of Arctic change.

At the Nuuk Ministerial in 2011, AC member states concluded the Search and Rescue Treaty, and established permanent secretariat in Norway.

In 2013, significant expansion of Observer States to include Europe and Asian countries like China, India, Japan, Singapore and South Korea.
Administrative subdivision of the Arctic
Arctic Council Member States
Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden & United States

Arctic Observer States
China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Spain & United Kingdom
IPS Terms of Reference:

"The number of the Board members shall be nine and will consist of
a) an authorised representative from each of the six Permanent Participants and
b) a representative from each of three Arctic States, these states being
1) the current chair of the Arctic Council,
2) the host country state of IPS, and
3) the last Arctic Council Chair."
Question 2: Do regulatory reform and risk management reduce uncertainty of administrative outcomes?

*Examples of regulatory reform and risk management*

Red tape approaches, elimination of procedural complexity and duplication, and reformation of governmental administrative processes.

National sector risk management, and independent objective climate and sustainability assessors and auditors.

Checks and balances within national government administrations through engagement of intergovernmental and international institutions, and broad spectrum of national and local institutions, sectors, and civil society

Regulatory reform and risk management approaches that incorporate stakeholders beyond state actors and monopolies.

Market-based risk management approaches can complement governmental regulatory approaches through such mechanisms as insurance, public-private finance, and public-private partnerships.
Case Studies for Question 2

UK Red Tape Challenge and Canada’s Red Tape Reduction Commission

Canada’s Office of the Auditor General and Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, including auditing government compliances with and implementation of legislation.

Broad participation of private sector and civil society in government administration and related policy development and implementation.

Examples of national reform of government administration, public - private partnerships, public - private finance.

Climate finance initiatives are already underway and a good model for sustainability finance.
Case Study: Financial Approaches & Public-Private Partnerships

SDG 17.1 strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.2 developed countries to implement fully their ODA commitments, including to provide 0.7% of GNI in ODA to developing countries of which 0.15-0.20% to least-developed countries

17.3 mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

17.4 assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) to reduce debt distress

17.5 adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for LDCs

17.16 enhance the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries

17.17 encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
Case Study: Financial Approaches & Public Private Partnerships
Reference Figure 5, Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance, 2014.
Case Study: Financial Approaches & Public Private Partnerships

The following financial approaches are considered:
- Public finance from governments and international organizations;
- Blended public-private finance;
- Private finance for international and national programmes; and

Non-financial contributions can be considered for approaches, such as improvement of regulatory frameworks; information and communications platforms and data analytics; and in-kind contributions including the provision of expert and technical advice, technology and services.

The public-private finance can also be pursued on a profit and non-profit basis, broadening the possible range of approaches and instruments.
Case Study: Financial Approaches & Public - Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships (PPP) include a broad range of public-private engagements, and are important in delivering the SDGs, including developing sector-based capacity to deliver goals at the regional, national and local scale.

A traditional model of PPP involves a contract between the public sector and a private enterprise where the enterprise provides a public service or project and assumes financial, technical or operational risks. Other PPP models are also possible.

Along with the private sector, the expanding role of civil society should be considered, including the roles of philanthropic foundations, NGOs, public charities and individual charitable initiatives (i.e., donations and crowdsourcing platforms).
Case Study: Financial Approaches & Public Private Partnerships

Once the post-2015 development agenda and all SDGs targets and indicators are agreed, future global sustainable development reports and other reporting and communications mechanisms and tools can include financial inputs. Ongoing financial input could support efforts to expand global knowledge of the financial challenges, available financing approaches, and public and private financial instruments and options. This ongoing financial reporting and communications would assist in scaling up and mainstreaming the financing of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and the SDGs.


*Background Paper for the Global Sustainable Development Report sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4612Background%20paper%20on%20finance-final.pdf*
Question 3: When and where has an informed citizenry contributed most effectively as partner and source of information?

Government administration and role of informed citizenry

Aarhus Convention (the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters) which in force for forty six countries and the European Union, and implementated under EU directives.

North American Free Trade Agreement and Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NAFTA and CEC)

The role of civil society in the development of the SDGs under the UN OWG SDG process, and for the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Framework.

Potentially game changing role of information and communication technology (ICT) for private and civil society engagement.
Case Studies for Question 3

European Union and national approaches to social and public acceptance particularly for innovations and developing sectors (i.e., genetically modified organisms, onshore and offshore renewable energy, ocean energy, grid infrastructure including Renewable Grids Initiative, and community based ownership).

Rights of private citizens and civil society organizations in Canada, US and Mexico under NAFTA and CEC, with complaints, outcomes and subsequent changes to public administration.

Industry and grassroots movements for sustainability, voluntary carbon reduction, fair trade and sustainable tourism. In turn, this illustrates the potential role and influence of ICT for informed citizens and government administration through social media and internet based information, polls and surveys.
Question 4: What are the risks of not adopting an integrated approach?

*Possible risks of non-integrative approach*

Non determination of which SDGs are most important for a country, including absence for social and public acceptance for the priority and implementation of SDGs.

Non achievement of SDGs within country and region. Insufficient public-private partnerships, finance and investment to implement SDGs.

Lack of private sector and public and social acceptance for SDGs outcomes that do occur.

*Case study*

EU climate adaptation strategy is example of successful integrative strategy with mainstreaming of climate adaptation across all EU sectors, directives and policies, including regulatory framework and provision of funding for research, pilots and overall implementation. In most cases, adaptation could occur under existing directives and policies.
Question 5: How can negative and unexpected behaviours in policy processes (including regulatory reforms and risk approaches) be mitigated?

Mitigation approaches for government administration

Concept of overarching public good that governs government policy and administration, with legislative and regulatory framework for SDGs, including possible overarching legal and regulatory frameworks such as constitutions and charters of rights.

International and national supports, checks and balances; and engaging private sector, public and civil society at regional, national, sub-national and local levels.
Further Information

AESS Webinar: UN Sustainable Development Goals Setting Agenda for Sustainability, including documents, powerpoint and video presentation: aess.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=939971&mo

Magdalena AK Muir’s research projects links: arctic.ucalgary.ca/research-associate-magdalena-muir

Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) project webpage: www.eucc.net/en/climate_change/index.htm
Discussion of Five Questions

• Question 1: What are the most appropriate systemic responses to increased complexity?
• Question 2: Do regulatory reform and risk management reduce uncertainty of administrative outcomes?
• Question 3: When and where has an informed citizenry contributed most effectively as partner and source of information?
• Question 4: What are the risks of not adopting an integrated approach?
• Question 5: How can negative and unexpected behaviours in policy processes be mitigated?