

## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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### Event title

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Policy coherence for sustainable development a must for the six transitions to succeed between now and 2030

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### Background and Rationale

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Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the world has witnessed an impressive political leadership and commitments by governments, UN agencies, and wide range of stakeholders involved in rethinking plans, priorities, as well as aligning policies and budgets to achieve the Global Goals by 2030.

Despite the political will and unprecedented engagement of stakeholders, several shortcomings prevail for achieving the SDGs. In fact, the 2023 SDG Progress Report has clearly shown efforts to address global challenges and achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030 being very weak, insufficient; stalled or gone into reverse. In response, the UN Secretary-General has called for a **“Rescue Plan for People and Planet”** for ambitious actions and shifts to jump-start progress through strengthened multilateral cooperation and support for the United Nations development system while focusing on key priority areas that would bring about social and economic transitions to help take SDG progress to scale and meet our long term environmental and climate goals.

The six transitions proposed are linked to **food** systems, **energy**, digital **connectivity**, **education**, **jobs**, and **planetary crises** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. These are priorities with catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs. For the Six Transitions to succeed, policy coherence is fundamental. In addition to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises that impacted on implementation of the SDGs, the lack of policy coherence, integrated approach, silo thinking and competition for resources can severely affect efforts to accelerate the proposed transitions.

Therefore, policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) as enshrined in SDG 17.14.1 must be taken as the foundation to ensure delivery of the Six Transitions and help countries to meet not only the different targets of the SDGs, but also effective implementation of commitments relevant to national and multilateral processes. The Six Transitions are not only priorities, but also complex sustainable development challenges that require greater coordination and collaboration amongst different sectors and actors. As the SG has described it: “the failure to make progress means inequalities will continue to deepen, increasing the risk of a fragmented, two-speed world”.

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## Session objectives and expected outcomes

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The main objective of the side event is to provide insight into the fundamental role of PCSD for the implementation of the SDGs. It will showcase the challenges and successful uptakes of policy coherence as an enabler, but also identifying the 'innovations' needed to ensure coherence in policy design and implementation. The strong role played by integrated capacities and finances in making the transitions deliver, thus the need to have integrated policy approaches and funding plans and such solutions exist in the region and beyond. The six transitions are in many ways inter-connected. There is a need for an iterative approach to deal with the transitions.

Therefore, this side event will bring together Government representatives, UN agencies, international and regional organizations, policy makers and practitioners to discuss and showcase how PCSD can help advance the six transitions and provide an impactful solution to drive an inclusive and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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## Organizers

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**Lead organizers:** UNEP, Ministry for Environment and Energy Security of Italy, OECD, Geneva Environment Network (GEN)

**Contributors:** UNEP, Ministry for Environment and Energy Security of Italy, OECD, Geneva Environment Network (GEN), and International Energy Agency

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## Agenda and Structure

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*Please note that the full agenda (with confirmed slots) will be posted on the dedicated page for the event <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-a-must-for-the-six-transitions-to-succeed-between-now-and-2030/>*

1. Several nexus-dialogues have been conducted to address emerging and systemic cross-cutting issues. Did the dialogues lead to coherent and collaborative opportunities in support of the 2030 Agenda?
2. Recently we have seen the UN-system collaboration through the Common Approach to Biodiversity and Common Approach Towards a Pollution-Free Planet, could this be the gold standard for strengthening policy coherence and integrated policy development? The Common Approach (s) looks very promising on paper, but what are the three or four enablers for success?
3. UNEP is the custodian agency for 17.14.1 on policy coherence. What are UNEP's experiences in how countries are focusing on using this indicator and what are the recent developments in the area of policy coherence?



4. Based on this experience, what do you see as the main challenges in successful PCSD implementation across countries?
5. What are the practical lessons we can learn from Italy on processes and mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development?
6. Energy access and affordability is identified as one of the impactful entry points to accelerate SDG progress within and across countries. How do we make sure policies and actions taken for energy sector are mutually supportive of the other transitions proposed and do not work against each other?

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#### List of Panellists

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Hossein Fadaei, Head of the Secretariat, United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG); Balakrishna Pisupati, Head, Environment Policy Unit, Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch, Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mr. Bruno IDINI, Clean Energy and Technology Analyst, International Energy Agency; Mr. Ernesto SORIAMORALES (OECD); Francesca De Crescenzo, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, Italy (MASE).

Moderator: Wondwosen (Wondy) Asnake KIBRET -UNEP

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#### Sign-up / Registration Link

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