

Glossary for the Policy Screening / Assessment Tool

The purpose of this glossary is to assist the users of the Policy Screening / Assessment Tool to have a fair understanding of 'some sub criteria' of the tool in the context of which this tool is developed. It is important to note that the interpretation of such criteria or terminologies in different contexts and situations could be different. Un-numbered 2 sub criteria (National Security & Political Stability) are included in the glossary though they are not used as sub criteria of the policy screening / assessment tool due to their importance as pre requisites in developing any policy.

1. Water Pollution

Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies (e.g. lakes, rivers, oceans, aquifers and groundwater). This form of environmental degradation occurs when pollutants are directly or indirectly discharged into water bodies without adequate treatment to remove harmful compounds.

2. Air Pollution

Air pollution is the contamination of the indoor or outdoor environment by any chemical, physical or biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. Household combustion devices, motor vehicles, industrial facilities, power plants and forest fires are common sources of air pollution. Pollutants of major public health concern include particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. Outdoor and indoor air pollution cause respiratory and other diseases, which can be fatal. Air pollution is not only causing diseases and death to humans but also causing damage to other living organisms such as animals and food crops, or the natural or built environment. Ozone is a major part of air pollution in some cities. When ozone forms air pollution, it's also called smog. There are different kinds of pollution - some visible, some invisible - that contribute to global warming. Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is the main pollutant that is warming the earth. Though living things emit carbon dioxide when they breathe, carbon dioxide is widely considered to be a pollutant when associated with vehicles, planes, power plants, and other human activities that involve the burning of fossil fuels. Other greenhouse gases include methane which comes from such sources as swamps and gas emitted by livestock and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were used in refrigerants and aerosol propellants until they were banned because of their deteriorating effect on earth's ozone layer. Another pollutant associated with climate change is sulfur dioxide, a component of smog. Sulfur dioxide and closely related chemicals are known primarily as a cause of acid rain.

3. Land Degradation

Land degradation is the reduction in the capacity of the land to provide ecosystem goods and services. Land degradation is a process in which the value of the biophysical environment is affected by a combination of human-induced processes acting upon the land. It is viewed as any change or disturbance to the land perceived to be undesirable. Human activities contributing to land degradation include unsustainable agricultural land use, poor soil and water management practices, deforestation, removal of natural vegetation, frequent use of heavy machinery, overgrazing, improper crop rotation and poor irrigation practices.

4. Waste Generation

Waste generation is the quantity of materials or products that enter a waste stream before composting, incinerating, landfilling, or recycling. Wastes are unwanted or unusable materials.

Waste is any substance which is discarded after primary use, or it is worthless, defective and of no use. The term waste is often subjective (because waste to one person is not necessarily waste to another). Examples of waste include municipal solid waste (household trash/refuse), hazardous waste, wastewater (such as sewage, which contains bodily wastes (feces and urine) and surface runoff), radioactive waste, and others.

5. Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is the disruptive, disturbing, excessive, dangerous or undesired sound that may harm the activity or balance of human or animal life, nature and property. The source of most outdoor noise is mainly caused by machines and transportation systems, motor vehicles, aircraft, and trains.

6. Visual Impact

Visual impact is defined as a change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development, which can be positive (improvement) or negative (detraction). A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment combines the magnitude of change with the sensitivity of the landscape to the proposed development, which provides a measure of the significance of the effect. The acceptability of a proposed development is determined by the extent to which the long term landscape and visual effects are significant.

7. Irrational use of Resources

The use of natural resources may be rational or irrational. The goals of rational use include ensuring the conditions for human survival and obtaining material benefits. Also among the goals of rational use of natural resources are maximum utilization of every natural territorial complex and the prevention or maximum reduction of possible harmful consequences of production processes or other types of human activity. In addition, the rational use of natural resources is directed at maintaining and enhancing the productivity and attractiveness of nature, as well as at maintaining and regulating the economic exploitation of natural resources. Irrational use is manifested in the lowering of the quality of natural resources, in the squandering and exhaustion of resources, in the undermining of the restorative or generative powers of nature, and in the pollution of the environment and the decline of its healthful and aesthetic qualities.

8. Life on Earth

Life is everywhere on earth and is unique in the solar system as being the only planet, which is able to support life in all its forms: from basic living micro-organisms to highly sophisticated and intelligent human beings. There are many reasons why this happens. Life is able to exist on Earth because of number of reasons. It has the right atmosphere, right climate, water is abundant, its air is breathable, and it receives the perfect amount light from the sun. Global warming presents the gravest threat to life on earth in all of human history. The planet is warming to a degree beyond what many species can handle, altering or eliminating habitat, reducing food sources, causing drought and other species-harming severe weather events, and even directly killing species that simply can't stand the heat. Scientists predict that if we keep going along our current greenhouse gas emissions trajectory, climate change will cause more than a third of the Earth's animal and plant species to face extinction by 2050 and up to 70 percent by the end of the century. Such a catastrophic loss would irreversibly diminish biodiversity, severely disrupt ecosystems, and cause immense hardship for human societies worldwide.

9. Life Under Water

Life underwater includes the fish and aquatic plants that inhabit the rivers, lakes, and oceans. Anatomy, behaviour, habitat, breeding, and conservation status of species ranging from microscopic, single-celled organisms swept along by water currents to gigantic powerhouses of the deep are important for the eco system.

10. Income Equity

Income equity means fairness or evenness, and achieving it is considered to be an economic objective. In other words, income equity is the situation in an economy in which the apportionment of resources or goods among the people is considered fair.

11. Economic Security & Stability

Economic security is the condition of having stable income or other resources to support a standard of living now and in the foreseeable future. Economic security tends to include the broader effect of a society's production levels and monetary support for non-working citizens. National security depends on the ability of a country to generate and use its economic power and to project its national values. This, in turn, depends on long-term factors that contribute to economic growth and increase the total resource base available not only for defense but to provide economic security in the form of income and business opportunities for individuals. Economic growth depends on building human capital. It also depends on science, technology, and innovation.

12. Material Well-being

Material well-being is one dimension of human well-being. Material well-being is measured through income, consumption patterns or assets/wealth. Most widely used measure of material well-being has been a countries' "Gross Domestic Product", GDP.

13. Opportunities to Engage in Productive Activities

In many countries people face obstacles in engaging in productive activities: the educational and training system does not provide them with the skills required to find a job either in the private or state sector; they are perceived as high-risk due to their age and limited entrepreneurial experience, consequently finding it difficult to access capital to start-up or grow their business; business development services are often lacking, hard to access, and not geared towards the particular needs of entrepreneurs; and they are often less knowledgeable about networks, markets and investment opportunities and sources of information.

14. National Innovation System / Innovation Culture

The National Innovation System is the flow of technology and information among people, enterprises and institutions, which is key to the innovative process on the national level. Innovation and technology development are results of a complex set of relationships among actors in the system, which includes enterprises, universities and government research institutes. Innovation is a key driver of long-term economic growth, the primary basis for competitiveness in world markets and part of the response to many societal challenges. In essence, innovation is the ability to manage knowledge creatively in response to market-

articulated demands and other social needs. Enterprises are the main source of innovation; their performance depends on incentives provided by the economic and regulatory environment, their access to critical inputs (via factor markets or through interactions in networks and clusters of knowledge-based organizations) and their internal capacity to seize market and technological opportunities.

15. Technology Transfer

Technology transfer is the process of transferring skills, knowledge, technologies, methods of manufacturing, samples of manufacturing and facilities among governments or universities and other institutions to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to a wider range of users who can then further develop and exploit the technology into new products, processes, applications, materials or services. It is closely related to knowledge transfer. Horizontal transfer is the movement of technologies from one area to another. Vertical transfer occurs when technologies are moved from applied research centers to research and development departments. Technology Transfer is closely related to Innovation.

18. Government Revenue

Government revenue is money received by a government. It is an important tool of the fiscal policy of the government and is the opposite factor of government spending. Revenues earned by the government are received from sources such as taxes levied on the incomes and wealth accumulation of individuals and companies and on the goods and services produced, exports and imports, non-taxable sources such as government-owned corporations' incomes, central bank revenue and capital receipts in the form of external loans and debts from international financial institutions.

19. Foreign Remittance

Definition of 'Foreign remittance' is the transfer of money from a migrant worker to their families or other individuals in their home countries. In many countries, remittance constitutes a significant portion of the GDP. Money sent home by migrants competes with international aid as one of the largest financial inflows to developing countries.

20. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Definition of foreign direct investment is the investment from one country into another (normally by companies rather than governments) that involves establishing operations or acquiring tangible assets, including stakes in other businesses. This involves the purchase or establishment of income-generating assets in a foreign country that entails the control of the operation or organization. FDI is not just a transfer of ownership as it usually involves the transfer of factors complementary to capital, including management, technology and organizational skills.

21. Contribution to GDP

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of all final goods and services produced in the economy. The GDP growth rate is the primary indicator of the state of the economy.

23. Poverty Reduction

Reduction of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries.

24. Mobility

The mobility is the movement of people and goods from place to place.

25. Food Security

Food security exists when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. It includes both physical and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs as well as their food preferences. Food security is built on three pillars: Food availability (sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis), Food access (having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet), Food use (appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation). Food security is a complex sustainable development issue, linked to health through malnutrition, but also to sustainable economic development, environment, and trade.

26. Shelter

A structure or building that provides protection from bad weather, danger or attack to people.

27. Energy Security

Energy security is the uninterrupted availability of acceptable quality energy sources at an affordable price. Energy security has many dimensions: long-term energy security mainly deals with timely investments to supply energy in line with economic developments and sustainable environmental needs. Short-term energy security focuses on the ability of the energy system to react promptly to sudden changes within the supply-demand balance. Lack of energy security is thus linked to the negative economic and social impacts of either physical unavailability of energy, or prices that are not competitive or are overly volatile.

28. Water Security

Water security is defined as the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.

29. Individual Rights

Individual rights refer to the liberties of each individual to pursue life and goals without interference from other individuals or the government. Examples of individual rights include the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

30. Gender Equality

Gender equality is the view that both men and women should receive equal treatment and not be discriminated against based on their gender.

31. Youth Empowerment

Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes.

32. Exploitation of Labour

Labour exploitation is unacceptable and that all workers are entitled to the effective protection of their rights. Countries that are serious about maintaining national and international labour standards, accepting systemic labour exploitation is not an option. Labour exploitation is also considered as unfairly taking advantage of another person because of his or her inferior position, giving the exploiter the power.

33. Public Health & Safety

Public health is defined as the science of protecting the safety and improving the health of entire populations through promotion of healthy lifestyles, education, policy making and research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases.

34. Public Security

Public security is the function of the government, which ensures the protection of citizens, organizations, and institutions against threats to their well-being and to the prosperity of communities.

36. Religious Harmony

Religious harmony holds the key to a peaceful and progressive world. Religious harmony is important to ensure the safety of people in a diverse society. Everyone needs to work together to create religious harmony by knowing and practicing their own religion; respecting other religions; integrating closely with the people of different faith and believes, not interfering in the religious matter of other people and opposing any attempt to misuse the religion and create disharmony. Pledging to love and respect everyone irrespective of one's religion, cast, creed, sect, colour, ethnicity, language, gender, nationality and any other difference is essential for peaceful and prosperity.

37. Spiritual Pursuits

People follow spiritual paths and join religious organizations for a variety of reasons, including faith, prayer, social support, community service, cultural tradition, friendship, commitment to the community and more. There is also a close link between religious and spiritual engagement (practice) and happiness.

38. Culture

A culture is a way of life of a group of people; the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.

39. Ethnic Harmony

Sri Lanka being a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, country, with a heterogeneous population, we need to carefully study the causes that provoked discord and conflict among our people. We inherited a culture of non-violence, respect, peace, love, understanding and affection among all communities that inhabited this country for centuries from the days of our fore-fathers. Let it be Christians, Hindus, Muslims or Buddhists, we lived in peace and need to see what happened finally to be so badly divided, suspicious, and distrustful towards each other, particularly after independence. These causes have ultimately affected the growth negatively and retarded the progress of our country where we could live together, in prosperity and harmony as one nation.

40. Values & Ethics

Values are rules. Ethics are professional standards. Morals are how we judge others. Values determine what is right and what is wrong, and doing what is right or wrong is what we mean by ethics. To behave ethically is to behave in a manner consistent with what is right or moral.

41. Legal Recourse

A legal recourse is an action that can be taken by an individual or a corporation to attempt to remedy a legal difficulty.

42. Sustainable Development Plan

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

44. International Agreements & Conventions

The above refer to United Nations internationally binding law instruments such as treaties, agreements, conventions, charters, protocols, declarations, memoranda of understanding, and exchange of notes by which States establish rights and obligations among themselves. Although these instruments differ from each other by title, they all have common features and international law has applied basically the same rules to all of these instruments. These rules are the result of long practice among the States, which have accepted them as binding norms in their mutual relations.

45. Institutional Framework

The systems of formal laws, regulations, and procedures, and informal conventions, customs, and norms, that shapes the activities and behavior of institutions.

46. Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a process that helps improve performance and achieve results. Its goal is to improve current and future management of outputs, outcomes and impact.

47. Sustainability

To cause or allow something to continue for a period of time.

48. Disaster Resilience

Disaster resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, organizations and states to adapt to and recover from hazards, shocks or stresses without compromising long-term prospects for development. According to the Hyogo Framework for Action (UNISDR, 2005), disaster resilience is determined by the degree to which individuals, communities and public and private organizations are capable of organizing themselves to learn from past disasters and reduce their risks to future ones, at international, regional, national and local levels.

49. Behavioural Changes

Behavior change can refer to any transformation or modification of human behavior.

50. Attitudinal Changes

A manner of thinking, feeling, or behaving that reflects a state of mind or disposition.

51. Public Exposure, Awareness & Knowledge

Public awareness and exposure is the public's level of understanding and experience about the importance of an issue which is the 'subject policy' is expected to address. Awareness is referred to the subjective nature of consciousness. Knowledge can be equated with the contents of consciousness, in the present, future or past. In other words, knowledge of any subject means that there is at least fair amount of information of that subject; which can be passed on to others. Awareness about any matter is removal of all misconception about the subject, but that doesn't mean that one knows the matter thoroughly.

National Security

National security is the safeguarding of the nation as a whole. Its highest order of responsibility is the protection of the nation from attack and other external dangers by maintaining armed forces and guarding state secrets. National security entails both national defense and the protection of a series of geopolitical, economic, and other interests. It affects not only defense policy, but foreign and other policies as well.

Political Stability

A nation with high political stability would be one where politics is extremely predictable. A nation that is constantly having political coups or revolutions or civil wars would be said to have very low political stability, since there would be very low levels of respect for the existing political order, constitution, and government institutions by key political players like politicians, judges, and army officers. Therefore, the political stability is the durability and integrity of a current government regime. This is determined based on the amount of violence and terrorism expressed in the nation and by citizens associated with the state. A stable society is one that is satisfied with the ruling party and system of operations and is not interested in revolutionary or oppressive ideas.

Reference: The descriptions of terminologies have mainly been drawn from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/>