Policy Advocacy Training

PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

SESSION OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, participants should:

- Have some basic understanding on policy analysis

- Identified how Civil Society Organizations have engaged in Policy

- Understood the link between policy and resource allocation (concretization of a right)

PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

Pal (1992)

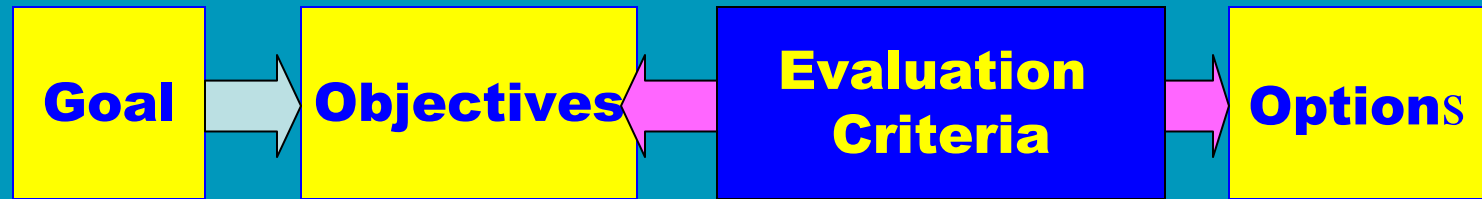*" the disciplined application of intellect to public problems "*

Weimer & Vining (1992)

" client-oriented advice relevant to public decisions and informed by social values "

Patton & Sawicki (1993)

" a process that usually begins with problem definition rather than the broader inventory phase of the planning process. It also yields alternatives, but the final document is likely to be a memorandum, issue paper, or draft legislation. It has a specific client and a single point of view, a shorter time horizon, and an openly political approach. The final product of such a process is called policy analysis."

The Core Of Policy Analysis

Goal → Objectives ← Evaluation Criteria → Options

A Basic Framework for Policy Analysis

Goal	Objectives	Criteria	Option #1	Option #2	Option #3
statement of a general principle or broad intent, e.g., improve the health of Canadians	#1 concrete targets which together will achieve the broader goal	a. standards to judge attainment of objective, plus data and sources	assessment of how well each option achieves each criteria		
		b.			
		c.			
	#2	a.			
		b.			
		c.			
	#3	a.			
		b.			
		c.			

Doing Policy Analysis (*Policy Paper format)

Issue introduction

Background

Key issues

Stakeholders

Constraints

Goal

Objectives

Evaluation

Options

Risks

Recommendations

Implementation

Doing Policy Analysis (*Policy Paper format)

Advice to the Minister

Issue: 1 -2 lines

Background: 5 to 10 key points

Options: 2 or 3, with weighted pros/cons for each

Recommended Ministerial Action: e.g. Option # x

Next Steps: e.g. press conference, legislative amendment, regulation change

Contact person: name, title, branch

[2 pages maximum, use headings & bullet points, no references]

GOOD OR BAD POLICIES

- To assess what is a good or a bad policy is not easy.

- However, a good policy sets out a clear message about what it intends to achieve and should be much more than a wish-list.

- It should preferably come with clear objectives, targets and indicators of progress, and a budget to make it happen.

- Bad policies are ambiguous, difficult to interpret and hard to make reality of.
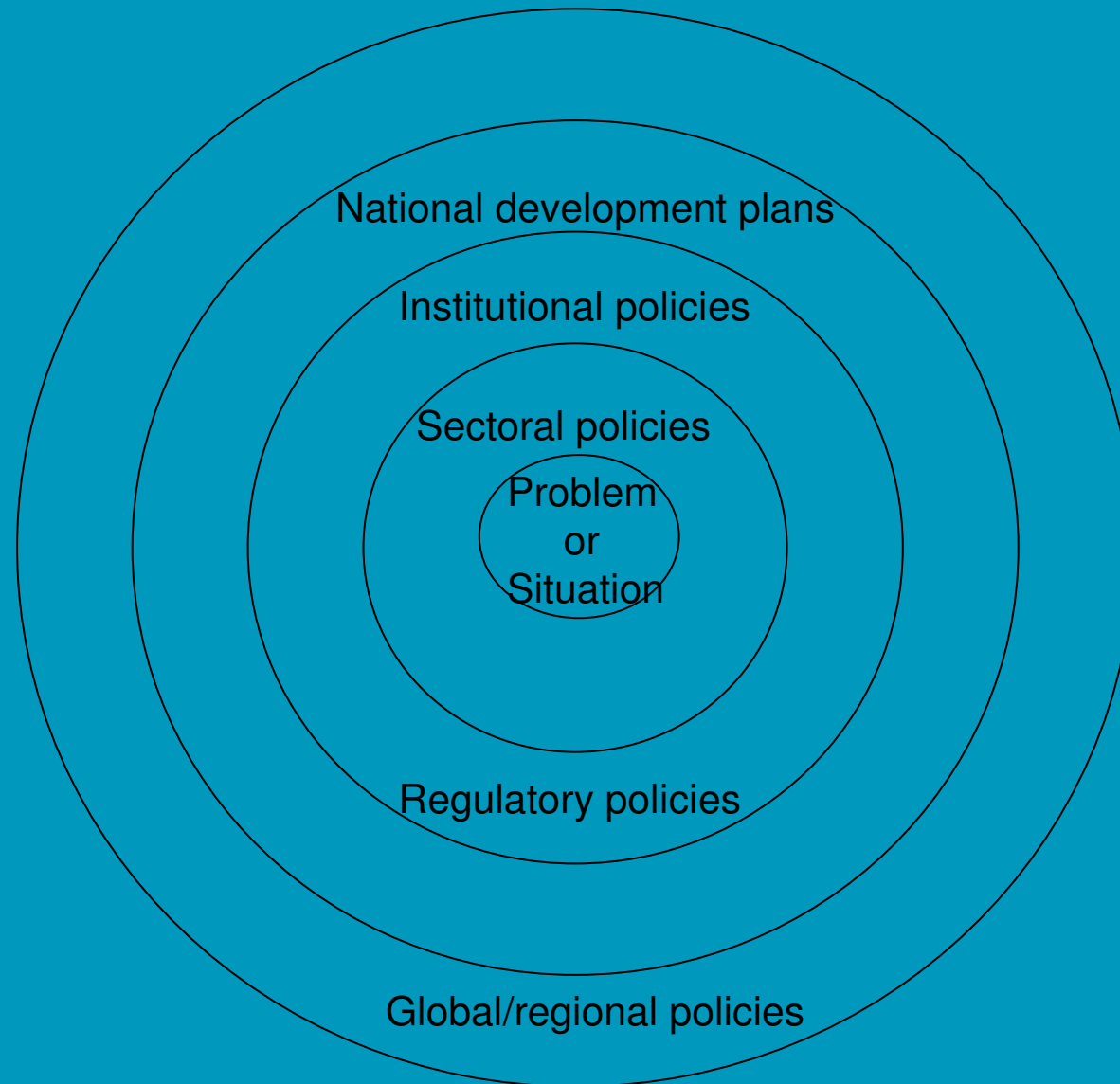
GOOD OR BAD POLICIES?

- When policy-makers design a policy, they most often make assumptions about how people will behave and react to their interventions.

- They assume that desired outcomes and impacts will follow from certain outputs, activities and inputs.

- The assumptions should be based on knowledge of the causes and effects of the problem/situation.

- Good policies are most often based on a thorough analysis of the cases and effects, while bad policies may not be.

Identification of relevant policies

- To identify policies which can lead to changes in outcomes the concentric circles below can be used.

- In the middle circle the problem or situation to be changed is to be written.

- The policies with the most direct impact are written in the circles closest to the middle.

- The polices with the more indirect impact are written in the outer circles.

- Examine the inter-relations

The Analysis

National development plans

Institutional policies

Sectoral policies

Problem
or
Situation

Regulatory policies

Global/regional policies

The Policy- Resource Link