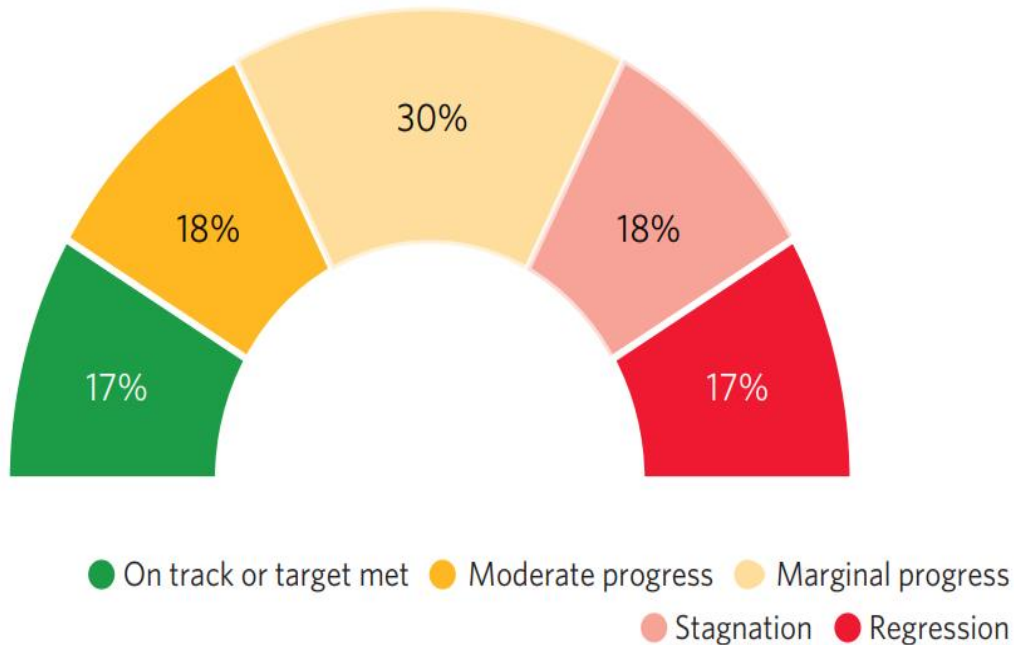# National-Level Follow-Up: Developments for the Post-2030 Agenda

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SDGs are not on track, not encouraging

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

30%

18%   18%

17%   17%

● On track or target met   ● Moderate progress   ● Marginal progress
● Stagnation   ● Regression

- SDG impact has been largely discursive, affecting the way actors understand/communicate about sustainable development. More profound normative and institutional impact, from legislative action to changing resource allocation, remains rare (Biermann, et al, 2022).

- Globally agreed goals do not easily trickle down from the global to the national level (Hickmann, et al, 2022)

Early Views on Post-2030 Agenda

1. Biermann et al. (2023) - Four governance reforms to strengthen the SDGs (Science, 381(6663), 1159-1160)
2. Nerini et al. (2024) - Extending the SDGs to 2050: A Road Map (Nature, 630(8017), 555-558)
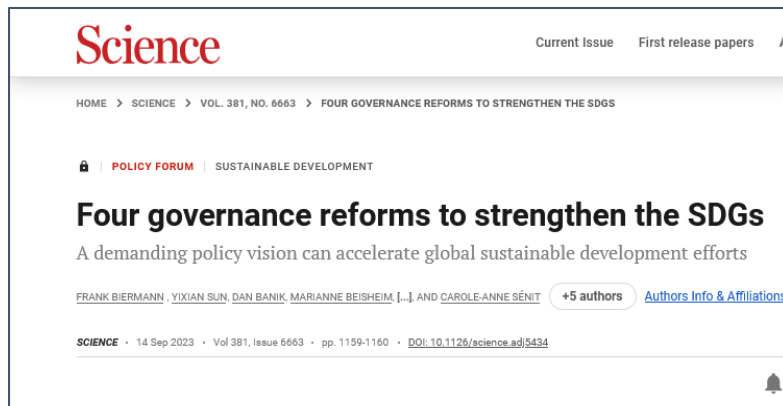
**Post-2030 discussions likely to gain momentum around 2027**

- The MDGs → SDGs process began in 2012
- The 2027 SDG Summit is seen as both the final progress review and the launch of post-2030 talks

Follow Up and Review (FUR) that may lead to transformation

Evaluation

Agenda setting

Policy formulation

Policy adoption

Policy implementation
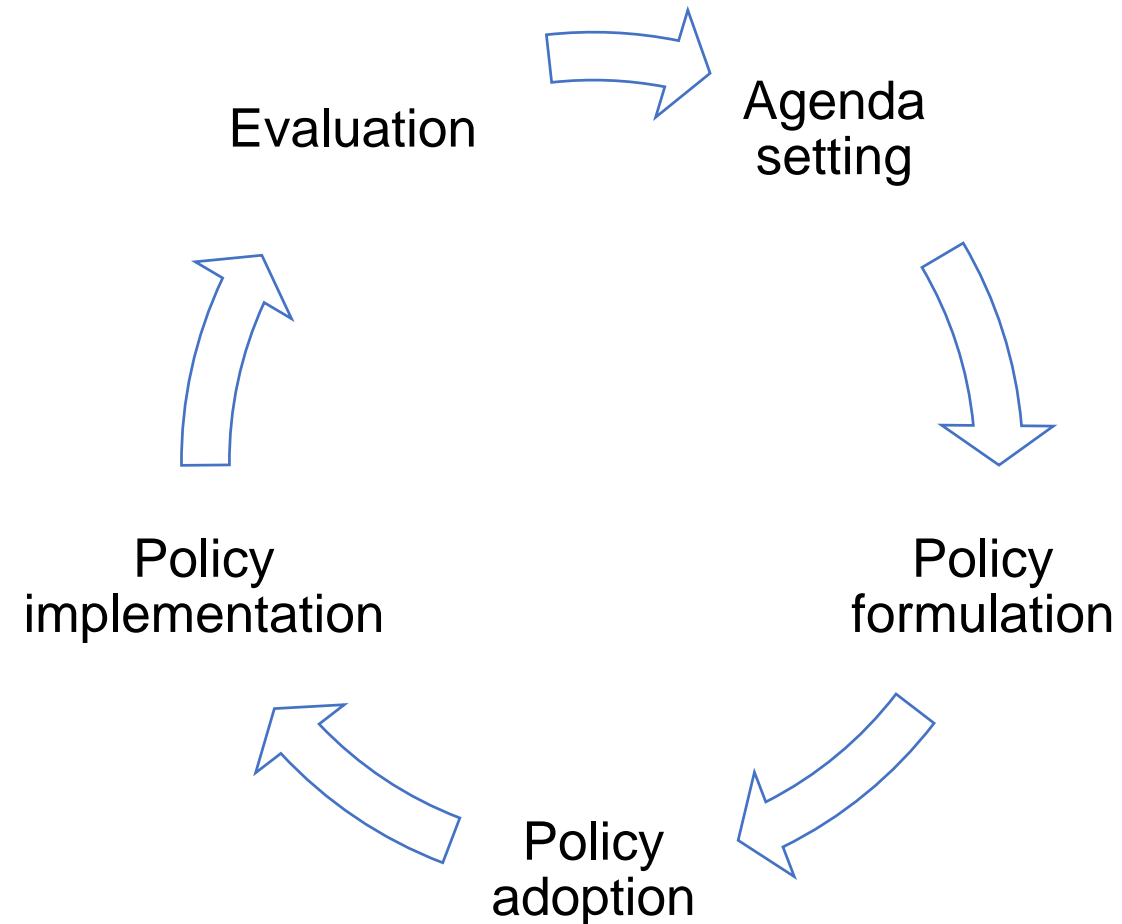
- SDGs follows a policy cycle approach

- 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
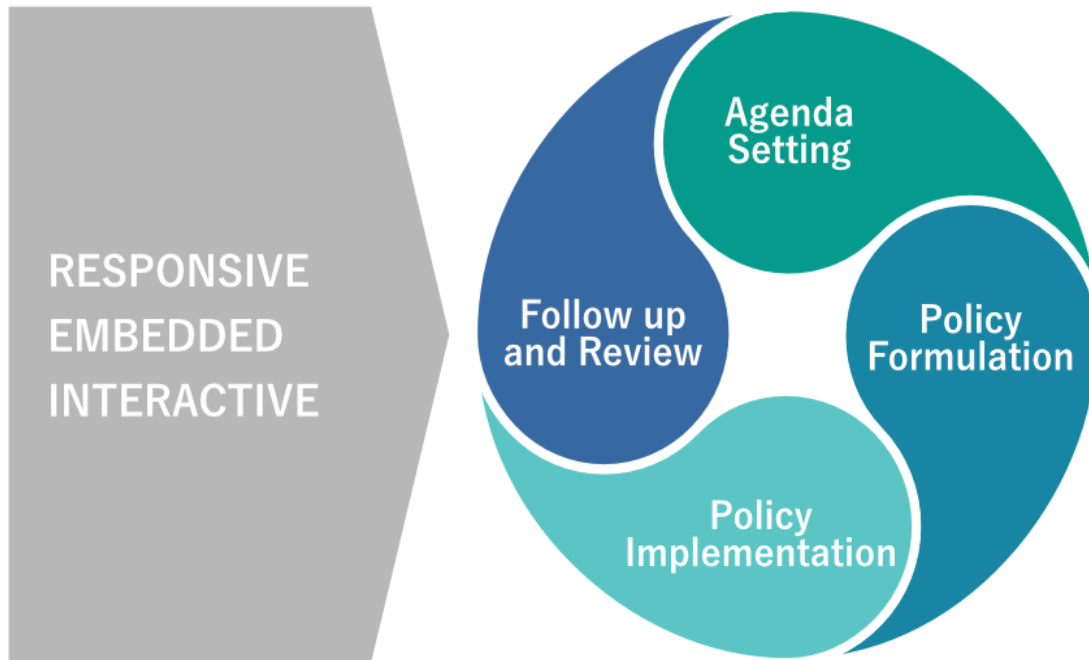
- **Responsiveness** refers to architecture and activities that are nimble and can respond to new events and knowledge

- **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-miniterial 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)

How R,E,I are connected & REI conditions

- **Responsiveness and Interactiveness enhance each other**
  - Addressing stakeholders' needs builds trust and fosters collaboration.
  - More interaction helps governments adapt to changing circumstances.
- **Responsiveness & Interactiveness support Embeddedness**
  - Responsiveness breaks policy lock-ins and enables transformative change
  - Interactiveness brings diverse perspectives, embedding sustainability across society.
- **Embeddedness strengthens both Responsiveness & Interactiveness**
  - Institutionalizing sustainability improves government responsiveness.
  - Embedded policies create more opportunities for stakeholder dialogue and engagement.

REI is not a one-size-fits-all solution

- Its effectiveness depends on strong political will and transparent governance

REI and these conditions are mutually reinforcing

Thank you for your attention!

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