

Implications from the Study on the Governance of Follow-up and Review (FUR) for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Outline

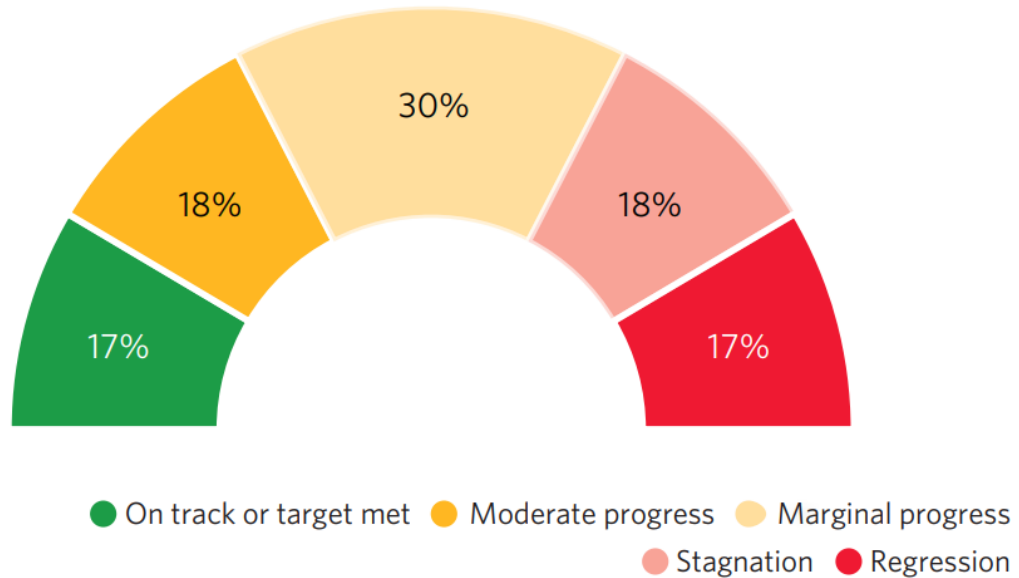
1. Lack of progress on SDGs and need for transformation
2. FUR that can lead to transformation
3. Other themes/issues that can support transformation

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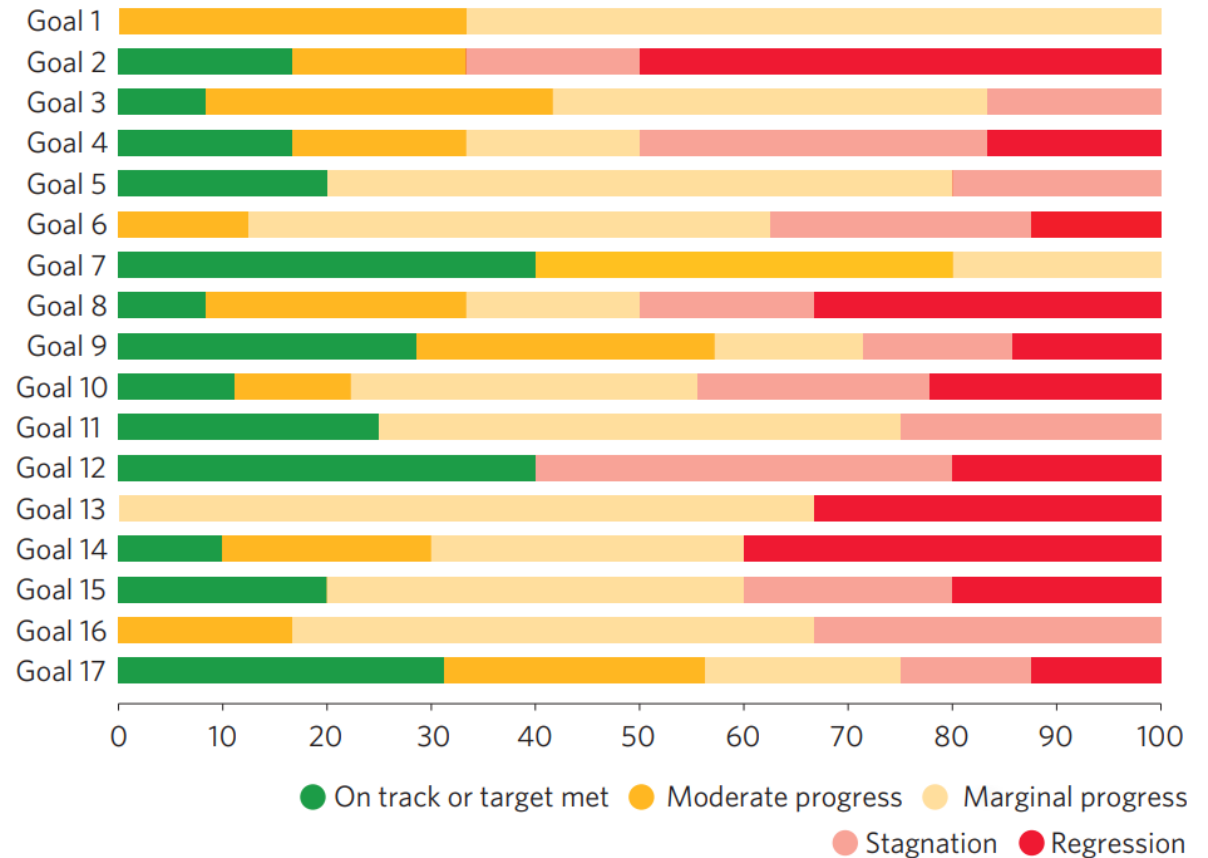
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SDGs are not on track. Stronger FUR is needed.

Overall progress across targets based on 2015–2024 global aggregate data



Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, by Goal (percentage)



Overview of the research project

Purpose

To identify the elements for effective follow-up and review (FUR) governance at the national level and presents measures to strengthen FUR governance.

In this way, the project will contribute to the accumulation of knowledge for the achievement of the SDGs and the post-2030 agenda.

Objectives

1. Identify measures to strengthen FUR governance of the SDGs
2. Make recommendations to Japan on FUR at national level

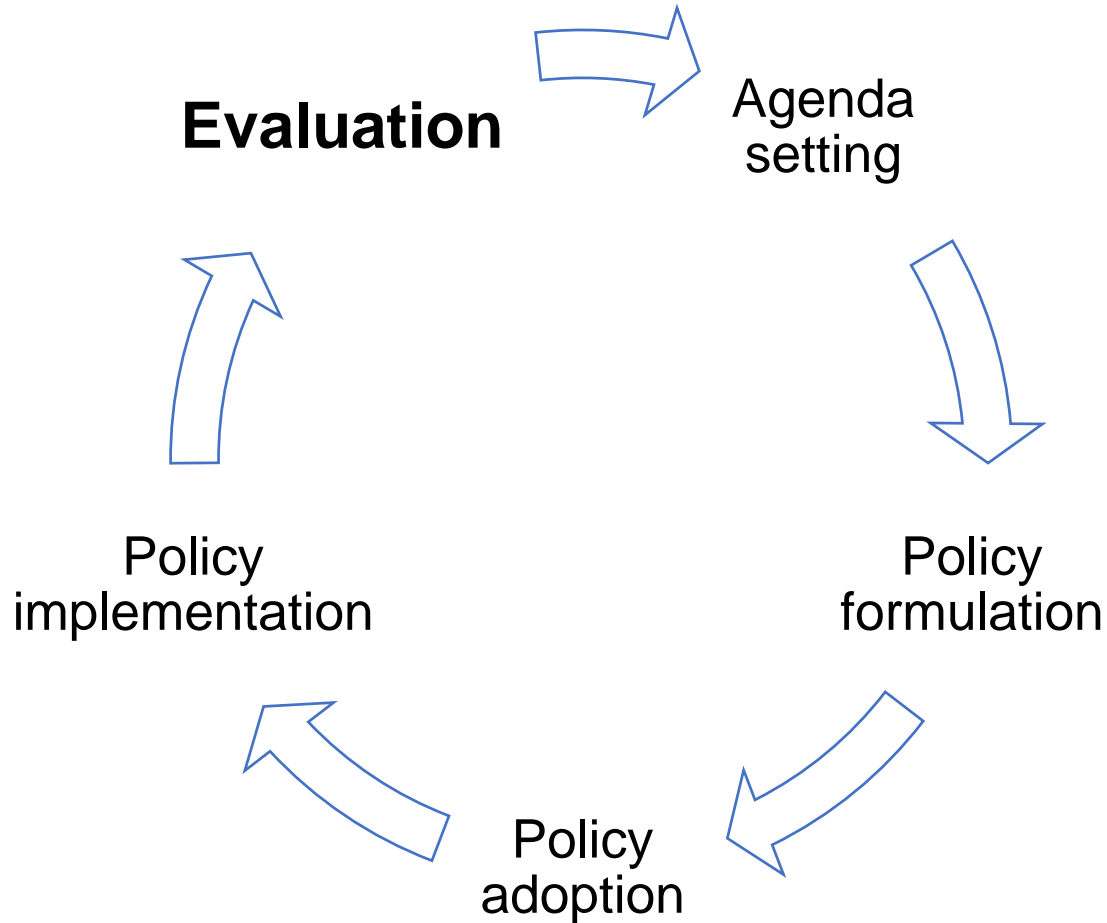
Sub-theme 1: Research on national level FUR

Sub-theme 2: Research on local level FUR

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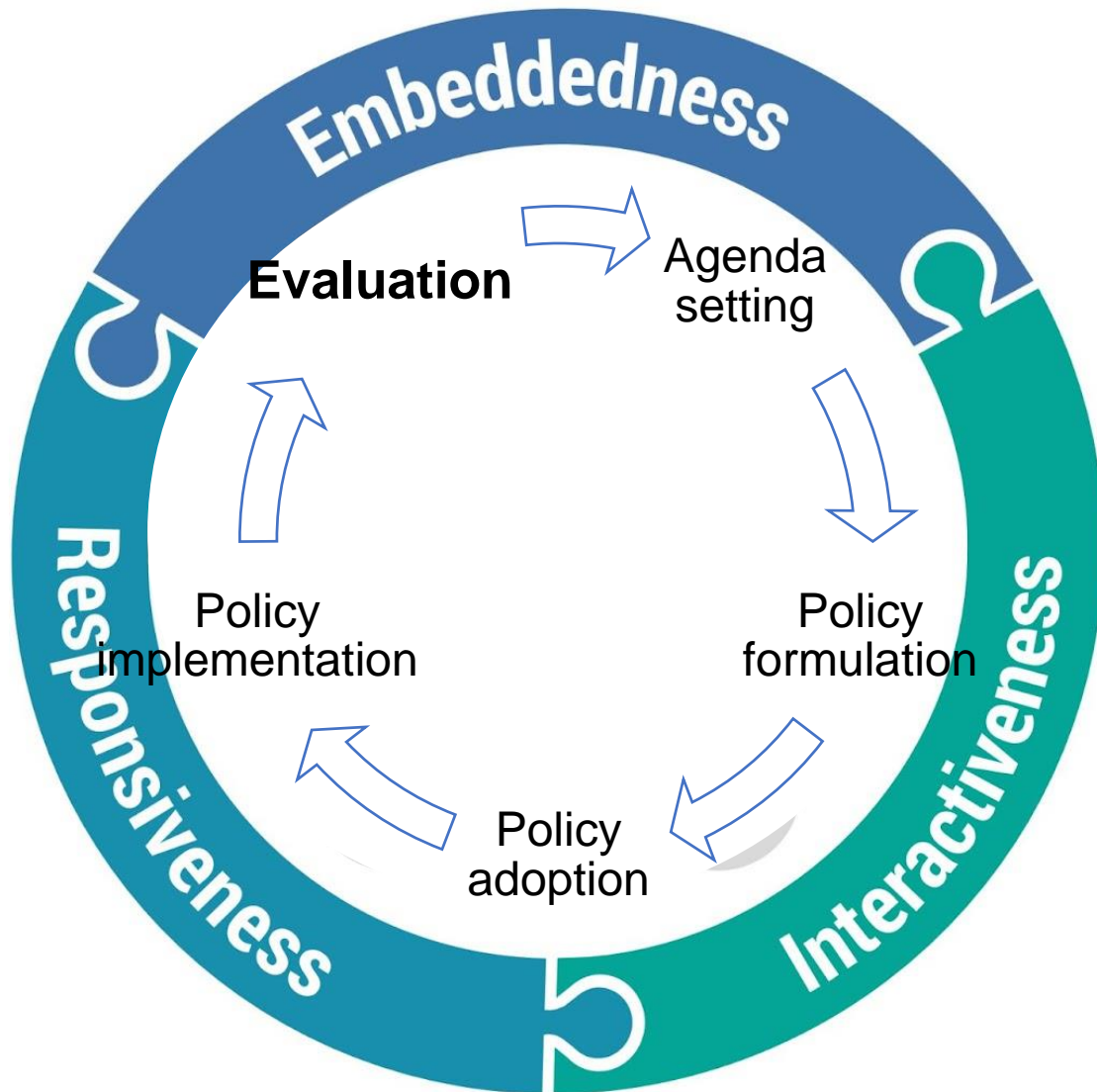
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FUR that may lead to transformation



- SDGs follows a policy cycle approach
- Traditional policy cycle approach supports efficiency and incremental improvement, and assumes *the existing system is already good*
- Lack of SDG progress → incremental approach is not enough
- Need for more ambition to realise SDGs transformative potential
- In our research, we tried to identify the institutional design elements for FUR that may lead to transformation by examining practices of countries ranked high on SDG ranking (Finland, Germany, Denmark and Indonesia)

FUR that may lead to transformation



- **Responsiveness** refers to architecture and activities that are nimble and can respond to new events and knowledge
- **Embeddedness** refers to architecture and activities that embed SDGs or sustainability concerns more broadly throughout society
- **Interactiveness** refers to architecture and activities that bring in views and knowledge from multiple stakeholders and also empower these stakeholders

For stronger FUR: Responsiveness

Examples

- **Gap analysis and adjustment** based on regular national progress report (D, I, DK, F)
- **National audit** reviewing fulfilment of mandate and budget (D, DK, I)
- **Parliamentary evaluation** of government SDG work (DK, F)
- **Regular revision** of domestic indicators/targets based on various reviews (D, DK, F)
- **Regular national progress report** including Voluntary National Review (D, I, DK, F)

For stronger FUR: Embeddedness

Examples

- **Dedicated funding for SDGs** including provisions in national budget law for SDG data, for independent media coverage on SDGs (DK), for expert panel (D, F)
- **Localization efforts by national governments on local SDG indicators** (D, F)
- national level indicators and targets (D, DK, I)
- **cross-party parliamentary** SDG focused body (D,DK, F)
- Cross-ministerial body focused on SDG (D, F, I)
- **SDG impact assessment** of policy proposals (D,DK)
- Mechanism to align national and international SDG policies (F)
- Domestic targets and indicators
- National Strategy/Plan/Roadmap
- Inter-ministerial coordination bodies (D, DK, I, F)

For stronger FUR: Interactiveness

Examples

- **Peer review** for VNR (D, F, DK)
- Interaction between national-local governments (D)
- Statistics agency communicate SDG data (DK)
- **Multistakeholder platforms** (youth panel, science platform etc.) (D,DK,F, I)
- **Inclusive production of review products** including VNR that includes different stakeholder views (D,DK,F)
- **Regular interaction** between experts, CSOs, PM and other influential politicians (D,F)
- **Independent evaluation** of government action on SDGs (D, F)
- Voluntary contributions and activities by CSO and experts for SDG
- **City-to-city cooperation** on SDGs (DK, F)
- **Voluntary Local Review** Process (D, DK, F, I)

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Engaging stakeholders effectively

Based on a study looking at the relationship between female and younger legislative representation and SDG performance

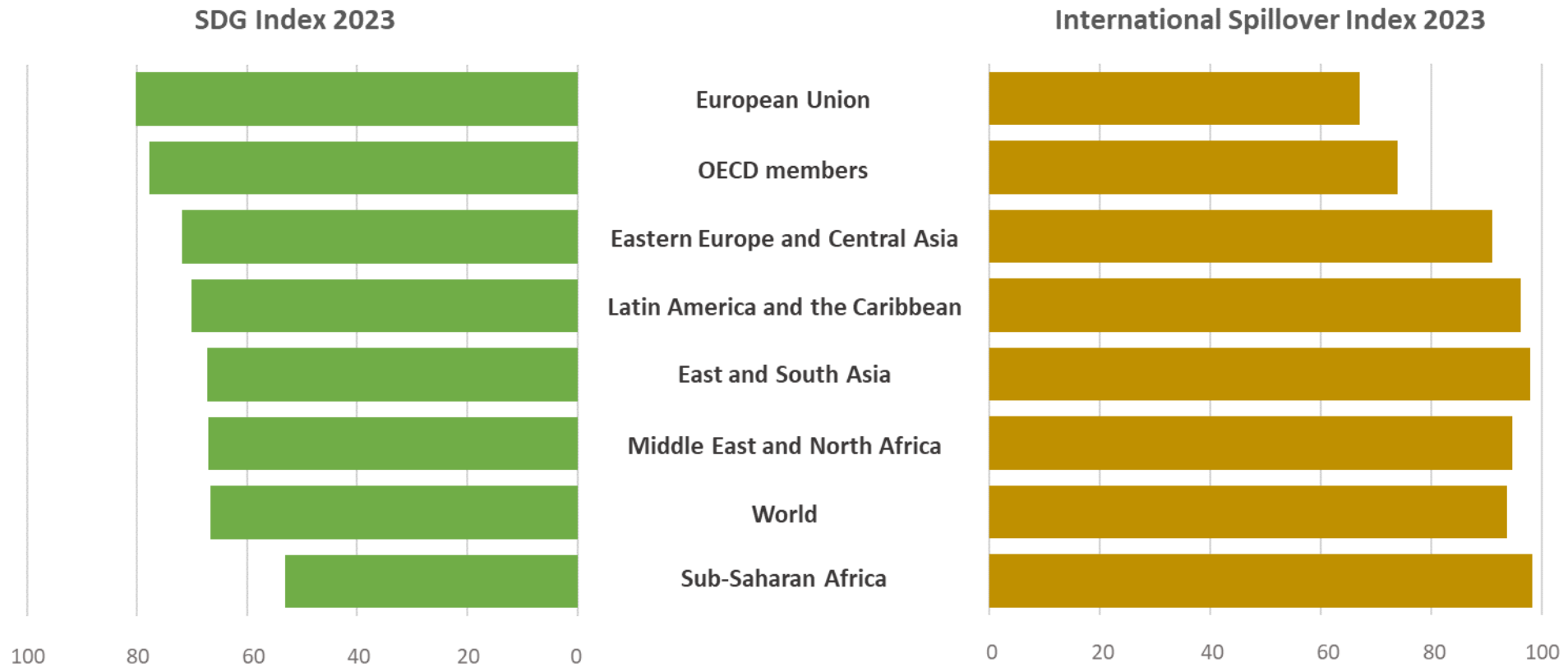
- Female and youth representation may be important to enhance SDG performance
- But greater legislative representation alone may not be sufficient to overcome trade-offs

A study focused on youth explored several means and considerations for effective engagement:

- **Institutionalized mechanisms** to invite some youth to the national SDG process (F, J)
- **Umbrella organizations** (e.g., National Youth Council) to represent youth groups (D, F, DK)
- **New and varied means** of engagement (SNS for interactive communication & data collection) (I, F)
- Propose an analytical framework to enhance the quality of youth engagement:
Aim/Justification, Power-sharing, Transparency and Accountability, and Support
- Urged the mindset shift from youth as “**passive recipients of care**” to recognizing them as “**agents of change**”

Broader issues to overcome

- The better a country's SDG performance, the higher its ecological footprint
- The richer the country, the worse its spillover score.
- Trade-offs between environmental and socioeconomic performance



Source: Moinuddin and Olsen, 2024. Adapted from SDSN SDG Index Report (2022:30) and updated with latest data from SDSN

Relationship between SDG performance, spillover effect and ecological footprint in 2022

