Public policy

Public policy is the process by which governments translate their political vision into programmes and actions to deliver outcomes or desired changes in the real world. In his book *'Advanced Introduction to Public Policy'*, B. Guy Peters defines public policy as "the set of activities that governments engage in for the purpose of changing their economy and society".

Public policy making can be characterized as a dynamic, complex, and interactive system through which public problems are identified and resolved by creating new public policy or by reforming existing public policy. Public policy making is an exhausting and time-consuming 'policy cycle'. The basic stages of policy cycle are as follows; a problem is identified, a policy response is formulated, the preferred solution is then selected and implemented, and finally the policy is evaluated. In public policy making, numerous individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations and interest groups compete and collaborate to influence policymakers to act in a particular way.

As an academic discipline, public policy brings in elements of many social science fields and concepts, including economics, sociology and political economy. At the same time, the study of public policy is distinct from political science or economics. Traditionally, the academic field of public policy focused on domestic policy. However, the wave of economic globalization that occurred in the late 20th and early 21st centuries created a need for a subset of public policy that focused on global governance, especially as it relates to issues that transcend national borders such as climate change, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and economic development.