Abstract

Measuring International Spillovers in the Context of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda

Keywords: Spillovers, trade, consumption, financial flows, SDGs

The SDGs, adopted by all UN member states in 2015, call on all nations to combine economic prosperity, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Strategies to achieve the SDGs need to be implemented at various scales, without generating negative impacts on other countries.

Positive and negative spillovers must be understood, measured, and carefully managed. Countries cannot achieve the SDGs if spillovers from other countries counteract their efforts. Unsustainable supply chains generate social and environmental impacts outside countries and regions' borders. A country like Finland, has incorporated a section on international spillovers in its 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented at the United Nations.

This presentation focuses on conceptualizing and measuring international spillovers in the context of the SDGs and 2030. It groups international spillovers in four main categories and establishes linkages with each 17 SDGs. It also provides an overview of methods and indicators used to track spillovers, in particular those embodied into trade and consumption. It emphasizes the relevance of extended Multi-Regional Input-Output (MRIO) models to track socio-economic impacts embodied into trade such as imported CO2 emissions, biodiversity threats and accidents at work. It concludes by highlighting some of the major data gaps and areas where further research might be needed.

This presentation builds on the work conducted by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and other partners, including the annual Sustainable Development Report (which includes the SDG Index and Dashboards) and other studies.