



**Permanent Mission of Colombia
to the United Nations**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Summary of the HLPF 2016 side event on

Developing institutional mechanisms to deliver action and engage stakeholders - Sharing good practices between Colombia and Finland on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Thursday 14 July 2016 at 1:15 - 2:45
Conference Room 7, UNHQ, New York

Background

Finland and Colombia have been cooperating at the political and expert levels since 2015 in order to share good practices and facilitate mutual learning on the national implementation of 2030 Agenda. The cooperation led to a joint workshop which was organized in June 2016 in Bogotá, Colombia, with a focus on building institutional capacity, creating mechanisms to engage the private sector and the civil society, and integration of the SDGs into the national plans and public policies. The joint side event presented the findings of the joint workshop and elaborated good practices and biggest barriers for successful implementation at the national level. It also provided a model of bilateral cooperation and mutual learning between a developed and developing country, both facing the implementation challenge of the global agenda.

Deliberations

The side-event was opened by H.E. Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN. Mr. Sauer emphasized the good cooperation between the two countries on various issues and joint ambition as regards the development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The interactive discussion was conducted between the lead senior officials of Finland and Colombia, Ms. Annika Lindblom, Secretary-General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, and Mr. Felipe Castro, Technical Secretary for the Inter-institutional Commission for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of Colombia.

It was recognized that both countries share many commonalities in their institutional and political efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. They have internalized the integrated approach to SDGs and the 2030 Agenda as a whole. Both countries have also developed a systematic approach to make the public policy framework, stakeholder engagement and measurement fit-for-the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, Finland and Colombia have integrated the SDGs into their national strategic documents. The multi-stakeholder approach is one of the cornerstones of the governance mechanisms both in Finland and in Colombia, ranging from civil society organizations, private sector actors, labor unions, academia, municipalities and media, with somewhat different emphasis in respective countries. Both countries emphasize the necessity of engaging the private sector for the effective implementation of a large number of SDG targets.

Some differences were also identified, mainly based on countries' different national circumstances, political priorities and decisions on necessary steps forward. For Colombia, many SDGs are considered as important tools in speeding up implementation of some of the lagging MDG targets, as well as to support the peace-building efforts including the implementation of the peace agreements and the challenges posed by the upcoming post-conflict phase. The challenge for Finland is rather to be able to enhance coherence between the previously separated tracks of development cooperation and domestic sustainability policies. Colombia has an existing reporting and accountability mechanism in place with yearly reports to be prepared, made accessible to the general public and submitted to the national Parliament. For Finland, there is a need to define a comprehensive follow-up and review framework that pulls together the internal and external dimensions of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Finland has proceeded with the engagement of the private sector in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 with a special participatory tool, Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development. As for Colombia, the outreach to municipalities and regions has been successful. Subnational governments should become key partners in localizing the agenda and mobilizing key actors in the territories.

Commentary talks were provided by Ms. Mathilde Bouye, Associate, SDG Delivery Team, World Resources Institute, and Mr. Javier Cortés, Head of Local Networks for Americas Region, United Nations Global Compact. There were also interventions by the ample audience (up to 100 participants). The questions and comments concerned, for example, the roles of private sector, women and indigenous people in the implementation of the agenda. The importance of human rights based approach as well as robust follow-up and review mechanism with measurable indicators was emphasized. The deliberations were summarized by Ms. Marcela Ordóñez, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Mission of *Colombia* to the United Nations.