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Government Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Sustainable Development in Finland
– Long-term, Coherent and Inclusive Action**

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Government Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development in Finland
– Long-term, Coherent and Inclusive Action



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<p>Abstract</p> <p>This report presents the Government's plans regarding the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Finland. The key aim is a carbon-neutral, resource-wise and competent Finland where non-discrimination and equality is secured by 2030.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda is a global action programme which guides Finland and other countries to promote sustainable development on a long-term basis. The aim is to turn the global development into a path where human welfare and human rights, economic prosperity and stable societies can be secured in an environmentally sustainable manner. Extreme poverty is to be eradicated.</p> <p>In line with the Government priorities, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland builds on two themes, as well as three policy principles: long-term action and force for change, consistency, and global partnership, ownership and involvement. The report also describes the monitoring and evaluation procedures.</p> <p>The Government implementation plan is based on the Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, which is Finland's strategic framework for sustainability work and provides an implementation mechanism for anyone in Finland to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p>			
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The global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development steers Finland and other countries on their path to sustainable development. In 2017, Finland's centennial year, building a sustainable future is more important than ever. This report presents Government's plans regarding the implementation of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Finland.

National governments play a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and also bear responsibility for its success. However, governments cannot succeed alone. We need cooperation with civil society and the private sector. We need the input of the scientific community. We need the participation of local governments, regional players and the whole of society. The 2030 Agenda was negotiated in a participatory process, and its implementation can only succeed through cooperation and partnership. Alongside partnership, the 2030 Agenda emphasises multidisciplinary cooperation between countries, citizens, and participating organisations; it also calls for policy coherence, the active exchange of knowledge and experiences, and the sharing of best practices. Finland has all the prerequisites for making the national implementation a success story.

This implementation plan outlines the Government's approach to executing the global action plan. Two key focus areas and three cross-cutting policy principles have been raised to the top of the Government's implementation agenda. Tangible actions are presented that support the implementation of the Government Programme in all of these respects and in line with the sustainable development work already done within all administrative branches.

One of the basic tenets of the implementation plan is that the Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development - *The Finland We Want by 2050*¹ - updated by the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development in the spring

1 The Finland We Want by 2050, <http://kestavakehitys.fi/sitoumus2050>

of 2016, constitutes Finland's national interpretation of the 2030 Agenda. This commitment can be regarded as a plan adopted by the whole of Finnish society to drive sustainable development forward. Meanwhile, the present implementation plan elucidates the actions taken by the Government to implement the 2030 Agenda.

The implementation plan also includes a description of the national follow-up and review framework. To encourage the participation of Finnish society in the formulation of our national sustainable development policy and to include sustainability issues in everyday discussions of legislative and budgetary matters, the Government will include the promotion of sustainable development in its annual report to the Parliament, and establish an annual discussion forum on the current status and future of sustainable development in Finland.

The Prime Minister's Office was responsible for coordinating the preparation of the implementation plan, together with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the general secretariat of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. The coordination network participating in this work covered practically all ministries. A large number of stakeholders were consulted and views and opinions presented at various hearings were considered.

The key theme of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind. We need to ensure sustainable development within planetary boundaries. We are bound by our responsibility to future generations, as well as to preceding generations that have built this country. Finland was built together, and this very same spirit is needed to ensure our sustainable future.

1 The 2030 Agenda and Finland

Finland has a long tradition in promoting sustainable development through interaction and broad-based participation, and is therefore in a good position to begin implementing the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Finland has created a system of ownership to promote sustainable development through institutional arrangements and by motivating various actors in society to take independent action in support of sustainable development. This work has been supported by the long-term, integrated sustainable development approach adopted in early education, schools, educational institutions and universities, and the work carried out by NGOs and businesses. Sustainable development has traditionally been a shared endeavour in Finland.

Finland is committed in advancing the 2030 Agenda as a whole by 2030. The Government's existing policy and legislative framework and the implementation of international and national agreements and strategies provide the basis for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. National implementation will be guided by the Government Programme's vision for Finland in 2025, and the vision of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development for Finland in 2050.



THE FINLAND WE WANT BY 2050
– Society's Commitment
to Sustainable Development



**STRATEGIC PROGRAMME
OF PRIME MINISTER
JUHA SIPILÄ'S GOVERNMENT**

Even if Finland fully implements the 2030 Agenda and adheres to all of its objectives and principles, the effective implementation of global objectives will require the selection of specific focus areas, particularly in respect of resources used by the public sector.

Prime Minister Sipilä's Government Programme provides an effective tool for identifying focus areas for national work. The Government Programme is strongly linked to the 2030 Agenda in areas such as the bio-economy, clean technology, skills and education, and health and well-being. Our foreign and security policy underlines the importance of international stability, peace, democracy, human rights, rule of law and equality in a world governed by interdependencies, with a view to promoting global partnerships.

A safe society in a changing world is a key requirement for sustainable development. At the same time, however, the overall safety and security of society and its vital functions rely on the implementation of sustainable policies. Upholding safety and security is a basic task of society and its members.

The implementation plan outlines the Government's focus areas and actions for enhancing economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development in Finland that are of key importance in terms of *national implementation*. These focus areas support the simultaneous realisation of multiple goals nationally, and also advance the global realisation of sustainable development. A human rights based approach will be followed in implementation, and special attention will be paid to identifying those who are at risk of falling behind.

The Government's development policy, which is part of Finland's foreign and security policy, contains *four priority areas* strongly linked to the 2030 Agenda and its goals: gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women; supporting economies in developing countries in creating jobs, sources of livelihood and well-being; democratic and functioning societies; better food security and access to water and energy; and the sustainability of natural resources. In its development policy report, the Government has made a commitment to promote these priority areas.

The 2030 Agenda as an international policy framework

The adoption of a global action plan for sustainable development by the UN in September 2015 was a unique achievement for the international community. For the first time in world history, all countries agreed on a joint action plan featuring concrete goals for sustainable development. The objective of the 2030 Agenda is to steer global development onto a path where human welfare and human rights, economic prosperity and stable societies can be secured in an environmentally sustainable manner, and extreme poverty is eradicated.²

The 2030 Agenda consists of shared principles, 17 goals and 169 targets, means of implementation and a common follow-up and review mechanism. The goals of the 2030 Agenda are global and apply equally to all countries in the world. Successful implementation requires participation and input at all levels of society, but governments have primary responsibility for the implementation and achievement of the goals.



Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda

2 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

According to the 2030 Agenda, *“The Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each Government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies.”*³

Finland’s starting position for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

A number of international studies have been conducted on the preparedness of countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. A study, addressing the key questions of sustainable development and action plan 2030 (Avain2030), was conducted in Finland in 2016. On the basis of indicator-based material, stakeholder opinions and literature, the study assessed Finland’s readiness to implement the global 2030 Agenda (gap analysis).⁴ The results of the Avain2030 study revealed that Finland performs well in international comparisons on sustainable development and ranks very high in many indices. However, based on the indicators used in the study, the development in Finland has not been commendable with respect to any of the 17 SDG’s in recent years.

The Avain2030 project identified a strong education system and the related competencies, and the general stability of the country’s social systems, as Finland’s particular strengths. Combating climate change and the overuse of natural resources, and promoting economic development and employment, were identified as Finland’s key challenges.

3 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

4 Sustainable development study Avain2030 <http://www.syke.fi/hankkeet/avain2030>



Figure 2. Key conclusions of the Avain2030 project

Finland’s starting position has been assessed in a number of international studies and surveys conducted by organisations such as the OECD⁵, Eurostat⁶, Bertelsmann Foundation⁷ and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)⁸. These studies and reports were used in the preparation of this plan.

In the spring and autumn of 2016, a number of events organised by various stakeholder groups, the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee were held in which key sustainability issues and Finland’s focus areas in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were discussed. In addition, active organisations have drawn up and presented proposals⁹ regarding the implementation of the goals of the 2030 Agenda in Finland. Similarly, the Expert Panel on Sustainable Development has presented

5 Measuring distance to the SDGs targets. <http://www.oecd.org/std/measuring-distance-to-the-sdgs-targets.htm>

6 Sustainable development: a glance at where the European Union stands <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7742359/8-22112016-AP-EN.pdf/25c95743-e941-462f-99ba-6dd2ddd71378>

7 Sustainable development goals: Are the rich countries ready? http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/studies/SDGs_Are-the-rich-countries-ready_2015.pdf

8 SDG Index and Dashboards – Global Report. <http://www.sdgindex.org/>

9 Finnish civil society organisations’ recommendations for Finland’s Agenda 2030 implementation plan https://www.kepa.fi/tiedostot/agenda_2030_cso_recommendations_finland.pdf

its proposals¹⁰ for key priority areas. The views presented in these events and publications offered valuable reference material and served as a guideline for defining the focus areas¹¹.

Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development – a national interpretation of the 2030 Agenda

Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, "*The Finland We Want by 2050*" presents Finland's interpretation of the 2030 Agenda.

Drawn up by the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development in 2013, the commitment consists of a vision, principles and eight goals for Finland for the period up to 2050, and provides national strategic guidelines for sustainable development. The commitment was updated in spring 2016 to align it with the principles, goals and implementation mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda.

10 Five spearheads for sustainable development. The Expert Panel on Sustainable Development. October 2016. <http://www.sitra.fi/en/julkaisu/2017/five-spearheads-sustainable-development>

11 <http://kestavakehitys.fi/agenda2030/toimeenpano-suomessa> (available only in Finnish)



Figure 3: Correlation of the objectives set in the Society’s Commitment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda

This Government implementation plan is based on the vision, principles and goals set forth in Society’s Commitment, which provide a long-term framework for Finland’s sustainability work. The Commitment has also served as a central starting point for the selection of key focus areas for this plan.

Society’s Commitment, adopted by the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, is Finnish society’s vision of sustainable development and interpretation of the challenges that must be overcome to achieve it. The Commitment will continue to serve as a strategic framework document that brings together and guides all stakeholders’ efforts in building sustainable Finland and world. The Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development continues to have the responsibility of keeping the Commitment up to date.

Society's Commitment is also an implementation mechanism that enables citizens, businesses, organisations, municipalities and other stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. All levels of society can significantly contribute to the success of sustainable development.

The Government and its administrative branches participate in a number of ways in the implementation of the Society's Commitment and the goals of the 2030 Agenda. This plan describes the current implementation focus areas and actions that will be regularly assessed as we proceed with the implementation.

2 Implementation focus areas

This plan provides an implementation framework up until 2030, as well as a framework for national follow-up and review. It defines focus areas for all branches and levels of government, together with key policy principles. It also underlines the importance of ownership, commitment, cooperation and individual action among all actors in society.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland builds on two themes: **Carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland**, and **a non-discriminating, equal and competent Finland**. Based on broad consultations, these are the areas most in need of improvement in Finland, but they also provide opportunities for supporting and promoting sustainable development abroad.

The two focus areas are strongly interdependent; one cannot be achieved without the other. To achieve a carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland, we need to invest in competence development and change management in ways that are fair and sustainable for individuals and society as a whole. The education system and employment policy must be able to adapt to meet the new requirements. Access to skilled labour force must be secured. Safeguarding sustainable economy and employment will allow further development of the welfare society.

The Government stresses the importance of coherence between national and international policies. The impacts of our actions transcend national boundaries. Global responsibility calls for justice and fairness: with our actions we must ensure the prerequisites for sustainable development, and thereby for peace and security in all parts of the world.

Sustainable economy as a means and an enabler

A strong, sustainable and universally beneficial economy is linked with the achievement of all of the sustainable development goals. However, economic sustainability is not possible without social and environmental sustainability. The goal is to build a sustainable economy that creates wellbeing and quality of life, while reducing environmental harms.

The key role of work and the economy in the achievement of sustainable development goals has been recognised in several research papers and in workshops and events held by different stakeholders and committees. Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda, 'Decent work and economic growth', has also been identified as one of the goals where Finland needs to strengthen its performance.

The Government is taking determined action to promote decent work and economic growth, with the objective of steering the Finnish economy onto a path of sustainable growth and rising employment. The challenges currently being experienced in Finland are largely structural; the growth of debt should be halted in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner. Government responds to these challenges by conducting structural reforms that will promote employment, entrepreneurship and economic growth. A sustainable economy will enable the successful implementation of this plan, and is important to the achievement of sustainable development.

Corporate social responsibility is an essential element of both focus areas at national and global level. Finland will continue to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011). The objective is to achieve conformity with the UN principles in government activities. In practice, implementation consists of training and education, the provision of information, and dialogue with various stakeholders. In its work on business and human rights, Finland draws on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the related due diligence guidance.

Focus area 1 – A carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland

Determined joint action will be required in the next few decades to address global population growth and rising material consumption. On a global scale, we have already exceeded the planetary boundaries for biodiversity and climate change. Human activity and the use of natural resources must respect the limits of the carrying capacity of nature, in order to safeguard the functional capacity of ecosystems. To fight climate change, we must abandon the use of fossil fuels, which will require a transition to renewable energy, increased energy efficiency, and reduced energy consumption.

Finland is a developed society whose challenge is to generate wellbeing in a way that ensures environmental sustainability and social justice, both nationally and globally. While doing this, Finland should strengthen its economic performance and competitiveness, enhance its citizens' competence, skills and knowledge, and foster industrial renewal in order to create jobs with higher added value and productivity. An abundance of renewable natural resources, a high level of education and technological competence, the ability to capitalise on digital solutions and robotisation, and to identify and solve problems, provide Finland with a firm foundation for building a carbon-neutral and resource-wise society by 2050.

Similarly, Finnish regions, provinces, municipalities and cities can make decisions and take action to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote the wise use of resources and increase local wellbeing and business opportunities. This will also better equip local residents and companies with local operations to pursue sustainable lifestyles and production methods. A number of municipalities are already leading the way in sustainability issues.

To become carbon-neutral and resource-wise by 2030, Finland must take determined and ambitious actions to increase energy, resource and material efficiency, to sustainably grow the share of renewable energy sources, to produce and export climate-friendly products, services and innovations, and build low-emission sectors and business models. Companies and the innovations they develop will play a crucial role in the achievement of these goals. New business and exports must be sustainable and based on the principles of corporate social responsibility.

Key actions:

The Government has committed itself to the actions listed below during the current electoral term.

1.1 Launch the implementation of the energy and climate strategy

The Government's key project 'Towards carbon-free, clean and renewable energy cost-efficiently' aims to increase the sustainable use of renewable energy to more than 50 per cent in the 2020s and self-sufficiency to over 55 per cent; to ensure that biomass is compliant with sustainability criteria and to agree on fair burden sharing within the EU and in international climate negotiations; to introduce a compensation system for the indirect impact on electricity prices of emissions trading; to abandon the use of coal in energy production and cut by half the use of imported oil for domestic consumption in the 2020s; to raise the share of renewable transport fuels to at least 40 per cent by 2030, while supporting industry and its export activities; and to encourage the public sector to implement carbon-neutral energy solutions, and in heating replace the use of imported oil with clean renewable alternatives.

1.2 Prepare and implement a plan for medium-term climate policy

The implementation of Finland's Climate Change Act (609/2015) has begun with the preparation of a medium-term climate policy plan looking forward to 2030. The plan includes a set of actions designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from human activities and to mitigate climate change in sectors not covered by emissions trading, such as transport, separate heating systems for buildings, waste and agriculture. As necessary, climate policy plan will be coordinated with other energy and transport policy planning, such as the energy and climate strategy. Compatibility with other policy areas and actions is important, while taking account of issues such as society's preparedness for disruptions.

1.3 Create sustainable bioeconomy and cleantech solutions

By developing, introducing and exporting sustainable solutions, the government is striving to improve national balance of current account, increase self-sufficiency, create new jobs, meet climate goals and improve the state of the Baltic Sea. For the

creation of new jobs, the government relies on the growth of cleantech businesses, increasing the sustainable use of natural resources, promoting diversified rural entrepreneurship, nature tourism and an efficient circular economy, without compromising environmental protection. Steps will be taken to significantly reduce the administrative burden that is slowing down renewal. The objective is to increase the profitability of food production and improve the balance of trade by EUR 500 million. A national material efficiency programme will be put into action in line with the Government Programme, under which companies and other actors will be supported during the transition to resource-wise practices.

The government has also decided to diversify the use of wood, based on an annual increase of 15 million cubic metres, higher added value and compliance with good forestry practices. In addition, nature conservation will be ensured, and the local acceptance of natural conservation measures will be supported through open collaboration and participatory decision-making. Steps will be taken to increase national and international recreation and ecotourism, and sustainable growth will be pursued in respect of water-related livelihoods and competences (blue bioeconomy). The objective is to streamline the ways in which biodiversity is promoted and to ensure the ecological sustainability of forest-based bioeconomy. The national forest strategy will be implemented in line with the Government Programme, one of the goals of which is the active and versatile use of forests in an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable way.

Finland is providing competitive and sustainable bioeconomy solutions to global problems, while creating new business, jobs and exports and adhering to the principles of responsible business. With the growing significance of the Arctic region, players in the bioeconomy and cleantech sectors and in Arctic tourism will tap into new opportunities while respecting the Arctic environment.

1.4 Follow the road map to the circular economy alongside implementing organisations

The government is committed to tapping into the growing potential of the circular economy and investing in order to achieve the greatest impact. Measures to achieve this include the efficient recovery of nutrients, particularly in the Baltic Sea and other sensitive areas, with the objective of having at least 50 per cent of manure and municipal waste water sludge treated in an advanced processing facility by 2025; raising the municipal waste recycling rate to at least 50 per cent; simplifying the regulations applicable to recycling-based solutions; imposing a landfill ban on recyclable waste as of 2025; and carrying out projects and experiments to promote the circular economy and recycling. A road map has been prepared to supplement the government's activities, which will be implemented through broad-based co-operation. The focus areas of the road map to a circular economy include a sustainable food system, forest-based loops, technical loops, and transport and logistics.

1.5 Accelerate public procurement in central and local government

The annual value of public procurement is approximately EUR 35 billion, accounting for some 16% of GDP. Local government accounts for two thirds of all procurement. In line with the Government Programme, the public sector is being encouraged to adopt carbon neutral energy solutions. In addition, the five per cent objective for innovative public procurement set forth in the Government Programme is intended to increase demand for cleantech products and services.

It is the government's objective to join forces with municipalities, businesses and research organisations to develop low-carbon transport and energy systems, smart grids, material and energy efficient infrastructure construction, and sustainable housing solutions in order to generate new business and create domestic references for promoting the export of clean solutions. To improve the strategic management of procurement, targets will be set, monitoring practices will be developed, and competences and incentives to procure sustainable and innovative solutions will be provided. The purpose of measures taken to improve strategic management and competence is to enhance the social responsibility and effectiveness of public procurement. Measures to increase social responsibility include improving risk assessment and sustainability across the supply chain

through dialogue, while drawing on the principles of business and human rights laid down by the UN and other organisations.

1.6 Support sustainable innovations

The transition to a carbon neutral economy, in other words replacing fossil or non-renewable raw materials with renewable, sustainably produced materials, requires the reform of the economy and business sector and the creation of a supportive research and innovation policy. The transition requires new production methods, business concepts and ways of organising work. Digital solutions support such change. Companies and their own innovations will play a crucial role in this.

The government is supporting such innovations through programmes run by the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation Tekes, research projects conducted by VTT and universities, and the Työelämä2020 project. Finland has joined the international Mission Innovation -initiative, and has decided to double its innovation funding for renewable energy.

1.7 Enforce the Transport Code to enable more sustainable and flexible transport

All regulation in the transport markets will be brought under one Transport Code, which will promote the adoption of new technology, digitalisation and new business concepts. Open data and more efficient use of data resources will create the preconditions for new business ideas. The objective is to facilitate the creation of new service models and thereby better meet the needs of users.

The Transport Code will drive the transition to a carbon neutral and resource wise economy. The medium to long term impacts on resource efficiency are likely to be significant. Within the Transport Code, the transport system is examined as a single entity with the objective of improving interoperability and coordination between various elements. This will also facilitate the pooling of transport services and create more efficient service chains, thereby improving capacity utilisation across the transport services system. With better access to a wide range of transport services and combinations of services, the need for an individually owned car will decrease.

The Transport Code will also strive for reducing regulation and thereby facilitating market entry.

1.8 Prepare and implement a national programme for sustainable urban development

Finland is committed to the New Urban Agenda adopted at the Habitat III conference in October 2016, whose commitments, implementation and follow-up support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This involves a commitment to promote social engagement, to foster an urban environment providing wealth and opportunities for everyone, to safeguard biodiversity and recreational facilities, and to pursue environmentally sustainable and viable urban development. In 2017, the government will launch a national programme for sustainable urban development, which will bring together all national priority areas regarding the principles and actions for urban development.

1.9 Promote carbon-neutrality and wise use of resources globally

The Paris agreement on climate change acknowledges the obligation of developed countries to support developing countries in their climate change mitigation actions. Climate change will hit poor people in developing countries hardest. Finland's development policy takes climate change into account: all actions are targeted at curbing climate change, and at adaptation and preparedness. Finland emphasises that all citizens, particularly women and young people, should be provided with the opportunity to take part in climate work and the related decision-making processes.

Climate funding is part of Finland's development co-operation funding, which is intended to help developing countries pursue carbon neutrality and wise use of resources. Finland has undertaken to finance the implementation of multilateral climate and environmental agreements. This takes place through various channels such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Further efforts are being made to ensure that a significant part of the funding allocated to development co-operation directly or indirectly supports climate actions. The new contribution of EUR 530 million available during the government term, for co-operation in the form of investment or lending, is also largely targeted at climate funding. In its dealings with international financial institutions, Finland

promotes investments in renewable energy, sustainable transport solutions and other natural resource efficient solutions.

The key objective is to link climate actions in developing countries to actions taken to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, and incorporate them into their general sustainable development policies and plans. To ensure a sustainable future with low emissions and active climate change mitigation, private funds must be allocated to the fight against climate change. Development funding providers operating in the private sector, such as Finnfund, are a case in point: about 60% of Finnfund's funding is allocated to climate projects. Finland supports actions to mainstream coal pricing and to eliminate subsidies for fossil fuels.

Open global markets and easier market entry will promote green growth and employment, both in Finland and globally. Deregulation of trade will lower prices, thereby facilitating the introduction of new environmental technologies in developing countries. Development co-operation that supports trade creates better conditions for developing countries to tap into new, green value chains and export opportunities. Sustainable development and cleantech exports are reflected in all EU trade agreement negotiations. The objective of multilateral negotiations aimed at achieving free trade in environmental goods (Environmental Goods Agreement, EGA) is to improve export opportunities. Team Finland and its growth programmes are geared towards driving exports of cleantech and other sustainable development solutions. The new Public Sector Investment Facility introduced in 2017 will support the acquisition of Finnish technology, such as environmental technology, by developing countries.

Focus area 2 – A non-discriminating, equal and competent Finland

According to the values espoused by Finnish society, everyone is a valuable and equal member of society, and everyone has equal opportunities for wellbeing and good life, health, working and functional capacity, education and employment. Everyone is entitled to participate in society in a meaningful way. Ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people, and supporting civil engagement are

of particular importance. Promoting gender equality is an integral part of the implementation of all the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Inequality has increased in Finland. To reduce inequality and poverty, attention should be paid to safeguarding a sufficient income and equal wellbeing and employment services for everyone. Providing employment and training, and building skills and competences in all sectors and at all levels, will help to achieve an open, equal, participatory and non-discriminating society. A safe and stable society is the best breeding ground for these values.

Finland's employment rate is rising and youth unemployment is decreasing. Nevertheless, the proportion of long-term unemployed of all unemployed is currently more than 35 per cent – more than ever before, and this number is predicted to rise in the next few years.

To achieve equality and engagement, the development towards inequality and disparity must be prevented in measurable ways. Preventing inequality and disparity between different population groups is the only way of securing the population's long-term wellbeing and a peaceful and stable society. This also affects internal security and crime.

The achievement of this goal – a non-discriminating, equal and competent Finland – by 2030 will require determined steps to prevent youth and long-term unemployment, the social exclusion of certain population segments, the polarisation of labour markets, and the segregation of living and residential areas. Action is also needed to reduce health inequality, promote gender equality, support lifelong learning and equality of education, and to raise the population's educational and skill levels. Equal access to services for the ageing population will support non-discrimination and helps to ensure dignity in old age. Fostering an open and positive attitude is important when planning the various functions of society.

Business life, the labour market and society are in turmoil following rapid advances in digitalisation, robotisation and artificial intelligence. Rapid technological advancement may generate inequality, as a growing number of people are at risk of falling behind. As more and more service systems become digital, attention should

be paid to ensuring that everyone has equal access to services, and has the skills and ability to use them.

Engagement and a sense of community can be fostered with services providing access to culture and physical activity, opportunities for independent cultural and physical activities, and diversified youth work. Participation in community activities can prevent social exclusion and, in extreme cases, even violent radicalisation.

In Finland, people trust the authorities and other people. People respect the principle of rule of law. This trust reinforces social cohesion, which is the foundation for a safe, secure and well-functioning society. Besides the work carried out by the authorities, factors affecting internal security include social exclusion, income gaps, employment, economic conditions, and discrimination. Families, local communities, social and health care services, and schools play a key role in building wellbeing which itself promotes safety. In addition, the role of the authorities is to provide, maintain and develop safety in general, which includes the performance of society's vital functions.

The government endorses work-based immigration, which will bolster employment and the public finances in Finland, improve our dependency ratio, and promote the internationalisation of our economy. As a result of global mobility, the operating environment of immigration administration is continuously changing, and this necessitates monitoring and analysis. Research data must be used more effectively. Finland should also have the courage to take new initiatives regarding immigration. Co-operation will be intensified, both at the Nordic and at EU level.

Finland promotes global stability and security. In keeping with the key objectives of its development policy, Finland aims to reduce global inequality and help the poorest countries with capacity-building. We seek to bring stability to crisis areas through comprehensive crisis management. Stability-promoting actions with which Finland contributes to the achievement of sustainable development – in crisis areas and globally – include civilian and military crisis management, peace mediation and peacekeeping, and the security sector reform. These stabilising actions promote sustainable development in crisis areas and globally. Finland acts coherently so that different policy sectors all contribute to advancing sustainable development globally.

Key actions:

The Government has committed itself to the actions listed below during the current electoral term.

2.1 Improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities

The objective of the extensive health and social services reform is to reduce health and wellbeing inequality, improve equal availability and access to services, and control costs. Inequality is growing in health and social services. Citizens are not being provided with equal access to health services, and the quality of care varies between population segments and social welfare and health care districts. The situation will be even more challenging in the future, as the ageing population generates higher social welfare and health care costs.

The implementation of the government's key project, "Health and wellbeing will be fostered and inequalities reduced", will support healthy lifestyles and mental health, reduce the harm to health associated with buildings, and narrow the health and wellbeing gap. Proven best practices will be adopted in public, private and third sector activities to better support the wellbeing, health and empowerment of the population groups that are in the weakest position.

In accordance with the government's action plan for gender equality, the project will seek to define equality targets and to assess and report on the impacts of different actions taken with respect to gender equality at various stages of the reform.

2.2 Secure access to skilled labour force in changing labour markets and prevent social exclusion

Business life, labour markets and working life will continue to undergo dramatic structural changes. The skills and competences of the workforce must be raised to ensure companies have access to skilled workforce during structural change. This will also help to prevent unemployment and social exclusion. Actions outlined in the government programme to this end include an employment programme for growth companies, the change security mechanism, and labour market training,

which will reduce the mismatch between supply and demand and accelerate re-employment.

Labour market training supports business growth and development during times of structural change, by facilitating the recruitment of new employees and promoting competence development in particular. All unemployed jobseekers, persons laid off and those employed but in need of new professional skills can apply for labour market training.

The government is working to transform employment services into services that support the growth and internationalisation of companies and the availability of new workforce. The individual needs of companies will be taken into consideration, services will become multisectoral, and digital services will be introduced. Multisectoral support will improve the efficiency of public service production and create new opportunities for cooperation between the public-private and third sector. Individual and customised services help to prevent exclusion from the labour markets and facilitate re-entry to education and employment.

2.3 Significantly increase the chances of persons with partial work ability to find employment and remain at work

The government key project “Career opportunities for people with partial work ability”, which seeks to facilitate or maintain the employment of persons with partial work ability or who do not participate in the open labour market, will be implemented. This will improve the equality, and in many cases the quality of life, of people with partial work ability. It will also raise the productivity of society.

2.4 Promote integration of immigrants

The integration of immigrants is vital to the promotion of non-discrimination and inclusion. The implementation of the Integration Act is being guided and enhanced through the integration programme (2016-2019). The actions outlined in the programme will create the conditions for providing equal opportunities to immigrants and making more efficient use of immigrants’ skills and competences in Finnish society. The objective is to accelerate integration and the transition into integration-promoting services and employment, while making the most of immigrants’ cultural and professional backgrounds. Integration work will be

promoted and developed as a multisectoral effort between immigrant and non-governmental organisations, business life and labour market organisations, religious communities, educational institutes and other actors. Similarly, action will be taken to promote the integration of immigrants outside working life. High-quality basic education will make young immigrants better equipped for continued education and working life. Multi-professional support will be provided to immigrant families. The objective is to encourage members of all population groups to participate and to make everyone feel they are an important part of our society. Open discussion on immigration policy is encouraged, but racism will not be tolerated.

2.5 Implement an action plan to prevent hate speech and racism and to promote social inclusion

No forms of racism or discrimination will be tolerated in any population group. The “Meaningful in Finland” action plan to prevent hate speech and racism and to promote social inclusion will be implemented. According to the programme, the fight against hate speech and racism and the promotion of diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination should be mainstreamed in all policies and practices of the Ministry of Education and Culture. In addition, the promotion of diversity, communality and inclusion will be added to the selection criteria for projects financed by discretionary funds from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The role of public libraries as places for fostering active citizenship, cultural diversity and democracy will be strengthened. The education of teaching staff and other professionals who work with children and young people will be developed, and they will be trained to promote human rights and non-discrimination and prevent hate speech. A special government grant will be made available for municipal youth services preventing hate speech.

2.6 Strengthen the functional ability of the elderly by securing the necessary services

The government key project “Home care for older people will be developed and informal care enhanced in all age groups” will be implemented to improve services for the elderly. From society’s perspective, it would be wise to allocate resources to activities that improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of the ageing population, to ensure they stay functional and are able to remain in working life as

envisaged in the pension reform. To address the ageing of the population, a service system reform is required that will enable the financially sustainable provision of high-quality care until the 2030s, after which the number of elderly will begin to decline. Services should primarily be brought to the customer's home and be accessible from there. With the number of people in the youngest age groups falling, working methods in elderly care should be redesigned to allow personnel to spend most of their working time on direct work with customers.

2.7 Implement vocational education reform

The government key project "Reform of vocational upper secondary education" involves the reform of vocational education by creating a competence-based system, which will be supported by removing subject barriers in vocational education for young people and adults. A new education agreement model will be adopted to promote practical learning, and apprenticeship-based training will be developed. The structures, funding, steering, regulation and practices and policies of vocational education will be revised. The objective of the vocational education reform is to create a flexible, competence-based and customer-oriented system that allows each individual to pursue further education based on their current needs.

2.8 Further develop the youth guarantee system, secure a study place, and strengthen social welfare and health care services for young people

The objective of the key project "Youth guarantee towards community guarantee" is to support young people's inclusion, equality, life management skills and community involvement. Cooperation between the public, private and third sectors will be enhanced to offer stronger support to young people. Best practices will be disseminated nationwide. One example of activities taken under the sustainable development agenda is the *Ohjaamo* service, which helps young people to find employment or rehabilitation. *Ohjaamo* service points operate closely with companies and the third sector. Outreach youth work will be intensified to reach young people at risk of social exclusion. Youth workshops coach young people to help them access and complete education, to pass examinations and become employed in the open labour markets, and to improve their life management skills. The social and health services offered to young people will be improved, and rehabilitation guaranteed to those in need.

2.9 Actively promote gender equality

The government's actions to promote equality between women and men and to combat gender-based discrimination are included in the Government action plan for gender equality. The key objectives of the plan and long-term equality policy goals include diminishing the wage gap between men and women, supporting the reconciliation of work and family life, and preventing violence against women and domestic violence. Measures to be implemented, during the current government term, to achieve these goals include implementation of the tripartite pay system, consolidating family friendly practices in workplaces, ensuring the enforcement of the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, reinforcing the shelter network, and starting a 24-hour helpline service.

2.10 Increase affordable rental housing production and improve the living conditions of different population groups

The government's housing policy strives to provide all citizens with housing appropriate to their life situations, and to promote sustainable development, the effective functioning of society and labour markets, and the ability of residents to influence decision-making. The government key project "Increased housing production" involves creating the preconditions for the increased production of affordable rental housing.

Measures to promote accessibility support non-discrimination against people with disabilities and promote their social inclusion. Renovation of the housing stock will provide elderly people with the opportunity to continue living in their homes. The agreements between the State and regional growth centres coordinating land use, housing and transport specify housing production objectives for new areas and built areas where the residential density will be increased. In addition, infrastructure grants will encourage supplementary construction and the construction of new residential areas. Proactive and systematic property management measures will be implemented to maintain the service capacity and viability of the building and housing stock. The housing conditions of different population groups will be improved and homelessness will be prevented through the existing standard housing policy procedures. Existing practices and policies will be continued in order to prevent residential segregation.

2.11 Safeguard the internal security of Finland

The internal security strategy and action plan outlined in the Government Programme will be implemented. Equality is a key resource for Finland, and the social and economic sustainability built on it forms the basis of the stability and wellbeing of our society. Because growing inequality is having a negative effect on Finland's internal security, greater account must be taken of the principle of sustainable development when promoting internal security. Decision-making on security matters must be brought closer to citizens. This will increase individual and community empowerment and thereby the safety of our society.

2.12 Support citizens in an increasingly digital society

An advisory board will be set up to discuss ways of offering all citizens the opportunity to lead a full life in our increasingly digital society. This advisory board will be a permanent communication channel between NGOs and the Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for the digitalisation of public services. The advisory board will work actively to promote the development of Citizen's Offices, the digital services support model, the roadmap for services which will primarily be available in electronic format, and the implementation of the Directive on Accessibility.

2.13 Facilitate access to art and culture

A government key project will be implemented with the objective of incorporating culture into children's daily lives, supporting the creativity of children and young people, and making basic art education and children's culture accessible in every part of the country. Opportunities for using culture to enhance wellbeing will be more widely acknowledged, and the percent-for-art principle will be applied more extensively in cooperation with the social and health care services, in order to promote wellbeing. The objective is to permanently include art and culture-based wellbeing services in the structures and follow-up practices of the social and health care services.

2.14 Promote equality and non-discrimination globally

Gender equality and the rights of women and girls are a key driver of impactful work within Finland's foreign and security policy. Major themes include participation in political decision-making, the economic empowerment of women

(e.g. entrepreneurship, leadership and the right to education), guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights to everyone, the prevention of violence against women and girls, and the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), including women's participation in peace mediation.

In human rights policy and development policy, these themes get operationalized also through cooperation with the UN organisations, international financial institutions and the EU. Finland's contributions to the UN are primarily targeted at the organisations that are most relevant for the promotion of the position of women and girls, and whose main task is to support developing countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Finland is one of key contributors to these organisations. Also bilateral development cooperation efforts focus on gender equality issues. Finnish NGOs carry out their development cooperation work at grassroots level, thereby contributing to improving the position of women and girls in many countries.

By adopting responsible policies, Finland can contribute to stability and equality within societies. Finland invests in developing peaceful solutions, such as the rule of law, a functional society and democracy, and good governance, including institutions important to taxation such as customs and national audit authorities. Finland supports actions taken in developing countries to create and build a stronger economic foundation, to develop the business environment, and to sustainably manage, use and tax the countries' natural resources.

Half of the world's population are aged under 30. The fulfilment of human rights among young people, including their access to education and paid employment, will affect the stability of societies and development in all sectors.

Finland supports decent work on a global basis as part of sustainable, inclusive growth and employment for all. This includes actions to stop forced labour and child labour, particularly in their worst forms. Finland also seeks to promote equality and non-discrimination in working life, equal pay for men and women, employees' freedom of association, and occupational safety. These objectives are supported through the UN system (ILO) and through EU development cooperation efforts and some of its trade policy instruments. Efforts are also being made to support the convergence of national labour legislation and its implementation with international standards worldwide. The impact of these actions would be more

extensive than individual projects, and they would be wider in scope and duration, and more cost-efficient. The challenges associated with ensuring decent work lie in the development of global labour markets and the fairness and social responsibility of international trade in global labour and production markets.

Finland pursues an active human rights policy that emphasises equality, non-discrimination and the right to participate. Finland is taking global action to ensure the fulfilment of human rights and democracy for all development goals, particularly the development of methods of implementing the following goals and assessing their impacts: gender equality, reduced inequalities, and peace, justice and strong institutions. Action to promote these goals is being taken in international and European organisations, and in bilateral cooperation with other governments and civil society.

As crises and unstable and fragile societies elsewhere in the world cause growing global mobility, Finland must ensure controlled migration and address the negative phenomena associated with migration, such as illegal entry, human smuggling and trafficking, and other exploitation of people in a vulnerable position.

As a member of the EU, Finland has its say in international trade negotiations and can promote the entry into markets of products that are vital to the development of poorer countries. Finland will invest more in the development of financial administration and taxation, and increase its participation in global work to create ground rules fostering taxation and corporate responsibility. Finland contributes to the building of stronger civil societies in developing countries and works in cooperation with Finnish civil society.

Finland also promotes global sustainable development on a regional basis in the northern hemisphere. The EU and the Arctic Council can promote sustainable development in the Arctic regions as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3 Key policy principles of implementation

The successful promotion of sustainable development will place major demands on political decision-making and administration. Decision-making and administrative action need to be long-term and transformative, increase policy coherence and aim at strengthening global partnerships, and underline ownership and inclusion. These are the key policy principles of sustainable development and also the key requirements for successful implementation, to which the Government will pay special attention.

Tangible action will be taken as part of the national implementation plan to drive forward the realisation of these principles. Prime Minister Sipilä's Government proposes that these principles extend beyond government terms.

A – Long-term action and transformation

The 2030 Agenda is an inter-generationally significant political programme: actions taken by current generations must safeguard the basis of a good life for future generations.

For more than 20 years, the model of sustainable development adopted in Finland has been founded on a long-term approach and the continuity of strategic sustainable development policies. National strategies and programmes on sustainable development have been prepared over several government terms. The Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development was established in 1993 and has been operating under ten different governments, usually led by the Prime

Minister. The Commission's term has intentionally been set to overlap with electoral cycles in order to ensure a long-term approach and the continuity of the policy.

A long-term approach is crucial to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development serves as the long term target framework and tool for policy coherence within the strategic and programme work on sustainable development undertaken by various administrative sectors and societal actors. A long-term approach should also be adopted in resourcing. The aim is to include the principles and objectives of sustainable development in future Government Programmes, the Government's foresight activities and budget preparation.

A lengthy and pervasive systemic social change is needed to implement many of the goals of the 2030 Agenda, which means questioning the status quo and engaging in critical, broad-based debate and research. New operating models are needed for the implementation of Society's Commitment and the 2030 Agenda which will enable the use of research, foresight and experimental data in policy processes linked to sustainable development. A dialogue between policy making and science is necessary to understanding the extensive, complex and interdependent challenges involved in sustainable development, and in order to proceed with implementation. It is also important to foster a critical but constructive public debate in order to identify areas of society in need of change.

A key challenge for many long-term sustainable development goals is achieving change in human behaviour. Different groups and individuals act as consumers and citizens. The social media is creating new data. Scientific research into new data material is therefore recommended, in order to gain new insights on sustainable development goals. This would also provide the basis of foresight on changes in human behaviour.

Key actions:**A.1 Link the Government's foresight activities more closely with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

- Linking the Government's foresight activities, such as Reports on the Future, with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

A.2 Allocate administrative resources in a flexible way and develop competence

- Opportunities will be provided for expert exchange in sustainable development issues, particularly for the purpose of implementing this action plan.
- Sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda will be included in the *VN Passi* training programme for government officials.

A.3 Secure conditions for long-term work promoting sustainable development through interaction and cooperation

- Horizontal interaction and continuous dialogue between key actors (such as the Government Foresight Group, Council for Strategic Research, Economic Council and sustainable development research communities) will be ensured.
- Closer cooperation between the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee will be fostered, and areas of cooperation with the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility will be identified.

A.4 Assess applicability of phenomenon based budgeting

- The possibilities of adopting a phenomenon based (thematic and cross-sectoral) approach to performance management and budgeting will be explored.

A.5 Strengthen the role of research and foresight in sustainable development policy and decision-making

- Cooperation and networking among providers of research, foresight and experiment data – and their impact on decision-making processes
- will be strengthened by creating practices that allow cooperation with decision-makers with respect to data compilation and interpretation.

B – Policy coherence and global partnership

As a global partner, Finland applies foreign and security policy measures such as trade and development policies to support sustainable development in developing countries. The goal of the Government's development policy is to reduce extreme poverty. This will require sustainable economic growth, entrepreneurship and job creation in the target countries. Consequently, the effectiveness of development policy can be significantly enhanced by private sector involvement. Companies can materially contribute to the creation of new jobs, since jobs in developing countries tend to be created in the private sector. This is crucial from the development perspective; lack of jobs increases social instability, which in turn can result in increasing migration.

Growth in developing markets and the resulting increase in wellbeing would also provide new business opportunities for Finnish companies. To be sustainable, business and innovation activities must be inclusive and customised to local needs. Development cooperation that helps to strengthen the target country's institutions and competences (innovation partnerships and ecosystems, and the development of administration in fields such as education and competence and in the private sector) builds a strong foundation for business and innovation.

Finland is taking consistent action to promote the Global Partnership Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda, and the development finance action plan of Addis Ababa Action Agenda through extensive partnerships in fields such as financing, technology development, institution and competence building, and trade. The actors involved can also sign sustainable development partnerships as part of Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development.

Since the effects of Finland's actions extend beyond its national borders, global responsibility and policy coherence are key principles. Decisions made in different policy sectors (including taxation, finance, trade, migration, agriculture) have a major impact on the realisation of sustainable development goals in Finland and globally. Global challenges affect Finland, and we must actively contribute to overcoming them by participating in international negotiations, by providing clean and sustainable solutions globally, and by ensuring that our practices and policies in global value chains adhere to the principles of sustainability and social justice. By participating, the State of Finland and Finnish companies and organisations can improve their position and influence in the global arena.

In February 2016, the Government approved a Report on Finnish Development Policy which is largely founded on the 2030 Agenda. The key objective of Finland's development policy is to reduce poverty and inequality, and to promote the fulfilment of human rights. Key focus areas of the development policy include strengthening the rights and position of girls and women, building the economies of developing countries, driving democracy and functional capacity forward through measures such as more efficient taxation, and improving food security, water and energy supply, and sustainable natural resource policy. In particular, development funds are being provided for the least developed countries, fragile countries, and countries in conflict. In addition to development policy, foreign and security policy in general and, e.g. trade policy, have a significant role in the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In July 2016, the Government approved a Foreign and Security Policy Report, which identified the promotion of sustainable development, including peaceful societies, as one of its objectives. According to the report, Finland will coordinate its own policies for compliance with the 2030 Agenda. Active participation in international cooperation and solving global problems are in Finland's interests and form part of its global responsibility. In this context, Finland stresses the importance of participation in crisis management, arms control, the prevention of terrorism and extremism, conflict prevention, and peace mediation. Finland also promotes sustainable development by contributing to the implementation of the EU's global strategy for foreign and security policy.

The 2030 Agenda, Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development and the priority areas of the Government's foreign and development policy form a

consistent vision and objective framework for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Consistency and coherence between different policy sectors such as trade policy, foreign and security policy, environmental policy, climate and energy policy, natural resources policy, agricultural policy, education policy, and social and health care policy, combined with a simultaneous assessment of the different sustainability aspects, are essential to the fulfilment of sustainable development.

Moreover, policy coherence is vital due to the way in which the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda are interlinked. The objective is the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure that the fulfilment of one goal also promotes the fulfilment of the others. Comprehensive implementation requires the balanced inclusion of social, economic and environmental perspectives in all policies, based on cooperation between different branches of government and key stakeholder groups. A consistent sustainable development policy in which due attention is paid to various interlinked elements would be effective and cost-efficient, and enable change in society.

Comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of sustainable development require the systematic integration of sustainable development goals with key political and administrative processes such as the Government Programme, legislation, budgeting, performance management, and human resources management. Responsibility for the national sustainable development policy coordination was transferred from the Ministry of the Environment to the Prime Minister's Office at the beginning of 2016, allowing the adoption of more systematic approaches in order to enhance policy coherence. At the same time, sustainable development objectives can be integrated with regional processes as part of the development of a new regional administration.

Finland has shared its experiences and practices with international sustainable development organisations, networks and research organisations. Finland has also been involved in close cooperation and peer learning with individual countries.

Key actions:**B.1 Enhance policy coherence to support sustainable development**

- In implementation and reporting, attention will be paid to identifying those groups, including groups outside Finland's borders, which are at risk of falling behind of development, in accordance with the principle of the 2030 Agenda.
- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be reported annually to the Parliament, as part of the Government's annual report.
- An event titled "The state and future of sustainable development in Finland" will be held annually.
- The implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda will be regularly discussed at the Meeting of Permanent Secretaries.
- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a broad perspective on sustainable development will be included in the performance management of government branches. Attention will be paid to sustainable development objectives in the performance targets and performance management of ministries, and the agencies and organisations under their purview. In the budgetary planning process, attention will be paid to the inclusion of information essential to the promotion and monitoring of sustainable development in the performance target and follow-up indicators for various administrative branches.
- An overall assessment will be drawn up of the different ways in which Finland's foreign policy can contribute to the achievement of goals across all administrative branches, and ways in which the coherence of practices and procedures to drive sustainable development outside Finland could be developed.
- Interfaces between sustainable development and the overall safety of society will be determined. Sustainable development will be taken into account as applicable in the reform of the Security Strategy for Society.
- Finland will participate in the work of organisations such as the Arctic Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Baltic Sea strategy of the EU, and the Nordic Council of Ministers in order to promote the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development.

- Decisions made in the EU have a significant impact on sustainable development policies globally and in Finland. Attention will be paid to the consistency of Finland's sustainability activities in the EU, and measures will be taken to support the EU's efforts to promote sustainable development consistently.

B.2 Build stronger global partnerships

- The report on development policy will be implemented and a commitment will be made to uphold Finland's development cooperation values and principles in the longer term. Finland's long-term commitment, made as part of the EU, to raise the level of development cooperation funds to 0.7 per cent of gross national income, will be taken into account in the planning and follow-up of public spending. The share of our funding for the least developed countries will remain above the international recommendation of 0.2 per cent of GNI. Nearly all of Finland's bilateral partners count among the least developed and fragile countries.
- Better conditions will be created for developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to participate in and benefit from international trade. An example of such measures is Finland's support, for WTO's Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade related technical assistance to Least Developed Countries -programme.
- Steps will be taken globally to improve public health security by supporting countries in their efforts to prevent, identify and combat cross-border health threats. Health security involves multiple sectors of society and requires cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels. Finland supports cooperation between countries, international organisations, non-governmental actors and other stakeholder groups in various forums.
- The implementation of sustainable development measures requires private and public funding and other resources such as science, technology, innovation, institutions and competencies. Finland is striving to allocate other resources to sustainable development with the help of investments and broad-based partnerships, technology and innovation (such as the investment finance instrument, Business with impact programme).

- The implementation methods used in development policy and cooperation will be revised for greater effectiveness. The standards of quality, administration and adherence to international principles will be clarified, and decision-making and reporting will be developed based on the results obtained.
- Finland deems it important that a long-term strategy outline and plan be devised to promote sustainable development, both in the EU's internal policies and in its external relations. Vision and strategy discussions for the post-2020 period should begin during 2017, to allow the EU to address long-term challenges and expectations as soon as possible. Similarly, new EU funding programmes should support the achievement of sustainable development goals.
- Finland will continue active participation in the work of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN). Cooperation forums and the countries most useful and effective for Finland will be identified for closer cooperation and exchange of experiences in matters related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Peer learning will be extended to Finland's long-standing development cooperation partner countries.
- Cooperation between companies and research organisations for the creation and commercialisation of sustainable innovations will be supported. Companies can develop solutions to global development challenges, such as a clean energy supply, waste management solutions (waste into energy), water supply and health, and the adoption of digital solutions in these sectors. These innovations will be promoted through the BEAM – business with impact programme, coordinated by the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovations Tekes.

B.3 Explore the use of a sustainable development impact assessment tool in the drafting of bills

- Steps will be taken to explore the inclusion of sustainable development impact assessment in key policy and legislative motions. The existing impact assessment process for bill drafting will be developed to ensure better coordination with sustainable development goals and to identify coherence between goals and between actions undertaken at national and global level.

C – Ownership and participation

A human rights based approach and broad-based participation was important to Finland throughout the negotiation process of the 2030 Agenda. Although the government bears most responsibility for implementation, sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda affect everyone.

Finnish society has an exceptionally strong tradition of a wide ownership base in relation to sustainable development; civil society, business life, trade unions, the church and other actors have been participating in the formulation of strategies, programmes and policies for over 20 years. In Finland, we realised at an early stage that sustainable development is a social learning process that requires everyone's participation. Actual sustainable development work has been carried out in cities and local communities, companies, organisations, educational institutes, workplaces and homes. Many cities have their own sustainable development strategies.

Similarly, any communication related to the 2030 Agenda should be understood as a dialogue rather than the one-way dissemination of information. Discussion and interaction is needed to strengthen the ownership and commitment of stakeholders and citizens, and to understand the deeper need for change in society.

In Finland, participation in sustainable development policies has traditionally been organised through representative committees. For the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is important to extend participation to stakeholders outside such committees, and to citizens. One of the main challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda is the distance between citizen's daily life and global goals and targets. The goals should therefore be explained in a way that allows citizens to identify incentives and meaningful ways of participating through their daily lives. The 2030 Agenda serves as a framework for the sustainable development of companies and helps to identify global challenges whose solution may generate business opportunities. Non-governmental organisations can reach large groups of citizens and stakeholders, and thereby play an important role in increasing awareness of sustainable development goals and in their fulfilment and deployment.

With the adoption of the most recent sustainable development strategy, Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, in 2013, Finland took a step

towards a more active, engaging and participatory model and a higher degree of commitment.

The tool for operational commitments, linked to Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, provides organisations and active citizens with the opportunity to pursue sustainable development goals on their own. This tool has provided various actors with an effective and sensible way of participating in the implementation of sustainable development. More than 400 commitments to action promoting sustainable development have been made by the end of 2016 encompassing all sectors of society: companies, schools, non-governmental organisations, administration, trade unions, political parties, cities, and even private individuals. As a tool for voluntary agreement between various sectors and the administration, this commitment has also replaced legislative means (implementation of the EU directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste). Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development allows Finnish actors to make operational sustainable development commitments also related to international cooperation.

Key actions:

C.1 Expand the use of the Society's Commitment for Sustainable Development tool

- The tool enabling operational commitments to sustainable development will be further developed. Ways will be discussed of building a network of actors that pursue the same goals, of making more efficient use of the tool to identify and scale best practices, and of promoting voluntary agreement as a means of implementation instead of regulation.

C.2 Launch experiments to test sustainable development solutions

- One of the objectives of the Government Programme is to promote a culture of experimentation and create a digital tool in support of this. A new platform (kokeilunpaikka.fi) will be used for experimenting with sustainable development solutions.

C.3 Encourage discussion of the current status of sustainable development and the related actions, and communicate in a strategic way

- An event addressing the current status and future of sustainable development in Finland will be organised once a year, around the time of Parliament's review of the Government's annual report. At this event, the current status and future of sustainable development will be discussed on the basis of indicator and other assessment data and foresight data, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda goals in Finland.
- A national follow-up and review system for sustainable development will be created, which will include a collection of national indicators facilitating shared learning and understanding and allowing for multi-voiced interpretations.
- A strategic communication plan for 2030 Agenda will be prepared and implemented.

C.4 Strengthen the cooperation between Committees and Commissions

- The working methods of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee will be developed to achieve more interaction and dialogue. These two commissions are the key arenas for social dialogue on sustainable development, which will foster commitment among key actors. Action will be taken to build cooperation with other groups and committees important for sustainable development.

C.5 Encourage cities and communities to set ambitious sustainable development goals

- Local governments are encouraged to update their sustainable development visions and strategies, and to include a sustainability perspective in all key strategies. These should be based on the 2030 Agenda, and the participation of regional players and residents should be encouraged.

C.6 Give young people a voice in sustainable development issues

- Cooperation with young people and children will be strengthened by engaging them more actively in national and international discussions about sustainable development. Effective use should be made of the ability of young people to discuss sustainability issues in a way that appeals to their peers.

C.7 Identify the most vulnerable groups in society and take account of their special needs and opportunities for participation

- To reinforce a human rights based approach, groups at risk of falling behind or difficult to reach via existing organisations or institutions will be identified, and account will be taken of their special needs with regard to the implementation of the action plan. Such groups include for instance indigenous people and people with disabilities.

C.8 Encourage responsible consumerism and citizenship

- Citizens will be encouraged to take socially and environmentally responsible action, and the actions and programmes of various actors will be linked to the sustainable development commitment tool as applicable.
- Solutions and practices will be developed that enable carbon-neutral and resource-wise solutions for both the business sector and citizens. The objective is to create new, low-carbon services and markets for such services through experimentation and co-creation, and to offer advice and incentives to better equip citizens to participate and have their say.

4 Follow-up and review of implementation

Promoting sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are long-term processes that require systematic follow-up, review and development. Up to date information is needed for follow-up purposes, together with the expert and multi-voiced interpretation of such information and open dialogue between all stakeholders. A regular and independent impact assessment is required in addition to follow-up activities.

Progress made with the objectives and implementation of Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, "Finland We Want by 2050", has been monitored using the national indicators for sustainable development. Finland is also required to monitor its progress with respect to the 17 goals and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda. This will be done using a global indicator framework developed by the UN, the details of which are still being finalised.

The Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development is engaged in broad-based, public discussion regarding sustainable development in Finland and the related actions. The Commission's key duties include the follow-up and assessment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland.

Several sustainable development specialist organisations in Finland have the ability to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development panels and the indicators currently in use provide a scientific basis for discussions and dialogue between science and policy making in sustainable development issues.

The key task of the Development Policy Committee is to monitor and assess the implementation of Finland's international development policy commitments and development policy. As a result, the Committee is playing a major role in the follow-up and review of the global dimension of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Government is responsible to its citizens for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland. Parliament supervises and reviews the activities of the Government and the administration, thereby ensuring full accountability. In addition, the participation of Parliament in the discussion of sustainable development issues and in the follow-up of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is important to ensuring policy coherence.

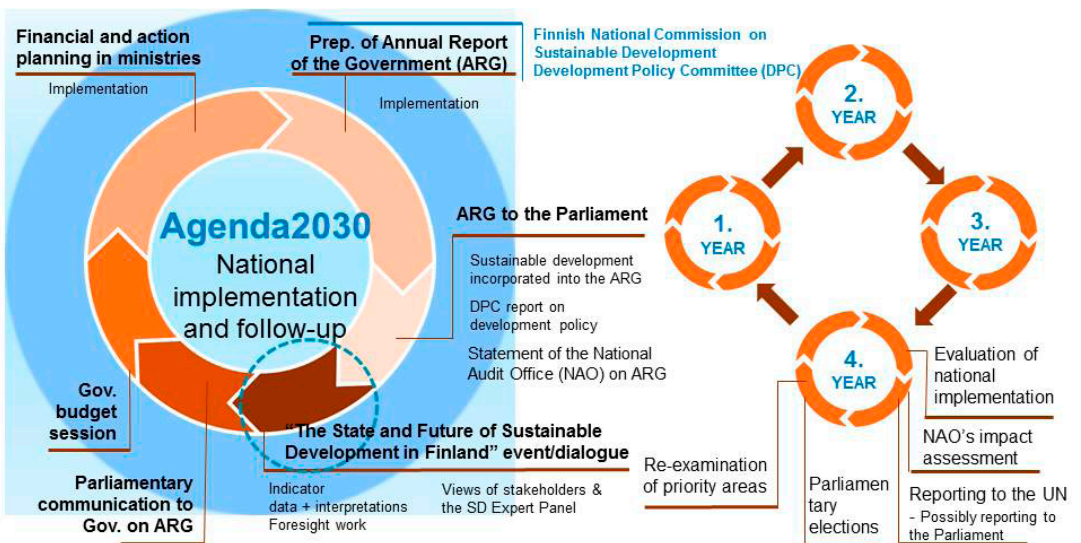


Figure 4: The year clock for the follow-up and review of national implementation, and a description of the four-year cycle of each parliamentary term.

Figure 4 illustrates the annual cycle of follow-up and review during the period up to 2030 and the four-year cycle, whose purpose is to ensure the fulfilment of the Government's commitments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to provide Parliament with a stronger role in the follow-up of national implementation, and

to raise the visibility of sustainable development issues in national discussions. An annual event addressing the current status and future of sustainable development in Finland is the yearly culmination point and main forum for this discussion.

The discussion of sustainable development in the Government's annual report is an essential part of the annual cycle. This serves as a self-assessment mechanism for the Government and strengthens accountability to Parliament and citizens with respect to sustainable development issues. The National Audit Office VTV provides a statement on the Government's annual report and regularly expresses its opinion of the effectiveness of administrative actions in achieving the 2030 Agenda goals.

The indicator data and related interpretations are one of the inputs for the "state and future of sustainable development in Finland" -event to be held in the spring. The objective is to produce information on the current status of sustainable development, future scenarios affecting it, and the necessary development actions for public debates and Parliament's review of the Government's annual report. The national sustainable development indicators will be updated by May 2017.

Evaluations and recommendations provided by the scientific community and the views of civil society and the private sector also feed into discussion on the state and future of sustainable development in Finland. The purpose of such a discussion is to look ahead as well as reviewing the progress made so far with implementation. The Government's foresight work and its results support a foresight-based discussion.

In the fourth year of the cycle (parliamentary election year), an external evaluation will be conducted of progress made in national implementation and the effectiveness of actions taken, and a report on the state of sustainable development in Finland will be prepared. The evaluation and quadrennial report will provide input for sustainable development target-setting over the next electoral term.

Key actions:**4.1 Report progress made in sustainable development in the Government's annual report**

From spring 2017 onwards, each branch of government will produce for the Government's annual report a description of the steps taken during the year to promote sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda within its administrative branch. Based on the inclusion of this information, the Government annual report will provide a comprehensive view of progress made in sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within central government.

4.2 Update sustainable development follow-up indicators

The existing collection of sustainable development indicators will be updated under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office, to ensure that they meet the follow-up requirements of Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and this implementation plan. Arrangements for a system that permits the multi-voiced interpretation of indicator data will be made in connection with the update. This work will draw on recent Nordic and other international research and surveys, including research on indicators supplementing GDP.

4.3 Organise an annual discussion on the state and future of sustainable development in Finland

From 2017, the Prime Minister's Office, the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee will co-host an annual discussion event in the late spring, in which the current status and future of sustainable development in Finland will be discussed on the basis of the Government's annual report, sustainable development indicators and other assessment data, and contributions by the Expert Panel on Sustainable Development and the scientific community. This event will help Parliament to address the Government's annual report from the sustainable development perspective and produce information for various societal actors on the current status of sustainable development and the related actions.

4.4 Prepare a report on sustainable development in Finland every four years

A report or other similar document on sustainable development in Finland will be prepared every four years. Such a report will serve as background information for Finland's reporting to the UN and can be used by political parties to prepare their future election programmes. The expertise of existing committees, panels and other relevant cooperation groups will be used in the preparation of the report, and opportunities will be explored for more extensive public consultation.

4.5 Evaluate national implementation in 2019

A comprehensive and independent assessment of Finland's sustainable development policy and the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be conducted every four years, starting in 2019. The implementation plan will be updated to ensure consistency with the recommendations made.

4.6 Harmonise sustainable development assessment practices between administrative branches

Cooperation between the units in charge of the independent assessment of the effectiveness and coherence of sustainable development policy between various ministries and institutions will be enhanced. Efforts will be made to harmonise the assessment practices and policies used in different administrative branches, in order to systematically provide decision-makers, various other actors and citizens with independent evaluation data.

5 Resources, coordination and responsibility of the administrative branches for implementation

This implementation plan will steer the government in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and guide the work done in various administrative branches to promote sustainable development. Actions proposed in the implementation plan will be prepared and implemented within the administrative branches, as part of standard operational planning and implementation within the framework of the public finances plan. Administrative branches must take account of the effects of the implementation plan on their resourcing needs.

Branches will be encouraged to initiate and support internal discussion and interpretation processes, in order to establish what the promotion of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda mean for each administrative branch, and how the objectives and actions of one branch are linked to others.

One of the key tasks of the **National Commission on Sustainable Development** is to link the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to other national sustainable development efforts, as well as following up and reviewing implementation activities. **The Development Policy Committee** monitors and assesses the implementation of Finland's development policy guidelines and international commitments, particularly the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland with regard to development policy, and supervises the implementation of development policy definitions within the Government Programme and the Government's development policy.

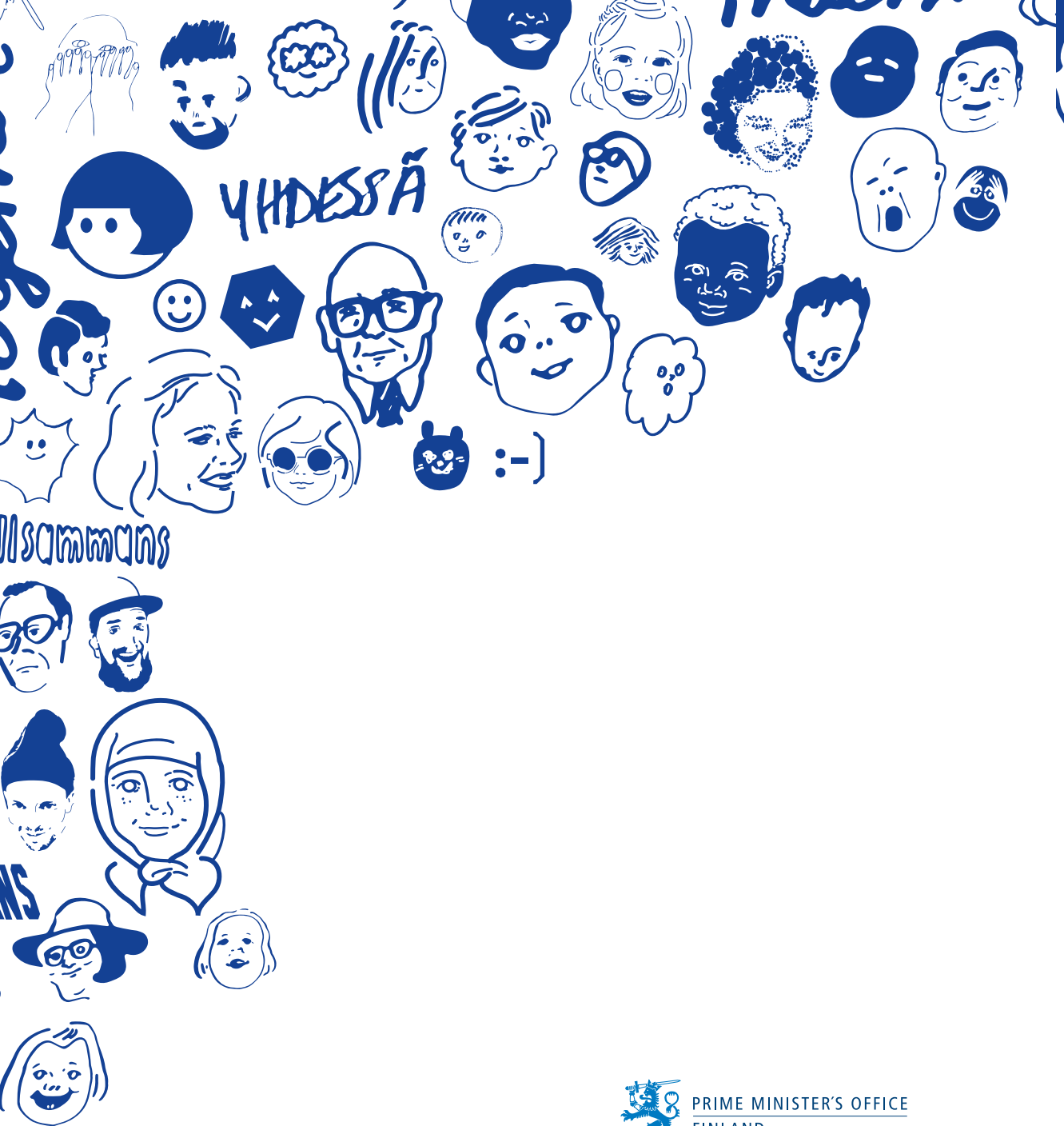
Responsibility for the planning, preparation, coordination and national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and for providing support for the national

sustainable development policy, rests with a **coordination secretariat** situated in the Prime Minister's Office. The secretariat comprises representatives of the general secretariat of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office.

Consisting of representatives of key ministries, the sustainable development **coordination network** supports and guides work done within the coordination secretariat. It prepares, develops and coordinates sustainable development efforts in Finland. Members of the coordination network act as points of contact and persons in charge of sustainable development within their respective branches of government. Each member of the network coordinates and integrates the views of his or her administrative branch with the national sustainable development plan and sustainable development work.

The sustainable development follow-up network is tasked with updating the national sustainable development indicators as part of the national implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda and, with acting as a national support group in international indicator work of the 2030 Agenda. The network's aim is to ensure that information generated by high-standard, broad-based indicator work is included in political decision-making in Finland.

The 2030 Agenda is a broad-based programme that impacts on all branches of government as well as other actors in society. All actors must pull together to enable Finland to achieve the sustainable development goals. Municipalities, non-governmental organisations, companies, educational institutes, other actors within society, and citizens can all pursue the goals of the 2030 Agenda as part of their activities.



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