

Official Side Event

16 July 2018
18:30-20:00

Conference room 5, UN Conference Building



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2018 Meeting Convened Under the
Auspices of ECOSOC
New York, 09 – 18 July 2018

Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting: using the tools of budgetary policy-making towards the implementation of SDGs

Objective

The Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting is the first cross-country and cross-sectoral initiative to support governments to “green” their fiscal policy and embed environmental sustainability commitments and green growth within budget and policy frameworks. This implies using national expenditure and revenue processes to support climate and environmental goals towards sustainable and resilient societies. The objective of this side event is to discuss, disseminate and further develop new and innovative tools that provide practical assistance to governments in understanding the implications of the ecological transition for budgetary policy and fiscal sustainability. In particular, the event aims to enable the exchange of existing best practices and peer learning and to build partnerships among different actors to advocate for proposed reforms.

Programme - 16 July 2018 - 18:30-20:00

The OECD, in collaboration with UN Environment and the governments of France and Mexico will host this high level side event. Public sector officials, parliamentarians, representatives of civil society organisations, academia and the private sector are invited to attend.

Welcome and Introduction:

OECD Deputy Secretary-General Masamichi Kono

Key Note

Secretary Brune Poirson, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France

Panel discussion: Green Budgeting: innovative tools of budgetary policy-making towards the implementation of SDGs

- Lorena Rivero Del Paso, Deputy Director General, Performance Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Mexico
- Ligia Noronha, Director, Economy Division, UN Environment
- Katia Karousakis, Biodiversity Team Leader, OECD Environment Directorate

Discussant: Elisabeth Hege, Research Fellow, Governance and Financing for Sustainable Development, IDDRI

Concluding remarks

Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director, Public Governance, OECD

Background

Climate change, water and air pollution, and biodiversity loss, are some of the major environmental threats facing our planet, our economies and our societies. By balancing the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a set of international commitments to respond to these challenges. However, achieving this ambitious agenda requires that national governments translate their commitments into concrete policy measures now.

One of the most important tools that policy makers have at their disposal for resourcing and implementing their ecological transition is budget and fiscal policy. Using the tax system to internalise negative environmental externalities is one example of working towards specific environmental objectives. This can include taxing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, activities with adverse effects on biodiversity or water quality, amongst many others. At the same time, design aspects of other revenue sources can have unintended negative environmental impacts, for example by granting preferential treatment to environmentally harmful industries. Like taxes, public expenditures can have intended and unintended environmental impacts, ranging from infrastructure investments and agricultural support to specific supports for renewable energies.

It is therefore essential to establish clear connections between public finance and environmental impacts and to evaluate and improve the consistency of public finance flows with national and international environmental goals. Incorporating environmental dimensions into fiscal frameworks, including fiscal rules, medium-term budgeting and long-term sustainability analysis, will furthermore help governments to become more accountable for their environmental commitments and support them in transforming towards sustainable and resilient societies. To assist governments in doing so, the OECD, with the support of France and Mexico, launched the “Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting” at the One Planet Summit in December 2017.

Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum 2018 “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”

The work of the Collaborative plays a clear role in providing the necessary incentives for action in achieving policy coherence with the SDGs as well as strengthening the (financial) means of their implementation - as highlighted in SDG 17. In particular, the Collaborative aims at driving the strategic alignment of national budgetary processes with national and international environmental goals, like the Paris Agreement, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and thus also the environmentally related SDGs that are reviewed in depth this year: sustainable water management (Goal 6), promotion of sustainable use of ecosystems and biodiversity protection (in Goal 15) as well as access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy (Goal 7).

Please register for the event by 11 July 2018.

Contact

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