

# 1.

## *The tool*

The PCSDI examines policy coherence for sustainable development in 148 countries. In order to do so, through 57 indicators it evaluates the extent to which the public policies of these countries integrate the sustainable development perspective. The PCSDI is divided up into five components: economic, social, global, environmental and productive.

It is calculated by taking an average of these five components and thus offers a final ranking and five intermediate rankings, one per component. This enables countries' behavior to be taken comprehensively as well as by policy areas. It facilitates an analysis of the interdependencies, synergies and conflicts involved.

The PCSDI scores range from between 0 and 100, zero being the country that performs the worst on all of the five components taken together. A score of 100 would hypothetically be given to the country that obtains the highest score of all of the countries on all of the indicators of all of the components.

### 1.1. THE APPROACHES

Like the 2016 PCDI, the 2019 PCSDI is conceived from a broad, transformative understanding of development, and based on four interrelated approaches that enhance and complement each other (Martínez-Osés et al., 2016), i.e.:

**Human development** According to the PCSDI, policies that are coherent with sustainable development must be oriented to enhancing people's capabilities. This is why the PCSDI includes indicators that allow for evaluating the extent to which countries place human well-being at the heart of public policies.

**Sustainable development** The PCSDI is based on the recognition that people are eco-dependent beings. Coherent development policies must take the biophysical limits of the planet we inhabit into consideration. This is why the four dimensions (economic, social, environmental and political) are analysed along with their interdependencies.

**Cosmopolitan development.** In a globalized, interdependent world, countries' responsibilities cannot be limited to merely what lies within their geopolitical borders. From the PCSD perspective that this index uses, public policies must be designed and implemented by also taking into consideration their effects on other geographies and persons.

**Gender perspective.** No public policy is gender neutral. The PCSDI therefore approaches public policy by attempting to capture the extent to which it reproduces inequalities between men and women and the extent to which it attempts to combat them.

**Human rights approach.** The PCSDI considers people as rightsholders. This, among other things, means that countries must have solid institutions that safeguard these rights for the entire population, without any type of discrimination and with mechanisms that facilitate the empowerment and participation of citizens in generating public policies. Countries must also have transparent, effective accountability systems.

## 1.2. THE STRUCTURE

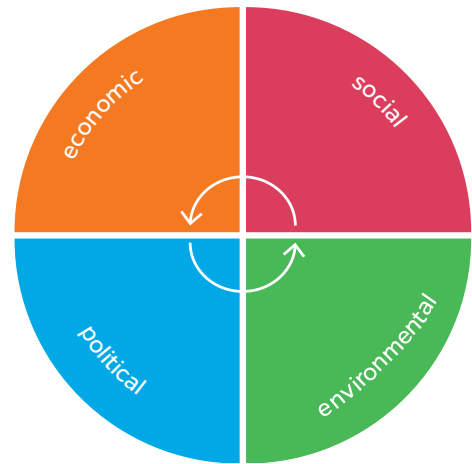
### The components and the policies

The PCSDI is divided up into five components: economic, social, global, environmental and productive. These components group together 19 public policies that are analyzed in order to evaluate the different countries and calculate how coherent their policies are with sustainable development, as shown on table 1.

Table 1. PCSDI components and policies

ECONOMIC	Fiscal
	Financial
SOCIAL	Education
	Social protection
	Equality
	Health
	Science & technology
	Employment
	GLOBAL
	Defence, peace & security
	Cooperation
	Human mobility & migrations
ENVIRONMENTAL	Fisheries
	Rural development & agriculture
	Biodiversity
	Energy
PRODUCTIVE	Urban planning
	Infrastructure & transport
	Industry

This classification is strictly methodological in nature, aiming to structure and facilitate analysis and interpretation of findings. Therefore, in no event should it be understood as a sectorial approach to the analysis of the policies evaluated. Rather, in line with the index's approach, policies are examined from a more appropriate inter-sectorial standpoint for explaining the interdependence and multi-dimensionality of development processes. Each policy is thus analysed through the four dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental and political), in order to bring to light their interrelations, synergies, conflicts and trade-offs.



### Variables

The 2019 PCSDI is built on 57 variables grouped under the five components and the 19 previously mentioned policies, as seen in table 2. As can be seen, the social and global components have the most indicators, followed by the environmental, productive and economic components. The number of variables per component depends on different factors. To be highlighted are basically the number of policies that each encompasses and the availability of data worldwide to be used with PCSDI as some do not align with dominant approaches. This, to an extent, limited available information. As subsequently explained, the variables and components are given equal weighting to calculate the index, meaning that the greater the number of variables in the component, the lesser each variable's average weight in the final result will be.

In turn, these 57 indicators are grouped into two categories. One includes those that positively impact development, such as healthy living, access to water, or proportion of women parliamentarians, all weighing positively in the PCSDI, while the other includes those that evaluate policy elements thwarting sustainable development such as the ecological footprint, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and financial opacity.

The 2019 PCSDI is built on 57 variables grouped under the five components (economic, social, global, environmental and productive)

Table 2. Number of variables per policy and component

Components	Policies	Num. Variables per policy	Num. Variables per component
ECONOMIC	Fiscal	3	5
	Financial	2	
SOCIAL	Education	4	21
	Social protection	2	
	Equality	5	
	Health	4	
	Science & technology	3	
	Employment	3	
GLOBAL	Justice & Human Rights	7	16
	Peace & security	6	
	Cooperation	2	
	Human mobility & migrations	1	
ENVIRONMENTAL	Fisheries	1	8
	Rural development & agriculture	1	
	Biodiversity	3	
	Energy	3	
PRODUCTIVE	Urban planning	2	7
	Infrastructure & transport	3	
	Industry	2	

With this set of indicators, the PCSDI aims to capture the complexity of the host of often contradictory effects that policies have on sustainable development. The group of variables that penalised development have been included to enable the index to spotlight both direct and indirect negative public policy impacts on development processes and draw attention to the aspects and practices that must be transformed or even eliminated. Again, one of the breakthroughs of the PCSDI is its comprehensive, multidimensional analysis of public policy. By paying close attention to their interaction and interdependence from a sustainable development perspective, it can identify, spotlight and address potential synergies, tension and conflicts thus opening the door for their transformation.

Of the 57 indicators underpinning the 2019 PCSDI, 38 (or 67%) contribute positively to development, while 19 (33%) are variables that penalise the score. Table 3 illustrates the list of 2019 PCSDI indicators in line with this classification per component.

Table 3. 2019 PCSDI variables classified according to their contribution to development

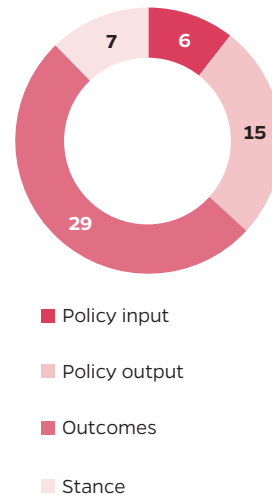
Component	Contributing Variables		Penalizing Variables	
ECONOMIC	FIS1	General government revenue (% GDP)	FIS6	Financial Secrecy Index
	FIS3	Variation rate of the Gini index before and after taxes and transfers	F2	Oversized banking sector
			F4	Account at a financial institution: difference between men and women (%)
SOCIAL	EDU5	Survival rate to the last grade of secondary education, both sexes (%)	EDU8	Pupil-teacher ratio in pre-primary education
	PS1	Public social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	EDU9	Pupil-teacher ratio in primary education
	PS5	Old age pension beneficiaries (%)	EDU14	Repetition rate in primary education (all grades), both sexes (%)
	IG1	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	IG2	Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment)
	IG5_6_7	Legislation against gender violence, sexual harassment and marital rape	EM1	Unemployment rate
	IG11_12	Maternity an paternity leaves	EM6	Vulnerable employment, total (% of total employment)
	IG14	Position at the UN in favour of the LGTBI community		
	S2	Healthy life expectancy at birth (years)		
	S3	Medical doctors (per 10 000 population)		
	S9	Universal Health Coverage Index		
	S11	Improved sanitation facilities (%population with access)		
	CIT1	Internet access in schools		
	CIT6	Percentage of students in tertiary education who are female		
	CIT13	Percentage of graduates from tertiary education who are female (%)		
	EM4	Share of unemployed receiving regular periodic social security unemployment benefits (%)		

Component	Contributing Variables		Penalizing Variables	
GLOBAL	J3	Abolition of the death penalty	PYS1	Military expenditure (% of GDP)
	J4_5	Legality of homosexuality and equal marriage	PYS3	Armed forces personnel (per 100,000 inhabitants)
	J6	Ratification of UN Human Rights treaties	PYS4	Ease of access to small arms and light weapons
	J8	Universal Jurisdiction	PYS9	Nuclear and heavy weapons capabilities
	J9	Ratification of Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court		
	J10	Legislation on abortion		
	J13_14_15	Women's rights in the sphere of justice		
	PYS6	Participation in international arms treaties and conventions		
	PYS12	Plan of action to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325		
	C5	Contributions to UNWOMEN (GDP per capita)		
	C6	Contributions to UNEP (GDP per capita)		
	M4_5	Convention and Protocole relating to the Status of Refugees and International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families		
ENVIRONMENTAL	P4	Clean water	DR9	Fertilizers use
	B10	Participation in international environmental agreements	B2	Ecological footprint of production (gha per person)
	B13	Biocapacity reserves/deficit (ha. per person)	EN2	Ecological footprint of imports (gha per person)
	EN1	Electricity production from renewable sources, excluding hydroelectric (% of total)	EN4	Carbon Dioxide Emissions (metric tons per person)
PRODUCTIVE	U2	Improved sanitation facilities, urban sector (% of population with access)	U4	PM2.5 air pollution, mean annual exposure (micrograms per cubic meter)
	IT3	Improved water sources, rural sector (% of the population with access)	IN5	Annual freshwater withdrawals, industry (% of total freshwater withdrawal)
	IT4	Access to electricity (% population)		
	IT5	Internet users (per 100 people)		
	IN7	Ratifications of the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention		

The index PCSD approach conceives this as mainstreaming the sustainable development perspective throughout the public policy cycle, that is, in its design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This is why the index includes different types of indicators that allow for gleaning information on all of these phases of public policy generation. As seen on figure 1, of the 57 indicators in the index, 28 (49%) measure public policy design elements (in terms of inputs and stances) and their direct impact, while 29 indicators (51%) attempt to capture more complex results tied to interaction with other polices and contextual elements<sup>3</sup>.

The PCSDI makes a particular effort to include the gender perspective in policy analysis. Of the 57 indicators comprising the PCSDI, 11 (19%) evaluate women's specific situation in significant areas of their economic, social and political spheres, for instance the number of female parliamentarians or the percentage of women in vulnerable employment. Nine of the indicators (16%) measure aspects that are significantly important for quality of life and that notably determine the chances of attaining effective equality, for instance public spending on social protection and access to electricity, water and sanitation, as it is normally women who carry the burden of working to make up for these services' lacking or not offering sufficient quality.

Figure 1. Number of variables by typology



<sup>3</sup>. This classification is inspired on the proposal put forward by King, M., & Matthews, A. (2011). *Policy coherence for development: indicators for Ireland*. Report for the Advisory Board for Irish Aid, for the analysis of Ireland.

Table 4. Variables by typology and gender marker

Code	Name of the variable	Type of PCSD indicator	Gender marker
FIS1	General government revenue (% GDP)	Policy input	Significant
FIS3	Variation rate of the Gini index before and after taxes and transfers	Policy output	Significant
FIS6	Financial Secrecy Index	Outcomes	-
F2	Oversized banking sector	Outcomes	-
F4	Account at a financial institution: difference between men and women (%)	Policy output	Main
EDU5	Survival rate to the last grade of secondary education, both sexes (%)	Outcomes	-
EDU8	Pupil-teacher ratio in pre-primary education	Outcomes	-
EDU9	Pupil-teacher ratio in primary education	Outcomes	-
EDU14	Repetition rate in primary education (all grades), both sexes (%)	Outcomes	-
PS1	Public social protection expenditure (% of GDP)	Policy input	Significant
PS5	Old age pension beneficiaries (%)	Policy output	-
IG1	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	Outcomes	Main
IG2	Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment)	Outcomes	Main
IG5_6_7	Legislation against gender violence, sexual harassment and marital rape	Policy output	Main
IG11_12	Maternity and paternity leaves	Policy output	Main
IG14	Position at the UN in favour of the LGTBI community	Stance	-
S2	Healthy life expectancy at birth (years)	Outcomes	-
S3	Medical doctors (per 10 000 population)	Policy output	-
S9	Universal Health Coverage Index	Policy output	Significant
S11	Improved sanitation facilities (% population with access)	Outcomes	Significant
CIT1	Internet access in schools	Policy output	-
CIT6	Percentage of students in tertiary education who are female	Outcomes	Main
CIT13	Percentage of graduates from tertiary education who are female (%)	Outcomes	Main
EM1	Unemployment rate	Outcomes	-
EM4	Share of unemployed receiving regular periodic social security unemployment benefits (%)	Policy output	-
EM6	Vulnerable employment, total (% of total employment)	Outcomes	Significant
J3	Abolition of the death penalty	Policy output	-
J4_5	Legality of homosexuality and equal marriage	Policy output	-
J6	Ratification of UN Human Rights treaties	Stance	-
J8	Universal Jurisdiction	Policy output	-
J9	Ratification of Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Stance	-
J10	Legislation on abortion	Policy output	Main
J13_14_15	Women's rights in the sphere of justice	Policy output	Main
PYS1	Military expenditure (% of GDP)	Policy input	-
PYS3	Armed forces personnel (per 100,000 inhabitants)	Policy input	-
PYS4	Ease of access to small arms and light weapons	Outcomes	-



Table 4. Variables by typology and gender marker

Code	Name of the variable	Type of PCSD indicator	Gender marker
PYS6	Participation in international arms treaties and conventions	Stance	-
PYS9	Nuclear and heavy weapons capabilities	Outcomes	-
PYS12	Plan of action to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325	Policy output	Main
C5	Contributions to UNWOMEN (GDP per capita)	Policy input	Main
C6	Contributions to UNEP (GDP per cápita)	Policy input	-
M4_5	Convention and Protocole relating to the Status of Refugees and International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	Stance	-
P4	Clean water	Outcomes	-
DR9	Fertilizers use	Outcomes	-
B2	Ecological footprint of production (gha per person)	Outcomes	-
B10	Participation in international environmental agreements	Stance	-
B13	Biocapacity reserves/deficit (ha. per person)	Outcomes	-
EN1	Electricity production from renewable sources, excluding hydroelectric (% of total)	Outcomes	-
EN2	Ecological footprint of imports (gha per person)	Outcomes	-
EN4	Carbon Dioxide Emissions (Metric Tons per Person)	Outcomes	-
U2	Improved sanitation facilities, urban sector (% of population with access)	Outcomes	Significant
U4	PM2.5 air pollution, mean annual exposure (micrograms per cubic meter)	Outcomes	-
IT3	Improved water sources, rural sector (% of the population with access)	Outcomes	Significant
IT4	Access to electricity (% population)	Outcomes	Significant
IT5	Internet users (per 100 people)	Outcomes	-
IN5	Annual freshwater withdrawals, industry (% of total freshwater withdrawal)	Outcomes	-
IN7	Ratifications of the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention	Stance	-

## The sources

Most of the data used to build the PCSDI come from official sources generated by major international institutions and bodies such as the World Bank, UNESCO and the United Nations.

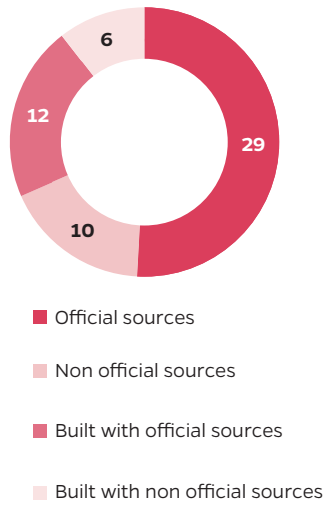
However, it was not always possible to find official sources providing quantitative information to evaluate policies comprehensively and critically as the PCSDI does. Therefore, in certain cases, non-official sources needed to be used, as were indicators elaborated by think tanks and community based organisations recognized for their reliability were used as well. The Tax Justice Network’s Financial Secrecy Index, Global Footprint Network’s ecological footprint, and the Institute for Economics & Peace’s Global Peace Index all stand as examples.

In addition, the research team has built some indicators from data emanating from both official and non-official sources. Most of these are variables that verify the ratification, membership and/or signing of international treaties or legislation pertinent to the sustainable development approach and the gender and human rights approaches. Standing as examples are variable “J6. Ratification of UN Human Rights treaties”, elaborated with UN information, and variable “J4\_5. Legality of Homosexuality and Equal Marriage” with information from the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA).

Figure 2 shows the sources of the 57 variables comprising the 2019 PCSDI by their typology. The list of these sources appears in the appendix at the end of this report.

Nonetheless, it is important to note that there are several aspects that could not be included in the 2019 PCSDI because of the lack of data availability enabling political

Figure 2. Sources of variables by typology



processes and their results in such a large group of countries to be analysed from comprehensive, multi-dimensional perspectives factoring in the approaches put forward in this index. This can be seen particularly when identifying indicators broken down by gender and variables enabling this variety of perspectives to be used to measure direct foreign investment, international trade, and country's performance in certain specific sectors.

Finally, it should be noted that the data were taken mostly between February and June 2018. Because there is usually a lag in publishing statistical information, most of the variables refer to the 2014 to 2017 period, although there are fewer variables that refer to other periods, in some cases to 2018.

### The countries

The 2019 PCSDI offers a PCSD ranking for 148 countries, as compared with the 133 countries that it evaluated in its 2016 edition. In line with the cosmopolitan viewpoint imbuing the PCSDI, these countries present different scores and socio-economic and geopolitical profiles. The final selection was made base on the criterion of having enough statistical information. The index includes 15 additional countries thanks to greater availability of information than when this index was published in 2016.

In terms of the World Bank income groups, of the 148 countries, 48 are high income, 41 are upper-middle income, 35 are lower-middle income and 23 are low income. Insofar as their human development, 54 countries have very high scores, 38 have high scores, 30 have middle scores and 26 have low scores.

In addition, the countries are grouped into eight geo-political regions. By number of countries, those most present in the PCSDI are in the Sub-Saharan Africa region (36),

Figure 3. Number of countries by income level

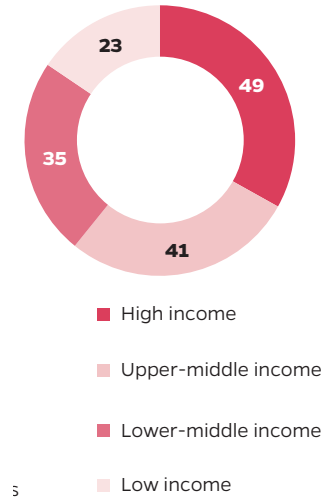
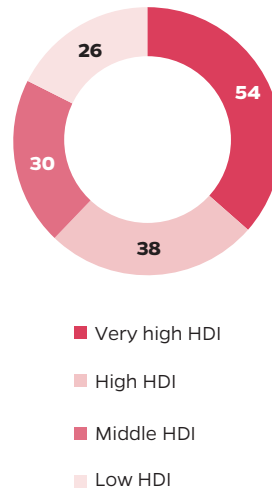


Figure 4. Number of countries by HDI score



followed by Western Europe, USA and Canada (30), and then by Latin America and the Caribbean (24), Central Asia and Eastern Europe (20), and Middle East and North Africa (16). Among the regions with the fewest countries are East Asia (10), South Asia (7), and Pacific and Oceania (5).

## REFERENCES

- King, M., & Matthews, A. (2011). *Policy coherence for development: indicators for Ireland*. Report for the Advisory Board for Irish Aid
- Martínez-Osés, P., Gil-Payno, M. L., Martínez, I., Millán Acevedo, M. N., Yamilet Ospina, S., Medina Mateos, J., García, H. (2016). *2016 PCDI Report. Another way to grow*. Plataforma 2015 y más.

Figure 5. Number of countries by region

