

## Appendix 10 – A Draft Political Context Questionnaire

The questionnaire is intended to add systematic information on political contexts to the Bridging Research and Policy project. We would be very grateful if you could complete this questionnaire.

***The information obtained will be treated with the strictest confidence.***

In order for us to make effective comparisons, this assessment instrument is a pre-coded, multiple-choice questionnaire. Please try to answer all the questions – and please provide further comments to better explain the situation in your country.

### 1 Basic Information

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Main sector of activities: \_\_\_\_\_

#### (i) Who are the policymakers most relevant to your work?

*(PLEASE TICK MORE THAN ONE IF RELEVANT)*

Government Officials	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Media	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ministry Civil Servants	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO Staff	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
Service Provision Officials	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Donors: bi- or multi-lateral	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliamentarians	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	1 <input type="checkbox"/>

#### (ii) Relevant component(s) of the policy process

*(PLEASE ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE POLICY PROCESS ARE RELEVANT TO YOUR WORK.)*

	Very Relevant				Not Relevant
<u>Problem Identification</u> : the part that shows a problem exists and requires action	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Formulation and Adoption</u> : the part develops and selects courses of action	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Implementation</u> : the part that puts the policy into practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Evaluation</u> : the part that assesses the impact of a policy and suggests changes	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

## 2 Broad Political Context

(PLEASE ASSESS THE NATURE OF THE POLITICAL CONTEXT IN YOUR COUNTRY ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING ISSUES)

(i) Extent of Democracy and Relevant Freedoms:	High	Medium	Low
Political Freedom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Freedom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Press Freedom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Extent of development commitment of ruling elite (especially to the poorest)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Extent of political volatility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) To what extent do civil society groups have an input into the making of policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 3 Specific Policy Context

(WHAT IS THE ISSUE FOCUS OF YOUR WORK? PLEASE ASSESS THE NATURE OF THE SPECIFIC POLICY CONTEXT ON THIS ISSUE)

### 3.1 Characteristics of the specific policy arena:

To what extent is there:	High	Medium	Low
<u>Policy</u> <u>maker</u> <u>Demand</u> : Are policymakers actively seeking solutions to problems in this area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Policy</u> <u>maker</u> <u>Consensus</u> : Do policymakers tend to agree on the policy objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Climate of Rationality</u> : Is evidence discussed or do ideology or rhetoric dominate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Open Decision-making</u> : The views of relevant stakeholders are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 3.2 How important is the issue to the wellbeing of the general public?

Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### 3.3 Policymakers on this issue are influenced by:

<u>Public Interests</u> : the extent policies reflect the wellbeing of the general public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Personal Interests</u> : the extent policies reflect the private priorities of the policymaker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Special Interests</u> : the extent policies reflect the narrow priorities of a group concerned with a particular issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 4 Policy Implementation

(IN THE SPECIFIC AREA OF YOUR WORK, PLEASE FOCUS ON THE NATURE OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.)

<b>(i) Are there institutional incentives that encourage civil servants to use research?</b>	Strong <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>(ii) The extent of bureaucrats' capacity to understand research</b>	High <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>(iii) Are there specific mechanisms (e.g. reviews) to draw in evidence in implementation?</b>	High <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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### (iv) Characteristics of policy implementation

(PLEASE ASSESS THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY IN YOUR AREA)

	High	Medium	Low
<u>Transparency</u> – in the decision-making process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Accountability</u> – of bureaucrats for decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Contestation</u> – disagreement over approaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Participation</u> – discussion with stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Flexibility</u> – of an organization in implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Corruption</u> – using public resources for personal gain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 5 Decisive Moments in the Policy Process

(PLEASE IDENTIFY WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TERMS BEST SUITS CURRENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES IN YOUR SPECIFIC AREA OF WORK:)

### (i) The character of the policy making process

<b><u>Routine</u></b> – policymakers repeat previous decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Incremental</u></b> – policymakers make small changes and deal selectively with issues as they arise	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Fundamental</u></b> – policymakers have an opportunity to re-think approaches to policy domains	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Emergent</u></b> – policymakers have to deal with completely new policy issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>(ii) Extent to which the policy process (and opportunities to influence it) are predictable.</b>	Very <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>(iii) At present, is there a policy window? (i.e. an opening for new views to enter the policy process)</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>(iv) To what extent is there a sense of policy crisis?</b>	Very much					Not at all				
	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

## 6 The Way Policymakers Think

(PLEASE ASSESS THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT AFFECT THE WAY POLICYMAKERS THINK IN YOUR SPECIFIC AREA OF WORK)

### (i) About the policy process itself:

	High	Medium	Low
Extent policy objectives are clear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extent cause-effect relationships are clear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extent policymakers are open to new evidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extent policymakers have sufficient capacity to process evidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### (ii) To what extent do policymakers have adequate information to make informed decisions? Please assess the following dimensions in your specific area:

	High	Medium	Low
Relevance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### (iii) What evidence convinces policymakers in your specific area of work?

	High	Medium	Low
Recognition from their own experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenarios, stories and arguments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moral and ethical values	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Empirical data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence doesn't matter – ideology, personal interests are crucial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 7 Finally, what are the main barriers to research uptake in your policy area?

Please provide your assessment by considering the following dimensions:

Issue	Very large					Very Small
Governance failures – overall systemic problems	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific policy process is not open	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other specific process failures – contestation, special interests, etc	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Implementation problems – institutional issues block uptake	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Individual failures – not open	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Research failure – evidence is not relevant or convincing	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other: _____	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other: _____	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	

## 8 Any Other Comments.....