Integrating the 2030 Agenda into Planning and Budgeting Processes

- Emerging Good Practices and A Suite Of Tools

**CONTEXT**

Many countries have started to put in place the building blocks necessary to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This includes developing institutional arrangements to promote coordination and policy coherence across sectors and government levels, aligning national and sub-national development plans and budgets with the SDGs and to assess the availability of data and capacities of data ecosystems to monitor progress. Work has also started on identifying priorities and target setting. Beyond aligning national development strategies and other policies, countries are also looking at ways to integrate the SDGs into the budget process and to come up with new, more integrated financing options.

UNDP’s platform of support activities include:

**A guidance note on emerging good practices**

Many countries are keen to learn from the experience of other countries in integrating the SDGs into planning and budgeting processes. To date little of these emerging practices, tools and approaches used to inform the process of integration have been properly documented or analyzed. Building on a series of country case studies\(^1\), the Inclusive Growth Team is putting together a guidance note with emerging good practices and a suite of tools and approaches that can facilitate the integration of the SDGs into planning and budgeting processes. The guidance note includes an overview of entry points for integrating the Agenda 2030 and SDGs at various stages of the planning and budgeting cycle and maps the steps involved with concrete country examples outlining useful tools and approaches. It targets representatives from planning and finance agencies at national and sub-national level, sectoral ministries and other stakeholders.

**Mapping of institutional arrangements/ coordination structures**

A mapping of institutional arrangements, coordination structures that are being set up across the region and beyond and suggestions on how they can facilitate policy coherence across sectors, thematic areas and government levels. It also looks at the various roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in SDG implementation including civil society, philanthropy, parliament and the private sector.

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\(^1\) Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines (more planned).
In countries where development planning plays a central role in driving prioritization of development interventions and allocation of public resources, integrating Agenda 2030 and SDGs into planning systems is one the first steps that need to be taken to ensure implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDGs.

For many countries this process starts with a review of the level of alignment between country’s strategy/ies and policies with the SDGs looking also at some of the interlinkages and associated coordination issues. Tools such as the Rapid Integrated Assessment, developed by UNDP, are supporting this process.

The next step would be a more thorough analysis whether the strategies meet the ambitions of the agenda in terms of ‘leaving no one behind’ and ‘reaching the furthest behind first’ as well as an analysis to what extent interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs have been adequately considered. UNDP is supporting this process through several initiatives and tools including through the poverty risk analysis tool, multi-dimensional poverty assessments and its work on SDG ‘accelerator interventions’.

Public expenditure reviews and a review of fiscal incentives can help analyze the degree to which plan priorities are resourced.
Many countries are keen to learn from the experience of other countries in the region and beyond. To facilitate such exchange, UNDP’s Bangkok Regional Hub is organizing annual Regional Knowledge Exchanges.

The first one took place in October 2016 in Bangkok, the next one is tentatively scheduled for October 2017 and will take place in Manila, Philippines. Background material and country presentations can be found under: http://www.asia-pacific.unpd.org/meetTheSDGs.html

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Prior to joining the Inclusive Growth Team, Uyanga worked in the Bureau for Development Policy in UNDP New York managing the global network on poverty reduction and in the Mongolia country office managing the poverty reduction portfolio. Uyanga has also experience of working with the Central Bank of Mongolia, USAID and the World Bank in Mongolia. She has a keen interest in and strong track record of policy oriented research. Uyanga holds an MSc in Quantitative Methods from Columbia University, MBA in Finance from Leeds University and a BA in Economics and Accounting from the National University of Mongolia.

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Michaela has over 15 years of experience in inclusive growth and sustainable development related analysis and policy advice. She has worked as economic policy advisor at UNDP Viet Nam, as senior technical advisor on various economic governance and public finance related assignments with the European Union, World Bank and UNDP and as country economist for the Asian Development Bank. Michaela holds a PhD in Political Economy from the University of Durham, U.K.

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Before joining the regional hub in Bangkok, Hannie worked with UNDP in New York where she supported governments in the design process of the Agenda 2030 and coordinated the global outreach effort and on issues of gender equality, climate change and sustainable development. Prior to joining UNDP she worked with the Dutch Government and for various non-profit efforts. Hannie holds a master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Amsterdam.