

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall composition is clean and modern, with the text centered in a white space.

**Parallel Session 1: Taking the long view
- how to make evaluations more
relevant and useful.**

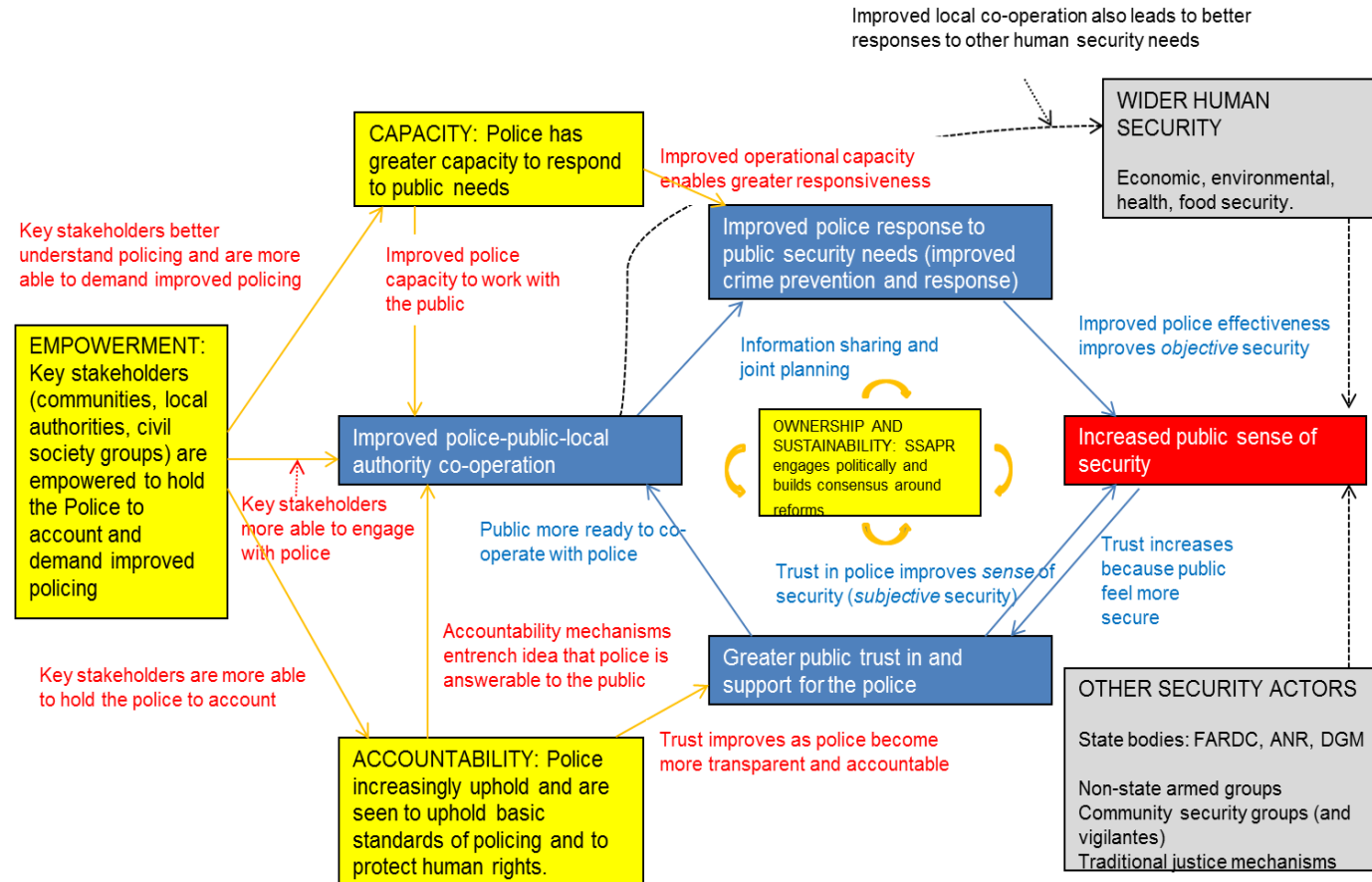
Reasons to take a long term perspective

1. Six reasons mentioned in the plenary presentation
2. Some more important than others
3. Furthermore - the challenge to understand change

Example: Education system

- ▶ Policy changes
- ▶ History of policy evaluations
- ▶ Long-term evaluation
- ▶ Uncovering:
 - ▶ Accumulated effects
 - ▶ Interacting effects
 - ▶ Unintended effects
 - ▶ Nature of changes

Theories of change



Some thoughts on ToCs

- ▶ Show causal patterns, causes and effects
 - ▶ Are often one-way
 - ▶ Do not show interactions
 - ▶ Seldom relate to context
 - ▶ Do not explicitly treat how change happens
1. ToCs are fine, but are only a starting point for more serious thinking

How does change happen?

- ▶ Some questions:
 - ▶ How fundamental is change?
 - ▶ Is change emergent or planned?
 - ▶ Is it continuous or occasional?
 - ▶ What trajectory does change take?
 - ▶ Is there likely to be a tipping point?
 - ▶ Is change reversible or irreversible?

Answers to these questions will be fundamental to understand what has happened and why, and often you need a long term perspective to get credible answers.