

Introduction: Public Policy Development & Review

NPC Training Workshop

20 October 2020

Friedrich Soltau

Outline of presentation

- A. Policies in context - definition & meanings**
- B. Policies - purpose & rationale**
- C. Policy analysis & design**
- D. Closing remarks**



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



What do we mean when we talk about “policy” in general?



► “[P]ublic policy refers to a proposed course of action of government, or guidelines to follow to reach goals and objectives, and is continuously subject to the effects of environmental change and influence.”

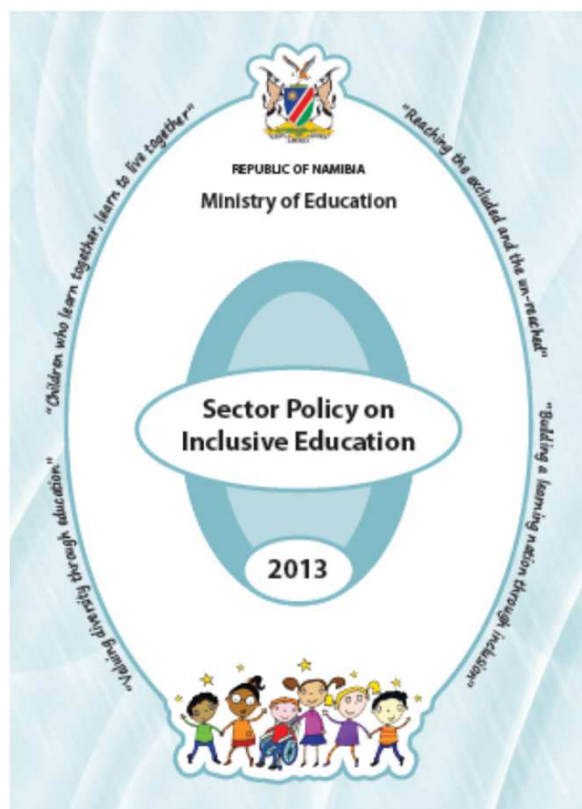
NL Roux (2002)

What do we mean when we talk about “policy” in context of the NPC?



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



- ▶ evaluate the effectiveness of Government socio-economic policies;
- ▶ coordinate the development of government socio-economic policies to ensure consistency

National Planning Commission Act 2 of 2013

What's in a name?



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

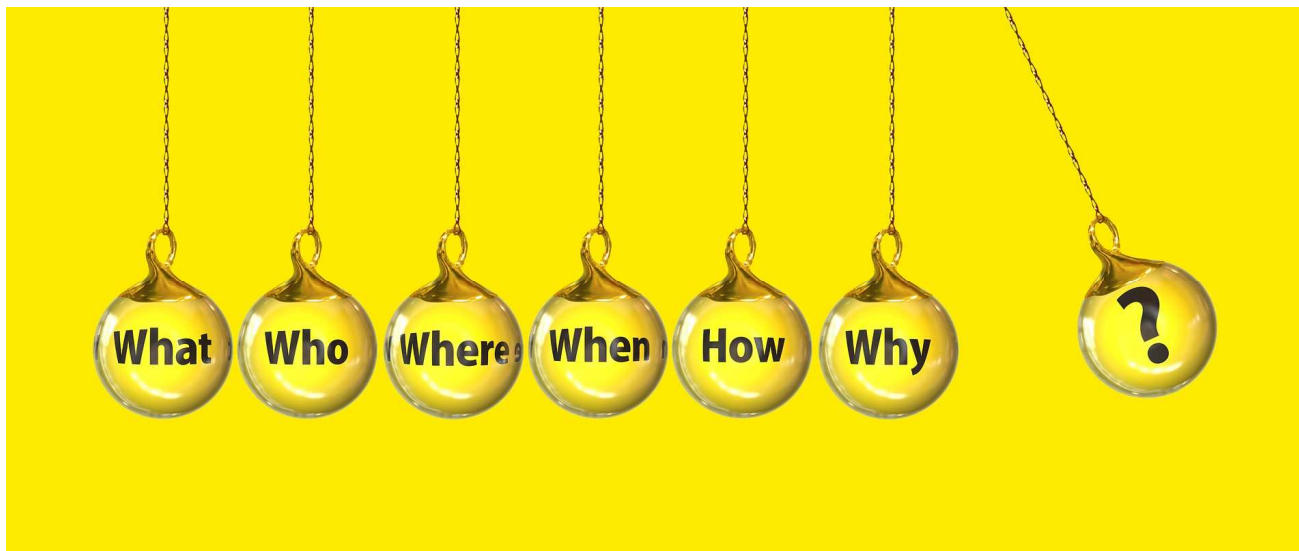
- ▶ Policies
- ▶ Guidelines
- ▶ Action plans
- ▶ Strategies
- ▶ Policies that contain “strategies” and “action plans”



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

B. Policies - purpose & rationale



Policies - purpose & rationale



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



- ▶ Communicate aims and priorities within government & to public
- ▶ Promotes transparency
- ▶ Give effect to constitutional and legislative provisions
- ▶ CONS: Time-consuming, may detract from implementation

Is a policy necessary?

- ▶ Required by legislation, e.g. Aquaculture Act, 2002, Act 18 of 2002
- ▶ International commitments, e.g. Convention on Biodiversity
- ▶ Implied by legislation, e.g. Co-operatives Act, 23 of 1996
- ▶ To fulfil government priority/address new and emerging issues...



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

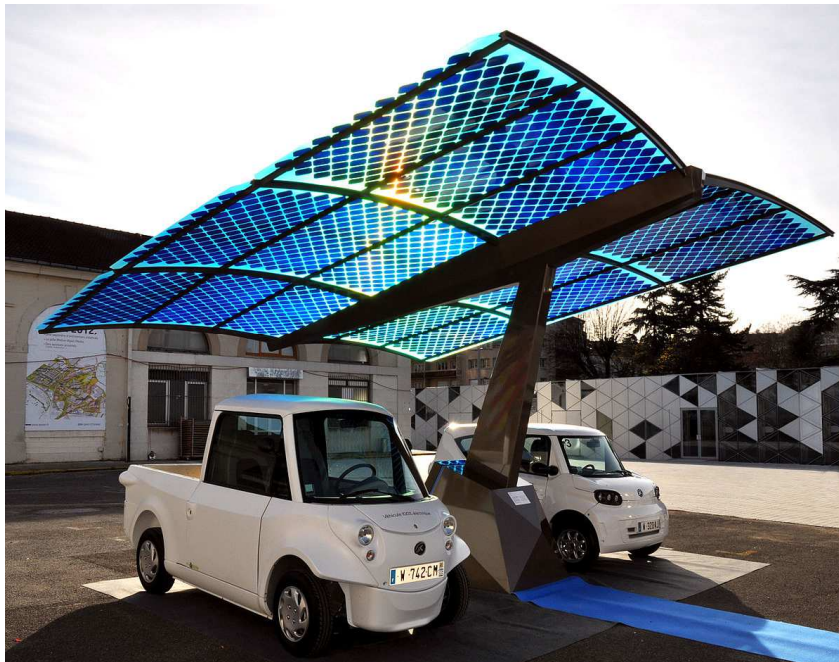




United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

C. Policy analysis & design



Policies - structure and content



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

CONTENTS :

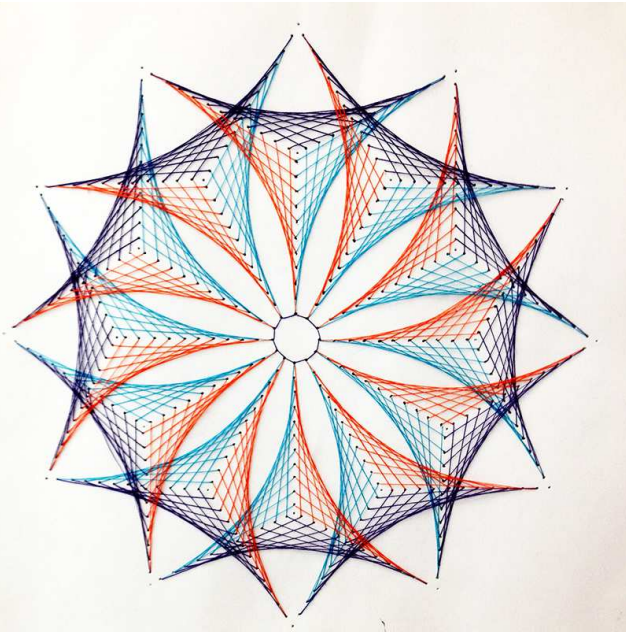
- ▶ Reference to legal framework, incl regional/international commitments
- ▶ Problem description
- ▶ Objectives and priorities
- ▶ Institutional mapping
- ▶ Implementation plan
- ▶ Indicators, M&E framework

Policy design & analysis



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



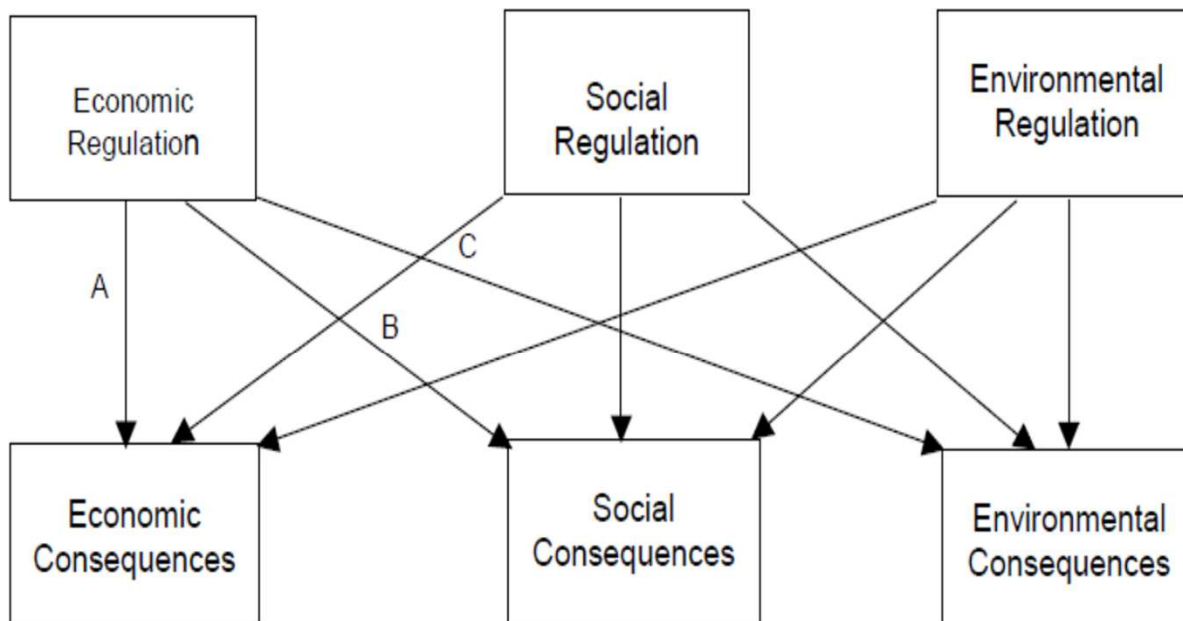
- ▶ Define & analyze problem
- ▶ Construct policy alternatives
- ▶ Develop criteria for evaluation
- ▶ Assess alternatives
- ▶ Conclusions

Impact on dimensions of Sustainable Development



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



Generic hallmarks of “good” policies?



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

- ▶ **Clarity of purpose** - clearly identify key issues
- ▶ **Integration with other policy instruments** - other policies, legislation, NDP
- ▶ **Organisation & presentation of the plan** - clear and logical
- ▶ **Evidence-based** - policy plan rests on factual diagnostic evidence base
- ▶ **Internal consistency** - closeness of links between objectives and strategies/actions; methods and anticipated results
- ▶ **Monitoring and evaluation** - provide for monitoring policy implementation and identify entities carrying out monitoring and evaluation?

Challenges & areas for improvement?



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

- ▶ Lack of implementation details, who will do what (reads like a policy proposal)
- ▶ Mapping of institutions
- ▶ Need more analysis of inter-connectedness of issues, especially in SDG era
- ▶ Inadequate link to resources, budget
- ▶ Role of private sector & incentives
- ▶ Length & complexity - relevance for target audience?