

Abstract

[Project Information]

Project Title : A Comparative Study on the Governance of Follow-up and Review for the Achievement of the SDGs

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[Abstract]

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda), including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a set of potentially transformative goals (United Nations, 2015). Central to the implementation of the SDGs is follow-up and review (FUR). National governments have made efforts to develop FUR institutions and processes that can help policymakers realize the transformational potential of the 2030 Agenda. However, the lack of progress on the SDGs has raised legitimate questions on whether existing national FUR efforts are fit for their intended transformational purpose. In many countries, FUR processes are based on a traditional policy cycle approach—an approach that appears better suited to incremental rather than transformative changes. In light of these shortfalls, we engaged in a multi-year research project aimed at answering a key question: “what kind of FUR can lead to transformation?”. To answer this question, the study synthesized insights from the sustainability transition and transformation literature as well as practical experience of national and local level FUR (from key informant interviews in Finland, Denmark, Germany and Indonesia). Based on that synthesis, we proposed a conceptual framework for effective FUR institutions and process. Besides this

framework, we also developed a methodology for FUR consisting of 10 building blocks that are consistent with transformation and supported by practices and enabling conditions for some of these practices. Both the framework and the methodology are supported by other studies focusing on, inter alia, local level FUR, meaningful engagement of stakeholders and negative spillover from developed countries to developing countries.

Based on the above research and related outputs, this project also offered not only theoretical but also practical recommendations to the Japanese government and to the international community on how to make FUR and SDG governance transformative.

[References]

United Nations. (2015). Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations.

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