

Governance and institutional perspectives on advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the SDGs (input on agenda item 3)

Remarks by Ms. Hajar Algosair, Head of Sustainable Development Affairs Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia

Thank you, honorable Chair, for giving me the floor.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

We had the privilege of reviewing the expert paper, which offers a valuable analysis of governance and institutional approaches to advancing sustainable, inclusive, science based solutions for the SDGs.

As the entity overseeing SDG implementation in the Kingdom, we recognize that while institutions have progressed, business-as-usual is no longer enough. In a time of polarization, we remain committed to a multilateral approach to global development, understanding that today's interconnected challenges demand coordinated, collective responses.

The paper rightly underscores the importance of science-informed policymaking and institutional resilience—principles that align closely with the Pentagram of Action at the heart of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. To translate these discussions into impact, we see three areas that need further emphasis:

First, moving from discussion to measurable action. International forums must embed accountability mechanisms that track actual progress. Traditional metrics (GDP Growth) often miss critical aspects such as equity and well-being. As Saudi is going through this massive transformation, there are **three key components of transparency** that reinforce accountability that could be drawn from: Public Commitments: Visible pledges to act create sustained political and public pressure to deliver on promises. Public Reporting: Government entities must regularly share updates on progress, ensuring stakeholders remain informed and reinforcing accountability for meeting commitment. Saudi Arabia's experience with performance measurement through Aadaa shows how systematic monitoring can strengthen institutions and ensure progress is felt on the ground. Public Disclosure: Openly communicating successes, challenges, and delays fosters trust and strengthens the credibility of governments and other stakeholders.

Second, enabling context-specific implementation. While evidence-based decision-making is essential, solutions must be tailored to national and local realities. Effective governance requires policies that are adaptive and inclusive—not one-size-fits-all. Equally, Forums need mechanisms to bridge these priority gaps and ensure broader alignment on shared objectives. **However, as polarization and fragmentation grow, we must remember that collaboration was the key to our success.** Instead of retreating, we must focus on improving the systems that connect us.

Third, focusing on high-impact prioritization. The Pentagonagram of Action is a powerful framework, but we must go beyond process to emphasize outcomes. This means aligning strategies with measurable indicators and adjusting focus when needed to accelerate progress.

As we near the 2030 deadline, we must resist lowest-common-denominator compromises. The scale of today's challenges calls for bold, transformative action—grounded in evidence, transparency, and a renewed commitment to multilateralism.

Thank you.