



Towards a carbon-neutral welfare society

GOVERNMENT REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

PUBLICATIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE 2020:13

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OFFICE

Publications of the Prime Minister's Office 2020:13

Government Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Towards a carbon-neutral welfare society

Prime Minister's Office

ISBN PDF: 978-952-383-085-1

Layout: Government Administration Department, Publications

Helsinki 2020

Description sheet

Published by	Prime Minister's Office	2 December 2020	
Title of publication	Government Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Towards a carbon-neutral welfare society		
Series and publication number	Publications of the Prime Minister's Office 2020:13		
ISBN PDF	978-952-383-085-1	ISSN PDF	2490-1164
Website address (URN)	http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-085-1		
Pages	126	Language	English
Keywords	reports, sustainable development, Prime Minister's Office, carbon neutrality		
<p>Abstract</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to eradicate extreme poverty and to achieve sustainable development where the environment, economy and people are taken into account equally. The 2030 Agenda has guided the work on sustainable development in Finland and other countries since 2016.</p> <p>This report describes the current state of Finland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the actions taken by the Government to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, the policy principles guiding their implementation at the national level and the organisation, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation.</p> <p>This report was drawn up under exceptional circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major upheavals around the world, and its impact on Finnish society has been profound. The Government has introduced a variety of measures to protect the population and ensure the functioning and stability of society and the economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to major changes in the Government's short-term economic policy agenda.</p> <p>The programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government (2019) is built on sustainable development. The Government Programme aims for an 'Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society'. The aim of the Government's economic policy is to increase wellbeing and prosperity. This means ecologically and socially sustainable economic growth, high employment and sustainable general government finances.</p> <p>The Government is implementing its vision of a socially, ecologically and economically sustainable Finland through several different strategic themes. The strategic themes also guide the Government's work to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is still under way, and we have yet to achieve the goals on a global scale. Progress has been made in many areas, but we need to speed up and scale up our actions if we want to achieve the goals by the envisaged deadline. We now have less than ten years left to achieve the common goals. Finland is committed to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda by 2030.</p> <p>The overarching and cross-cutting theme of the 2030 Agenda is that no one will be left behind in the pursuit of development. The Government Programme stresses social responsibility, which means that we bear responsibility for each other and our common future. We want to make sure that everyone stays on board. Democracy and respect for human rights are the key conditions for achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, both in Finland and globally.</p>			
Publisher	Prime Minister's Office		
Distributed by/ Publication sales	Online version: julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi Publication sales: vnjulkaisumyynti.fi		

Presentationsblad

Utgivare	Statsrådets kansli	2.12.2020	
Publikationens titel	Statsrådets redogörelse om det globala handlingsprogrammet Agenda2030 för hållbar utveckling. Mot ett klimatneutralt välfärdssamhälle		
Publikationsseriens namn och nummer	Statsrådets kanslis publikationer 2020:13		
ISBN PDF	978-952-383-085-1	ISSN PDF	2490-1164
URN-adress	http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-085-1		
Sidantal	126	Språk	engelska
Nyckelord	Hallbar utveckling, handlingsprogrammet Agenda2030 for hallbar utveckling, Agenda2030		
Referat	<p>Handlingsprogrammet för hållbar utveckling (Agenda 2030) syftar till eliminering av extrem fattigdom och till en hållbar utveckling som jämlikt beaktar miljön, ekonomin och människan. Agenda 2030 har styrt Finlands och andra länders arbete för hållbar utveckling sedan 2016.</p> <p>Denna redogörelse beskriver nuläget i genomförandet av Agenda 2030 i Finland, regeringens åtgärder för att främja målen för hållbar utveckling, de politiska principerna som styr det nationella genomförandet, organiseringen av genomförandet samt uppföljningen och utvärderingen av genomförandet.</p> <p>Denna redogörelse har beretts under exceptionella förhållanden. Coronaviruspandemin har orsakat stora omvälvningar runt om i världen och har också haft en betydande inverkan på det finländska samhällets funktion. Regeringen har vidtagit flera åtgärder för att skydda befolkningen och trygga samhällets och näringslivets verksamhet och stabilitet. På grund av coronaviruspandemin har regeringens agenda för ekonomisk politik på kort sikt förändrats avsevärt.</p> <p>Regeringsprogrammet för statsminister Sanna Marin (2019) bygger på hållbar utveckling. Målet för programmet är ett inkluderande och kunnigt Finland som är ett socialt, ekonomiskt och ekologiskt hållbart samhälle. Målet för regeringens ekonomiska politik är att öka välfärden. Med detta avses en ekologiskt och socialt hållbar ekonomisk tillväxt, en hög sysselsättning och en hållbar offentlig ekonomi.</p> <p>Regeringsprogrammets mål om ett socialt, ekologiskt och ekonomiskt hållbart Finland verställs genom strategiska helheter. De strategiska helheterna styr regeringens arbete också för att uppnå målen i Agenda 2030.</p> <p>Genomförandet av Agenda 2030 pågår fortfarande och målen har ännu inte uppnåtts globalt. Även om framsteg har gjorts i många frågor måste åtgärderna påskyndas och spridas betydligt för att målen ska kunna nås inom utsatt tid. Vi har nu knappt tio år på oss att nå de gemensamma målen. Finland har förbundit sig att uppnå målen för Agenda 2030 före 2030.</p> <p>Det bärande och genomgående temat för Agenda 2030 är att ingen ska lämnas efter i utvecklingen. Regeringsprogrammet betonar socialt ansvar så att vi bär ansvar för varandra och för den gemensamma framtiden. Vi vill att alla ska känna sig inkluderade. Demokrati och tillgodoseendet av de mänskliga rättigheterna är förutsättningar för att målen för Agenda 2030 och hållbar utveckling ska kunna nås i Finland och globalt.</p>		
Förläggare	Statsrådets kansli		
Distribution/ beställningar	Elektronisk version: julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi Beställningar: vnjulkaisumyynti.fi		

Kuvailulehti

Julkaisija	Valtioneuvoston kanslia	2.12.2020
Julkaisun nimi	Valtioneuvoston selonteko kestävän kehityksen globaalista toimintaohjelmasta Agenda2030:sta. Kohti hiilineutraalia hyvinvointiyhteiskuntaa	
Julkaisusarjan nimi ja numero	Valtioneuvoston kanslian julkaisuja 2020:13	
ISBN PDF	978-952-383-085-1	ISSN PDF 2490-1164
URN-osoite	http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-085-1	
Sivumäärä	126	Kieli englanti
Asiasanat	kestävä kehitys, kestävän kehityksen toimintaohjelma Agenda2030, Agenda2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	
Tiivistelmä	<p>Kestävän kehityksen toimintaohjelma (Agenda2030) tähtää äärimmäisen köyhyyden poistamiseen sekä kestävään kehitykseen, jossa ympäristö, talous ja ihminen otetaan tasavertaisesti huomioon. Agenda2030 on ohjannut Suomen ja muiden maiden kestävän kehityksen työtä vuodesta 2016 lähtien.</p> <p>Tämä selonteko kuvaa Suomen nykytilanteen Agenda2030:n toteuttamisessa, hallituksen toimet kestävän kehityksen tavoitteiden edistämiseksi, kansallista toimeenpanoa ohjaavat politiikkaperiaatteet, toimeenpanon organisoinnin sekä toimeenpanon seurannan ja arvioinnin toteutuksen.</p> <p>Tätä selontekoa on valmisteltu poikkeuksellisissa oloissa. Koronaviruspandemia on aiheuttanut suuria mullistuksia ympäri maailman, ja vaikuttanut merkittävästi myös suomalaisen yhteiskunnan toimintaan. Hallitus on tehnyt useita toimenpiteitä, joiden tarkoituksena on ollut suojata väestöä sekä turvata yhteiskunnan ja talouselämän toiminta ja vakaus. Koronaviruspandemian johdosta hallituksen lyhyen aikavälin talouspolitiikan agenda on muuttunut merkittävästi.</p> <p>Pääministeri Sanna Marinin hallitusohjelma (2019) rakentuu kestäväälle kehitykselle. Hallitusohjelman tavoitteena on osallistava ja osaava Suomi – sosiaalisesti, ekologisesti ja taloudellisesti kestävä yhteiskunta. Hallituksen talouspolitiikan päämääränä on hyvinvoinnin lisääminen. Tällä tarkoitetaan ekologisesti ja sosiaalisesti kestävää talouskasvua, korkeaa työllisyyttä ja kestävää julkista taloutta.</p> <p>Hallitusohjelman tavoitetta sosiaalisesti, ekologisesti ja taloudellisesti kestävästä Suomesta toimeenpannaan strategisten kokonaisuuksien kautta. Strategiset kokonaisuudet ohjaavat hallituksen työtä myös Agenda2030:n tavoitteiden saavuttamiseksi.</p> <p>Agenda2030:n toimeenpano on kesken eikä tavoitteita olla vielä globaalisti saavutettu. Vaikka edistystä on monessa suhteessa tapahtunut, on toimia huomattavasti nopeutettava ja skaalattava, jotta tavoitteet saavutetaan määräaikaan mennessä. Yhteisten tavoitteiden saavuttamiseen on nyt vajaa kymmenen vuotta aikaa. Suomi on sitoutunut saavuttamaan Agenda2030:n tavoitteet vuoteen 2030 mennessä.</p> <p>Agenda2030:n kantavana ja läpileikkaavana teemana on, että kukaan ei jäisi kehityksestä jälkeen. Hallitusohjelma painottaa sosiaalista vastuuta niin, että kannamme vastuuta toisistamme ja yhteisestä tulevaisuudesta. Haluamme, että kaikki pysyvät mukana. Demokratia ja ihmisoikeuksien toteutuminen ovat edellytyksiä sille, että Agenda2030 ja kestävän kehityksen tavoitteet voidaan saavuttaa Suomessa ja globaalisti.</p>	
Kustantaja	Valtioneuvoston kanslia	
Julkaisun jakaja/ myynti	Sähköinen versio: julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi Julkaisumyynti: vnjulkaisumyynti.fi	

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1 Introduction



Figure 1: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda

The global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been guiding Finland and other countries towards a more sustainable future since 2016. The 2030 Agenda aims for poverty eradication and sustainable development where the environment, economy and people are equally taken into account. The 2030 Agenda was adopted by the UN Member States in 2015. Ten years remain to achieve the mutually set Goals and targets.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is still incomplete, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have yet to be reached at the global level. Although progress has been made in many respects, measures must be considerably accelerated and scaled up in order to achieve the goals by 2030. The achievement of many of the SDGs worldwide has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Programme of the Government of Prime Minister Sanna Marin (2019) builds on sustainable development. The Government Programme aims at an 'Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society'. The

Government's goal for its economic policy is to increase wellbeing and prosperity. This means ecologically and socially sustainable economic growth, high employment and sustainable general government finances. The Government's aim of a socially, ecologically and economically sustainable Finland is implemented under strategic themes that outline the Government's objectives and describe their content in concrete terms.

In its Programme, the Government wants to reform political culture and decision-making through pledges for continuous learning in government, a new kind of interaction, long-term policy-making and knowledge-based policy-making. The pledges on policy reforms also strongly emphasise the principle of non-discrimination and fair and equal treatment across generations.

This report presents the actions the Government is taking to promote the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs in Finland and globally. It also describes the current situation as regards implementing the 2030 Agenda in Finland, the concrete actions of the Government in respect of each of the SDGs, the policy principles guiding implementation, the organisation of implementation work at the national level and the mechanisms in place for follow-up and review. The actions recorded in this report are being implemented within the framework of the General Government Fiscal Plan and the resources decided in the Budget process. Public administration engages in a great deal of ongoing activity and actions which, while not recorded in this report, materially promote the realisation of sustainable development.

This report was drawn up in exceptional circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major upheavals around the world and had serious impacts on the Finnish society. The Government has introduced numerous measures to protect the population and ensure the functioning and stability of our society and the economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to major changes in the Government's short-term economic policy agenda.

The overarching theme of the 2030 Agenda is that no one may be left behind in the pursuit of development. The Government Programme points out that, in a Nordic welfare state, the economy is managed for the people, not the other way round. It underscores social sustainability, meaning that we take responsibility for each other and our common future. We want to make sure that everyone is on board.

Democracy and the realisation of human rights are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Finland and globally. Finland is committed to observing the UN's universal values and works to strengthen international law, democracy and human rights. Finnish democracy is based on the rule of law, with the Constitution giving every individual strong protection for human dignity, personal integrity and other fundamental rights.

Finland is strongly committed to EU membership and to further develop the EU, as well as to the pursuit of policies that accord with the EU's basic values. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Finland as well in other EU Member States is in many respects linked to EU decision-making. It is important to strengthen dialogue between the Commission and the Member States on issues relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by means including the European Semester for economic policy coordination.

Even though the Government's economic policy agenda for the short term has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges in the longer term remain largely unchanged. Under the current conditions, it is even more important than earlier to focus on employment measures, promote the circular economy, accomplish the health and social services reform, increase productivity and curb the rise in expenditures as soon as the immediate crisis lifts. Climate change continues apace and decisions on climate issues must be made with even greater vigour. At the same time, we must safeguard democracy and the rule of law as well as the realisation of fundamental and human rights. The COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, the Government bases its work on the SDGs as well as on sustained intergenerational thinking and action that extends across parliamentary terms. It is these factors that make up the foundation for sustainable prosperity and wellbeing. Finland will shoulder its global responsibility also in times of crisis and provide sustained support to multilateral cooperation, fragile states and vulnerable groups.

Europe has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the continent is seeking shared solutions. In July 2020, the European Council adopted the EU Budget for 2021–2027. The Council also agreed on a new COVID-19 recovery fund of EUR 750 billion that may be used to increase the EU Budget with new funding obtained from the financial markets. Finland will take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by the EU financial instruments. The measures aimed at COVID-19 crisis management, aftercare and rebuilding must promote a green transition in Finland in accordance with the objectives of the Government Programme.

Globally speaking, Finland is responsible for its footprint and the impacts of its actions. Finland's human rights-based foreign and security policy, and development policy that is part of these, are the most important tools for shouldering a share of the global responsibility. The main objective of development policy is the international implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change in order to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and curb and adapt to climate change. This will strengthen the realisation of human rights, increase stability and strengthen global security. A secure and sustainably developing world is also in the best interests of the people of Finland. Achievement of the aims of the 2030 Agenda also calls for responding to the world's humanitarian needs and addressing the causes underlying these needs.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time in more than twenty years the world is seeing an increase in extreme poverty, and achievement of the SDGs is under serious threat. The poorest of people are particularly vulnerable in this crisis. In many countries, the economic and social impacts will be both wider and of longer duration than the health crisis. The crisis has caused inequality to rise, gender equality to decline, food security to deteriorate and learning outcomes to suffer. Negative impacts are also visible in the internal stability and security of nations and in human rights and democratisation.

From the very outset, Finland and its Governments have been determined in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. This current report is the second implementation plan to be submitted to Parliament as a government report. The drafting of this extensively inter-administrative report has been coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office together with a coordination network spanning all ministries.

2 Finland's situation in implementing the 2030 Agenda

Along with the other Nordic countries, Finland ranks at the very top in international sustainable development benchmarking. In the annual rankings by the Bertelsmann Foundation and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network¹, Finland has in several years ranked in the top three behind Sweden and Denmark. According to their Sustainable Development Report, Finland has already achieved or is close to achieving the SDGs relating to poverty eradication; good health and wellbeing; quality education; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; and peace, justice and strong institutions. The greatest challenges Finland is facing have to do with responsible consumption and production, climate action and partnerships for the SDGs (in particular Finland's low official development assistance (ODA)). These observations are supported by the annual Eurostat monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs² and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) study 'Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets 2019'³.

In benchmarking, Finland often places behind fellow Nordic countries Sweden and Denmark. Finland comes in second to Sweden and Denmark especially with regard to gender pay equality, carbon dioxide emissions relative to population, number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) and the amount of development finance. Global responsibility and shifting to responsible consumption and production are challenges common to all Nordic countries.

1 <https://www.sdgindex.org/>

2 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/9940483/KS-02-19-165-EN-N.pdf/1965d8f5-4532-49f9-98ca-5334b0652820>

3 <http://www.oecd.org/publications/measuring-distance-to-the-sdg-targets-2019-a8caf3fa-en.html>

Based on indicator analysis and interviews, the report PATH2030 – An Evaluation of Finland's Sustainable Development Policy⁴ completed in February 2019 identified competence and societal stability as Finland's strengths in sustainable development. Sustainability of the energy system, sustainable use of forests, sustainability of Finland's aquatic ecosystems, sustainable food system and stronger equality and inclusion were identified as key issues of sustainable development where ongoing efforts should be reinforced. The PATH2030 report identified the global footprint of Finnish consumption as a theme requiring more comprehensive policy action than is currently the case

The state of sustainable development is followed nationally by means of ten monitoring baskets and well over forty indicators. In the light of these, Finland's situation appears as follows:

1 State of nature and the environment⁵

While biodiversity in Finland continues to decline, improvements have also been seen in the state of the environment; for example efforts to cut down the emissions caused by major individual sources of environmental stress have been successful. Nutrient discharges into water have decreased, yet excessive nutrient loading continues to impact on some of Finland's water bodies and on the Baltic Sea in particular. Both our inland waters and the Baltic Sea continue to suffer from eutrophication. Finland's air quality is good when compared internationally.

2 Resource-wise economy and carbon-neutral society⁶

When it comes to renewable energy, Finland continues to be among the top countries in the European Union. While in the longer term Finland's greenhouse gas emissions have turned into decline, much work remains to be done to further reduce them. The energy sector and transport cause the majority of Finland's greenhouse gas emissions. Forests are Finland's most important carbon sink.

3 Consumption and public procurement⁷

The average carbon footprint of people in Finland is around 10.3 tonnes per year per person. The carbon footprint of housing and passenger car traffic has been reduced while the footprint of food products has remained unchanged. Between EUR 30 and 35 billion is

4 <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161601>

5 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/the-state-of-nature-and-the-environment>

6 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/the-resource-wise-economy-and-carbon-neutral-society>

7 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/public-procurements-and-consumption>

spent on public procurement every year, but there is no quantitative follow-up data on the effectiveness of procurement.

4 Housing and communities⁸

Housing and communities are being changed by the ageing of the population, urbanisation and climate change. Most construction takes place in the largest cities and this increases their population density, which in turn creates increasingly better prerequisites for public transport. In smaller cities and rural areas, the accessibility of services meanwhile diminishes. An increasing number of older persons live in their own homes.

5 Prerequisites of health⁹

The perceived quality of life of people in Finland is high and improves each year. Perceived wellbeing is linked to social and economic status: more advantaged people have a better quality of life. The population in western and southern Finland is healthier than the population in the eastern and northern regions of the country. Intimate partner violence is a threat to women in particular. For women, Finland is the second most violent country in the EU (FRA 2014).

6 Social inequality¹⁰

Most people in Finland have seen their standard of living and quality of life improve in recent decades. While income differentials increased at the turn of the millennium, since then the rise in income inequality and at-risk-of-poverty rate would appear to have halted. Income differentials in Finland remain among the lowest of all EU Member States. The need for financial assistance has not decreased. An increasing number of those in need of financial assistance are having to rely on basic social assistance, which is a last-resort form of assistance. Wealth inequality is another key factor indicative of economic inequality. According to Statistics Finland, wealth inequality has increased since the turn of the millennium and also since the 2008 financial crisis.

8 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/housing-and-communities>

9 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/prerequisites-of-health>

10 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/social-inequality>

7 Social exclusion and inclusivity¹¹

The number of NEETs has decreased slightly in Finland in recent years. Experiences of loneliness among teenage boys have also decreased, yet boys still experience loneliness more frequently than girls. Finland consistently achieves a high status in international ratings on corruption and press freedom.

8 Working life, quality and change¹²

Working life is rapidly changing. The employment rate has improved in recent years, and the at-risk-of-poverty rate in the labour force is in decline. Despite Finnish working life being on a sustainable footing in many respects in the international comparison, gender inequality looms large. The pay gap is not narrowing as quickly as desired, and women are less able to influence their work than men. The gender pay gap is larger in Finland than in the EU Member States on average.

9 Education and development of competence¹³

Finland is recognised as a leading nation in education and training. The rate of library usage in Finland is also among the highest in the world. After a slight slump, research and development expenditure has taken an upward turn and sustainable development is mainstreamed better and better in schools and daycare. The traditionally strong literacy rate of young people in Finland is deteriorating, however. In Finland, the difference in the learning outcomes of girls and boys is the biggest in all OECD countries. Men are also less likely than women to pursue education and training.

10 Global responsibility and policy coherence¹⁴

Finland is a staunch supporter of multilateral cooperation and the international rules-based system. Finland is committed to improving the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable people and of people living in least developed countries (LDCs). Finland promotes peace and stability and seeks to prevent conflicts through means including development cooperation, humanitarian aid, peace mediation and diplomacy. Relative to its population, Finland is an active participant in crisis management operations. The level of ODA slumped in 2016 and remains significantly below the UN target. At the same time, climate finance to developing countries has also declined. The global impacts of the consumption of the Finnish population are poorly known.

11 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/social-exclusion-and-inclusion>

12 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/working-life-quality-and-change>

13 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/education-and-development-of-competence>

14 <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/global-responsibility-and-policy-coherence>

Views of the Citizen Panel on sustainable development as to the state of sustainable development

In January 2020, the Citizen Panel on sustainable development brought together around 500 people to assess the state of sustainable development in Finland. Like in 2019, the issue that the Panel was most concerned about was the future of young people. The Panel members were especially worried about the declining literacy among young people over the past few years, the current state of biodiversity, the amount of environmentally harmful subsidies, the carbon footprint of consumption in Finland and the nutrient load from rivers to the Baltic Sea. The Panel members were of the opinion that the number of people receiving basic social assistance or working part-time involuntarily is still large and the current development does not look promising. They also found the gender pay gap considerable. Then again, the Citizen Panel stated that the current state of many issues and the recent developments in Finland are good. The Panel members were particularly satisfied with the quality of life, the good level of education and low morbidity in Finland. Young people's trust in Finnish society and their interest in societal matters was considered to be at a good level. With regard to environmental matters, good air quality and the increasing proportion of renewable energy in the end use of energy were regarded as positive aspects.

3 Government efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda

3.1 Government Programme pursues Finland of sustainable development by 2030

The Programme of the Government of Prime Minister Sanna Marin (2019) is built on sustainable development. The objective of the Government Programme is an 'Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society' that also shoulders global responsibility for sustainable development in the poorest of nations.

In addition to the measures under the Government Programme, the various areas of sustainability are pursued through a number of ongoing actions for which government is responsible.

Ecologically sustainable Finland

The 2030 Agenda seeks to turn global development onto a track where the wellbeing of people, human rights, economic prosperity and the stability of societies are secured in an environmentally sustainable manner. Environmental sustainability means not exceeding the carrying capacity of nature. In other words, all activity on Earth should fit within the confines of nature's carrying capacity. In terms of the carrying capacity of nature, several limits relating to e.g. climate, land use, biodiversity and the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles have already been exceeded globally. Biodiversity loss and environmental degradation also put at risk the achievement of the other SDGs. The wellbeing of nature is a framework condition and prerequisite for the life and wellbeing of people as well.

The Government Programme states that our use of natural resources must be proportionate to the SDGs. Achieving the SDGs will only be possible if we are able to stop global warming and the loss of biodiversity. Finland wishes to be a forerunner and to show the way in mitigating climate change and safeguarding biodiversity. Finland may have a

small footprint but a large handprint. Finland seeks to become carbon neutral by 2035 and carbon negative soon after. Heat and power production will be required to be virtually emission-free by the end of the 2030s. Carbon sinks will be strengthened and the carbon footprint of housing as well as construction and mobility will be reduced. The decline of biodiversity will be halted.

In addition to actions under the Government Programme, ecological sustainability is also built with numerous ongoing actions for which government is responsible. Such maintaining structures and functions include the implementation of international and regional environmental and climate agreements; international climate cooperation and finance; development cooperation to a significant extent; implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan; the national network of protected areas and the right of access to private land; land use and building legislation that supports sustainable urban planning; national land use guidelines and national urban parks; legislation concerning transport system planning; river basin management action programmes and programmes of measures concerning the marine areas as well as related monitoring programmes; and implementation of the National Forest Strategy. The actions under the National Forest Strategy also encompass social, economic, ecological and cultural sustainability.

Finland is working towards an ecologically sustainable Finland and world within four strategic themes under the Government Programme: Finland as a sustainable economy, Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity, Globally influential Finland and Dynamic and thriving Finland.

Socially sustainable Finland

The overarching and cross-cutting theme of the 2030 Agenda is 'Leave no one behind'. The 2030 Agenda underscores human dignity as its universal foundation. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda globally seeks first to reach those who have been left the farthest behind. The 2030 Agenda envisages a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realisation of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity.

The Government Programme emphasises that we take responsibility for each other and our common future so that everyone is on board. Education and culture are an important part of our value system and are considered to be a means of guaranteeing individual freedom. Trust among individuals and among different players in society is a key condition for building a socially sustainable society. The cornerstones of our Nordic welfare model are non-discrimination and equality, services in health, wellbeing and education financed by means of tax revenue, high social mobility, and an active civil society. The Government

is committed to building a Finland that is tolerant and that respects and promotes everyone's human rights. The Government Programme seeks to promote wellbeing and reduce inequalities, promote a child and family-friendly society and foster an age-friendly society, improve healthcare and social welfare services to which everyone is entitled, and reform social security. The aim of the Finnish service system is to promote and maintain the health, wellbeing, functional capacity, work ability and social protection as well as sense of security of the population and to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing, taking into account also regional aspects.

Respect for fundamental and human rights and equal access to rights are basic conditions to a socially sustainable society. The Government strives for well-functioning democracy and high-quality legislation that promotes the realisation of fundamental and human rights. A third National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights will be prepared to strengthen fundamental and human rights policy, and shortcomings related to the recognition of human rights problems and to human rights reporting will be systematically addressed by securing the activities of ombudspersons and other relevant authorities and by guaranteeing a favourable operating environment for civil society organisations (CSOs) and international actors.

Finland's holistic foreign policy, development policy and development cooperation included, is founded on the human rights-based approach. Finland underscores improving the status of women and girls as well as the status of people easily excluded, such as people with disabilities. The Government Programme aims to reach the target of gender-focused or mainstreamed actions, in accordance with OECD definitions, across 85 per cent of new development cooperation programmes. The Government Programme also aims to strengthen the development cooperation of CSOs and to increase support to them. The goal is to strengthen, on a global scale, the equal inclusion of everyone in sustainable development, with particular attention to vulnerable people. Finland's humanitarian aid seeks to save human lives and relieve human suffering in crisis areas. Aid is provided on the basis of genuine need and cannot be provided on political grounds. Non-discrimination is key in humanitarian activities as well.

Achievement of the SDGs essential to socially sustainable development will in Finland require primarily that existing structures are maintained, the situation is monitored and ongoing effort is put into enhancing the functioning of the structures. In terms of social sustainability, it is vitally important to maintain well-functioning societal structures that reduce inequalities and promote the health and wellbeing of populations. An efficiently functioning economic system facilitates the achievement of social aims, the achievement of which in turn promotes stable economic development, civil peace and security. Well-functioning societal structures are the result of long-term evolution. Finland has succeeded in reducing poverty and inequalities through universal social security. The

same aim is also pursued through taxation to equalise income distribution and social income transfers to low-income individuals. Public basic services are safeguarded for all regardless of wealth, social standing or income. In Finland, one important enabling factor for equality is education – publicly funded and free of charge to students – that also covers degree studies at universities. Another important factor is our widely available cultural and sports services. Gender equality as well as equality between population groups are promoted by an individual-based approach. Preventing social exclusion is a key social policy premise for all discretionary benefits and services. Environmental healthcare serves to prevent and eliminate health risks occurring in our living environment. When it comes to health promotion and disease prevention, in addition to adequate healthcare services it is equally important to safeguard efficient sanitation, i.e. access to clean water, good hygiene and effective sewerage.

The Government aims to reduce the level of divergence between regions and within municipalities. The Government will tackle demographic concentration and its consequences by enabling sufficient resources to foster vitality and the ability to function effectively in all parts of the country. In regional policy, the Government's approaches include a regional and/or thematic operating model (for regional development), based on agreements and partnerships, that takes account of the special characteristics of each region.

All of the Government Programme's strategic themes build up a socially sustainable Finland and a socially sustainable world.

Economically sustainable Finland

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth is a key theme of the 2030 Agenda. The aim is to build strong economic foundations for all countries, and inclusive and sustainable economic growth is essential for prosperity. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda recognises that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources. Democracy, good governance and the rule of law as well as an enabling environment are essential for sustainable and inclusive development. The 2030 Agenda seeks to build dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment and women's economic empowerment in particular as well as decent work for all. It points out the importance of education and training: all countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce. Each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development.

The aim of the economic policy of Prime Minister Marin's Government is to increase wellbeing and prosperity. This means ecologically and socially sustainable economic growth, high employment and sustainable public finances. Sustainable economic growth

draws not only on a higher employment rate but also on more robust work productivity. The key factors in productivity growth are skills and innovation, wellbeing at work, and evolving ways of working amidst the transformation of work itself. Growth may be based on both the more efficient and sustainable use of material resources and on immaterial value creation. Digital technology plays a key role in converting numerous kinds of content into immaterial form while at the same time offering new opportunities for value creation and employment. According to the Government Programme, Finland's success depends on our ability to take advantage of the opportunities offered by change and to further develop the strengths we already have. Education and training play a key role in this. The Government Programme states that protecting decent, high-quality services and ensuring everyone has the means to get by requires that public finances are on a solid foundation and managed in a sustainable manner. The Government wishes to secure the conditions for living and entrepreneurship in all parts of Finland in a diversity of ways, taking into account the different needs of regions and cities: metropolitan area; large cities with a population of more than 100,000, also university towns; medium-sized urban areas in regional centres; regional cities; and sparsely populated areas.

The Government is committed to strengthening the long-term sustainability of public finances consistently so that we are not driven onto an unsustainable path of mounting debt, which would force us in future to cut spending or increase taxes. The Government will pay particular attention to the effects of decisions in the long term. Indicators that describe economic, ecological and social wellbeing will be used as an aid in decision-making, alongside and in support of conventional economic indicators.

The crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly darkened the economic situation and outlook. Recovery will be hampered by the clear decline in GDP in 2020 as well as by ongoing uncertainty both globally and in Europe. Over a short time, Finland has taken on significant debt in order to manage the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. This will influence our ability to create long-term sustainable growth, and more widely our achievement of the SDGs in general. The crisis has also created a need to elaborate the objectives of the Government Programme with a view to stabilising public finances in the longer term. At the first phase of the sustainability roadmap, in June 2020, the Government set itself the objective to stabilise the general government debt-to-GDP ratio by the end of the decade. To achieve this aim, general government finances must be strengthened. Instead of setting objectives for a single parliamentary term, it is now warranted to decide on measures to strengthen the sustainability of public finances to be taken over a span of multiple terms. Consequently, measures to strengthen the long-term sustainability of public finances must be continued also after the current parliamentary term.

The Government will monitor the implementation of the sustainability roadmap and update it regularly in connection with deciding on the General Government Fiscal Plan and the budget proposal. If the structural reforms and growth-boosting reforms being prepared are not enough to strengthen public finances as intended, the Government is committed to taking new measures or resorting to measures that have a rapid impact on general government revenue and expenditure.

Globally speaking, the main objective of the Government is for developing countries' own economies to provide more jobs, livelihood opportunities and wellbeing. In addition, in particular people in the most vulnerable position or situation should have greater opportunities for decent work and livelihood. The development cooperation of CSOs is a key element in the implementation of this objective. The 2030 Agenda requires developing countries to achieve a strong private sector that generates the majority of jobs. Private financing, technology and innovation are required to achieve the SDGs, which is where promoting the exports and internationalisation of Finnish businesses also comes in.

An effective and fair national and international tax system is essential to income distribution, service financing, tackling the grey economy, and social cohesion. In outlining the current situation, the Government Programme states that Finland must promote national and international solutions that secure and strengthen its tax base in a globally sustainable manner. The tax base of mobile capital is leaky. The longer-term theoretical objective should be taxation of corporate groups as a single entity. We must first tackle aggressive tax planning by strengthening the tax base and by preventing tax evasion connected with international investment activity. Both national and international measures must be taken to combat the grey economy. Finland is moreover committed to providing support in building tax systems in developing countries.

If the sustainability of public finances is not ensured, before long this will also jeopardise the achievement of the SDGs relating to social and environmental sustainability. Economic sustainability refers to dimensioning the activities of households, businesses and the public sector in a way that is sustainably compatible with the foreseeable development of economic resources. The term is often used to refer to the sustainability of public finances in particular. The sustainability of public finances is determined by whether they are strong enough to meet the expenditure pressures brought about by demographic change and the impacts of slower economic growth. Measures to strengthen the sustainability of public finances involve a need to increase tax revenues, curb expenditure growth and step up economic growth.

Efforts towards an economically sustainable Finland and an economically sustainable world are taken under six of the strategic themes of the Government Programme in

particular: Finland as a sustainable economy, Carbon neutral Finland that protects biodiversity, Dynamic and thriving Finland, Finland built on trust and labour market equality, Finland that promotes competence, education, culture and innovation, and Globally influential Finland.

The 2030 Agenda in EU policy and Nordic cooperation

Finland is strongly committed to EU membership and to further develop the EU, as well as to the pursuit of policies that accord with the EU's basic values including democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights. Our European cooperation will focus on a number of core tasks that bring European added value, including climate policy, trade policy, the single market, social rights, and internal and external security.

The EU is committed to implementing the Paris Agreement and putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into effect. In accordance with Finland's goal, the EU has agreed on the objective of climate neutrality by 2050. In addition, Finland is seeking to have the emission reduction target set for 2030 to be raised to 55 per cent at least. Further measures to tighten the EU's emissions reduction targets will be focused on the emissions trading sector.

The need to further and attain the objectives of the Paris Agreement is also apparent in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the programmes funded under it. The EU is funding a socially just transition towards carbon neutrality. Finland supported the idea of raising the importance of climate-related action to a level of at least 30 per cent of the EU budget in the next MFF period.

The EU is strongly committed to implementing the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The EU is combating biodiversity loss and also giving careful attention to the status of water bodies.

Reducing inequalities and identifying solutions to global issues that increase inequalities are essential in all EU cooperation. The social dimension is a key area for the EU. An up-to-date minimum regulation of social rights and working life, together with more effective implementation, is vital for strengthening the social dimension of the EU.

Key issues in building a Union of social sustainability and equality are promoting gender equality in the EU Budget; implementing in full the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) in all EU activities; reinforcing equality work in the EU; combating age discrimination in EU decision-making; and strengthening the inclusion of young people.

Finland will promote the EU's Global Strategy, which will strengthen the Union's role as a global leader. Partnerships and cooperation between the EU and African countries will be intensified. Within the EU, Finland will promote a policy that respects the need to protect the Arctic region's stability and its particularly sensitive nature and to secure economic opportunities and employment in that region. Mitigation of climate change must be at the heart of our Arctic policy. Northern livelihoods and the rights of indigenous peoples living in the north must be ensured, and all major projects regarding the Arctic region will be subject to detailed impact assessments.

The Government is preparing a Government report on EU policy that will be submitted to Parliament in early 2021.

Nordic and Baltic Sea region cooperation

The Nordic countries are Finland's most natural partners. The Nordic countries share similar values of democracy and openness as well as values concerning the welfare state. Finland supports the work of the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Nordic cooperation focuses on achieving practical results in areas such as leading the fight against climate change and in digitalisation and cultural and defence matters.

The new vision of the Nordic Council of Ministers states that the Nordic Region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world by 2030. Under the vision, the Council will step up action against climate change as well as its support for e.g. digital integration and mobility. Finland will continue its Nordic climate and energy cooperation in order to achieve carbon neutrality and will work to strengthen the position of the Nordic countries as leaders in international climate policy.

For Finland, the main element of regional cooperation concerning the Baltic Sea is the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the collaboration performed within the strategy framework. Finland's aim is that the Baltic Sea should be clean and constitute a robust marine environment that is used sustainably. The aim is that the Baltic Sea region will take the lead in sustainable development and in the bioeconomy and circular economy.

3.2 The strategic themes under the Government Programme include concrete measures

The Government has identified seven strategic themes through which to work for a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable Finland. The strategic themes are key phenomena, and efforts concerning these themes promote several SDGs at the same time.

In addition to the strategic themes, the Government Programme also includes a section on economic policy entitled 'Finland as a sustainable economy' that defines the Government's economic policy objectives and key economic policy contents.

The section 'Finland as a sustainable economy' and the related strategic themes make up the core of the Government's agenda for change. They indicate the areas where Finland must make efforts in order to make it possible to achieve a society of sustainable development in Finland and globally. 'Finland as a sustainable economy' and the strategic themes serve to implement all of the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda strongly underscores the interdependence of all of the SDGs. They cannot be examined and implemented independently of each other but, instead, their achievement is greatly dependent on their mutual interconnections. The Government Programme's phenomena-based approach supports the simultaneous implementation of multiple SDGs.

In its February 2020 report, the Expert Panel on Sustainable Development examined the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland¹⁵ on the basis of the Global Sustainable Development Report¹⁶ and concluded that finding interlinkages is the key instrument in the transformations. The message of the Expert Panel is that sustainable change takes place through interconnected systems, human activities, and creative solutions.

3.3 The Government is working towards the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The following sections cover the Government's objectives and actions to reach each SDG in Finland as well as globally.

¹⁵ https://www.kestavyyspaneeli.fi/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2020/03/Finnish_Expert_Panel_on_Sustainable_Development_Publications_1_2020.pdf

¹⁶ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf

**GOAL 1:****End poverty in all its forms everywhere****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 1:**

1.1: Due to a comprehensive universal social security system, no one in Finland is living in extreme poverty.

1.2: No significant changes have taken place in the at-risk-of-poverty rate in recent years. The proportion of low-income earners has gradually declined in the oldest age groups.

1.3: Finland provides comprehensive social security covering the whole population. The level of benefits has been raised to some extent in recent years for people living on basic social security.

1.4: The entire population has access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property. Everyone has access to new technology, also as part of public services. The number of people in payment default has been growing. There are more men than women with payment defaults.

1.5: The situation of different population groups is taken into account when improving society's disaster resilience and preparing for climate change.

Government objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 1:

- Promoting wellbeing and reducing inequalities, including reducing poverty and exclusion
- Reforming social security, including protecting income security and reducing poverty among older people

According to national definitions, there are people in Finland who live in relative poverty, many of them in families with children (SDG target 1.2). Therefore, the Government seeks to reduce poverty and exclusion especially among pensioners and families with children by developing benefits and services as a package.

The Government will continue the implementation of the 2017 pension reform in cooperation with labour market organisations (1.4). Steps taken by the Government to reduce poverty among older people include increasing the size of the smallest pensions as well as the number of pensions available for artists and athletes.

The Government will improve the income security of low-income families with children and take consistent action to reduce poverty among families with children. The single-parent supplement linked to child benefits, child benefits for the fourth and fifth child and the family provider supplement to study grants will be increased.

The Government will make it easier to coordinate income from paid work, self-employment and other sources and will reform adjusted unemployment benefits. The development work on combined unemployment insurance will be continued in the context of reforming social security, and different models for improving the social security and pension security of entrepreneurs and the self-employed will be reviewed. There will be a feasibility study to review the possibilities of extending the general earnings-based unemployment security system to all unemployed jobseekers who meet the time-at-work requirement. The strengthening of employment services can help to prevent long-term unemployment and poverty.

The Government will clarify the social security system, since the role of social assistance has grown due to factors including the low level of basic social security and the complexity of the benefit system. The system will be clarified by implementing a comprehensive social assistance reform to guarantee sufficient last-resort financial assistance and timely services for people in need of social support. The comprehensive social assistance reform will include measures such as examining the reasons for having to depend on social assistance, especially among young people, and finding ways to address the issue. Experiments will be utilised in the restructuring of basic social security.

The Government will focus more on risk factors for social disadvantage and the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage through measures that include targeting effective services at risk groups by revamping adult social work, reforming the Act on Client Charges in Health and Social Services, as well as investing in early childhood education and care and extending compulsory education (1.4). The objective is to remove barriers to treatment and to increase equality in health by e.g. introducing more free services and by making client charges more equitable. This will build the resilience of at-risk groups and reduce their exposure to e.g. economic and social shocks and disasters (1.5). Resilience will be built by strengthening the preventive services for families under the Social Welfare Act, and by easing the eligibility criteria for families to qualify for home services. To secure the rights and wellbeing of the most vulnerable children, a gradually tightening minimum staffing level will be introduced in child protection services.

The levels of basic social security benefits, i.e. the minimum rehabilitation allowance, sickness and parental allowance as well as the basic unemployment allowance and labour market subsidy were increased as from the beginning of January 2020. In that context, an increase was made in the child benefits of those families that are assessed to be at the

greatest risk of poverty (families with many children, single-parent families) as well as on the single-parent supplement of the basic amount of social assistance. The Government is also committed to raising the level of basic social security and to reviewing, in every government budget session, the possibilities, within the spending limits, of increasing funding to reduce poverty and inequalities. The Government also aims to implement a comprehensive social assistance reform. Over the longer term, poverty will be addressed by launching a reform of social security. In every government budget session, the Government will review the possibilities, within the spending limits, of increasing funding to reduce poverty and inequalities.

The focus in reforming social security will be on securing social justice and on protecting income security for people who are faced with social risks. The work to reform social security will be prepared by a parliamentary committee, which will address questions related to basic social security, earnings-based benefits and social assistance, the financing and connections between these forms of support, and ways to better integrate services with benefits. The work will focus in particular on special groups that currently fall between the systems.

The Government has appointed a parliamentary committee to prepare a national strategy for children. Our society is faced with the challenges of low birth rate, population ageing, poverty among families with children and the intergenerational cycle of social exclusion.

Sustained programme work has been carried out in Finland to reduce homelessness. The Government has launched a programme to cooperate with the main urban regions, service providers and organisations with the goal of halving homelessness by 2023.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, swift action has been taken to secure people's livelihoods in emergency conditions. Rising unemployment and lay-offs and, for parents of young children, the period of distance learning for pupils in primary and lower secondary education in spring 2020 created the need to reinforce the benefit system with temporary solutions, while at the same time the job creation potential of enterprises was supported by introducing temporary solutions concerning social insurance contributions.

Implementing global responsibility:

The purpose of Finland's development policy and cooperation is eradication of extreme poverty, reduction of inequalities, and sustainable development. Finland supports the achievement of the Goals and principles of sustainable development in developing countries and globally, focusing on four priorities. Our development policy is based on our values and strengths and on a human rights-based and long-term approach. All actions take into account the cross-cutting objectives of gender equality, non-discrimination,

climate resilience and low-emission development. The geographical focus is on Africa. The Government will prepare a comprehensive Africa strategy, which will be based on the 2030 Agenda and will ensure coherence in Finland's Africa policy.

The Government's impact objectives for the development policy priority areas are as follows for the current parliamentary term: 1) The status and rights of women and girls will have been strengthened; 2) Developing countries' economies will provide more decent jobs, livelihoods and wellbeing; 3) People in developing countries will have access to equal education and open government in democratic societies; and 4) Sustainable use of natural resources will have promoted climate resilience and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Each of the priorities implements multiple SDGs and targets. The monitoring uses indicators in accordance with the SDG indicators and supports developing countries' capacity to implement, and monitor their own implementation of, the 2030 Agenda. Finland considers that it promotes the achievement of SDG 1 by supporting the other Goals and the 'leave no one behind' (LNOB) principle. For more information about the concrete actions, see each Goal.

Humanitarian aid is an independent part of Finland's development policy. Aid must be provided on the basis of need and not for political reasons. Emergency aid may, however, contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs, as its basic purpose is to save human lives and relieve human suffering.

Finland supports response to the COVID-19 crisis in developing countries as part of development cooperation. Our long-term focus e.g. on improving the status of women and on the education sector is important in this context, too, and support crisis resilience. Operations have been adapted and, by September 2020, funding allocated for measures relating to the COVID-19 crisis had already exceeded EUR 50 million, with most of this coming from the development cooperation budget for the current year and some from appropriations of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Through the UN and other international organisations and partnerships, Finland supports and promotes the model of universal social policy where the entire population is covered by the measures and the system. Key determinants include providing access to social security for all, reducing inequalities, pursuing full employment and decent work, and implementing a human rights-based approach in all activities.

Finland is an active member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the specialised agency of the UN advancing social justice and promoting decent work.

**GOAL 2:****End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 2:**

- 2.1:** Finland has ensured that everyone has access to safe and nutritious food all year around.
- 2.2:** No significant malnutrition exists in Finland; conversely, the proportion of overweight people is growing.
- 2.3:** Finland has ensured everyone's right to land and other productive resources and inputs. Everyone in Finland has freedom to engage in commercial activity.
- 2.4:** Finland aims to develop a sustainable food system, which is pursued through the European Union's common agricultural policy and a national toolkit.
- 2.5:** Finland has safeguarded the genetic diversity of agricultural production inputs and farmed animals as part of EU law and national legislation in keeping with international treaties.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 2:

The Government's actions regarding SDG 2 focus in particular on improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The Government has introduced development and monitoring measures concerning access by older people to nutritious and sufficient food and communal meal opportunities. Healthy food and weight management are also promoted on a broad basis among families with children. Healthy, communal and ecological school meals will be developed further. In addition, the possibility of providing a snack will be explored as part of the work to reorganise the school day. Research into child and youth nutrition will also be increased to support the nutrition policy. (SDG targets **2.1**, **2.2**.)

The Government will study the prospects for introducing a public health promotion tax on such products as sugar.

The relative share of domestic plant-based products and fish will be increased in public procurement in line with the nutrition recommendations and low-carbon objectives.

The Government will improve the profitability of agriculture by promoting active agricultural production and a sustainable food system (2.3). Support payments will be targeted especially at active and sustainable food production. The Government will prepare a national 'climate food' programme and a roadmap for reducing loss and waste in the food chain. The national strategy on organic production will also be updated.

To reduce climate emissions from agriculture and to increase carbon sinks (2.4), the Government will e.g. promote the introduction of cultivation techniques which either increase carbon sequestration or reduce climate emissions (such as wetland cultivation and biochar). The need to clear peatlands will be reduced by increasing the processing and productisation of manure, which will help to reduce the need to clear arable land for manure spreading. In addition, an afforestation and wetland programme will be introduced for arable lands not suited to food production and for peat production areas that are no longer in use.

To improve the sustainability of livestock farming, the Animal Welfare Act will be reformed and other practices and structural reforms promoting animal welfare will be introduced. Improvements in animal welfare will create a foundation for good production animal health, low use of antibiotics and safe food. Active measures will be taken to combat animal diseases.

Implementing global responsibility:

Promoting food security in developing countries is part of development policy but, in the global context, food security is also impacted significantly through measures in many general policy sectors: trade policy, health policy, education policy, etc. As regards policy recommendations, it is important to examine food security as a system – the food system. More than 800 million people in the world suffer from hunger, which makes all development goals difficult to achieve.

In addition to undernutrition, the other two components affecting food security are the increasing overweight and obesity problems as well as nutritional imbalance, i.e. vitamin and mineral deficiencies and other problems relating to dietary composition. Finland supports improvements in food security by promoting the organisation of small-scale farmers and the development of sustainable agricultural production and food value chains as well as land management in particular.

Finland also supports intersectoral cooperation, in particular the water-food-forest-energy nexus, and multi-actor cooperation to strengthen food systems.

Finland seeks a comprehensive approach: alongside – and largely as a prerequisite for – actual agricultural production, it is important to enhance rural communities' vitality, livelihoods, education and training, market systems, financing and guarantee arrangements, land ownership conditions and, more broadly, to promote erosion control, water resources management, sustainable forestry and soil health and fertility.

In the humanitarian sector, Finland provides funding for the World Food Programme (WFP), which delivers food and cash transfers to the world's crisis regions. Emergency cash transfers support local food production and economy, as they allow beneficiaries to buy the products they need on the local market.

Finland takes part in international cooperation against noncommunicable diseases and promotes a healthy, sustainable and knowledge-based nutrition policy in arenas including the World Health Organization (WHO). Finland supports the implementation of the recommendations of the WHO Independent High-Level Commission on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD).

Finland supports the global food security role of the Codex Alimentarius operating under the WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The UN Food Systems Summit 2021 (dates yet to be confirmed) will focus on the role food systems play in the achievement of the SDGs, and Finland is actively participating in the preparations for the summit.

Participation in the work of the World Organisation on Animal Health (OIE) and the Codex Alimentarius contributes to the prevention of the occurrence of new animal diseases, eradication of known diseases and promotion of safe international trade in animals and foodstuffs.

On Finland's initiative, the UN General Assembly declared 2020 the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). Extended until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IYPH has been broadly welcomed by the international community and helps to implement SDG 2 in particular. In addition, the IYPH and related measures facilitate the achievement of SDGs 1, 13 and 15.

**GOAL 3:****Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 3:**

3.1: Finland's maternal mortality ratio is below the target set (less than 70 per 100,000 live births, in Finland less than 10 a year).

3.2: In Finland, mortality among newborns and children under 5 years of age is at a very low level and has declined clearly, i.e. Finland has reached the target.

3.3: No epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria exist in Finland, and the spread of hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases has been prevented in accordance with the target.

3.4: Finland has succeeded in reducing premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment while also promoting mental health and well-being. The situation is monitored continuously and measures will be continued and their efficiency increased.

3.5: Alcohol use has declined particularly among young people in Finland. The number of drug-related deaths has increased. The prevention and treatment of substance abuse must be strengthened further.

3.6: The number of deaths from road traffic accidents has declined, but progress towards the target of halving them (2010–2020) has been too slow. The numbers of injuries reported to the police have decreased in accordance with the target.

3.7: Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services by 2030 is not yet reached, but the situation is reasonable. Reproductive health is integrated into national strategies and programmes.

3.8: Finland provides health and social services and social security with universal coverage. However, there is still room for improvement in the quality and availability of primary services. Access to medicines and vaccines is ensured for the whole population.

3.9: There are very few deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals or air, water and soil pollution or contamination in Finland.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 3:

- Promoting wellbeing and reducing inequalities
- Promoting age-friendliness
- Improving healthcare and social welfare services

The Government will promote wellbeing and reduce inequalities through a variety of means. The Government will promote public health through tax guidance measures including various degrees of tax increases on tobacco and nicotine products, alcohol and sugar-rich soft drinks. The prospects for introducing a public health promotion tax on such products as sugar will be studied during the government term. (SDG target 3.4)

Efforts will be made to reduce premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by making the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases more effective, increasing low-threshold services in lifestyle counselling and prevention (3.4).

The Government has promoted mental health by publishing and allocating funding for a National Mental Health Strategy and Programme for Suicide Prevention 2020–2030 (3.4). The Government has also launched an action plan for good mental health in working life relating to the implementation of the strategy.

The Government will reform the legislation on mental health and substance abuse services. To prevent substance abuse, foster preventive work and harmonise substance abuse services, the Government will update the substance abuse strategy (3.5). The Government will continue working systematically to reduce smoking and the overall consumption of alcoholic beverages. A cross-sectoral government resolution on drug policy will be prepared to increase the efficiency of services for drug users and to reduce the harmful effects of drug use. In addition, the Government will secure preventive substance abuse services for minors and, for mothers and families with substance abuse problems, also rehabilitation as well as sufficient services.

To improve sexual and reproductive health (3.7), the Government will provide involuntarily childless families with different kinds of support in their aspirations to have children and will seek to ensure equal access to infertility treatments. The Government will strengthen sexual education and implement a national experiment on free contraceptives to everyone under the age of 25.

The Government will extend the scope of the national vaccination programme, endorse positive attitudes towards vaccination and improve vaccination coverage. The scope of the screening programme will be extended to foster prevention and strengthen public health (3.8). The Government has prepared to procure COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate the entire population. Finland will take part in the joint EU purchase of vaccines and also participate in the international COVAX mechanism for access to vaccines suitable for the different population, age and risk groups. Additional funding has been set aside for vaccine procurements.

The Government has launched a health and social services reform. The central objectives of the reform will be to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing, safeguard equal and quality health and social services for all, improve the availability and accessibility of services, ensure the availability of skilled labour, respond to the challenges of changes in society, and curb the growth of costs. The objective is to remove barriers to treatment and to increase equality in health by reducing client charges. All undocumented migrants will be secured necessary care and treatment. The Government will launch the preparation of a reform package supporting access to health and social services in order to dismantle the multiple-year backlog in treatment and services. In addition, the Government undertakes to dismantle the backlog of treatment and services through a EUR 450 million package of measures in 2021–2023.

The health and social services reform will include the implementation of the Future Health and Social Services Centres Programme to safeguard quick access to care, treatment and support in health as well as social issues. The aim is to strengthen integration and a multidisciplinary approach in healthcare and social welfare, particularly as regards those whose needs for support are great and diverse.

The Government will prepare a multisectoral and horizontal National Programme on Ageing 2030. The aim is to improve the functional capacity of the ageing population and to develop age-friendly services and living environments.

The Government will update the Act on Supporting the Functional Capacity of the Older Population and on Social and Health Care Services for Older Persons. To improve the quality of services for older persons, provisions on the minimum number of personnel and the introduction of functional capacity assessment system have already been added to the Act.

The Government will review the organisation of environmental healthcare as part of the health and social services reform and address the situation in regard to people who are suffering from illnesses due to poor indoor air quality. The aim is to ensure that those among them who are incapable of working or unable to work in the workplace premises due to poor indoor air quality are not left without income security (3.9).

To enhance the impact of culture on wellbeing, the Government will strengthen collaboration between administrative branches and create the conditions for culture to flourish by securing the levels of central government transfers, the grants for activities and the appropriations for national institutions, as well as implement a reform of the system of central government transfers to the performing arts. The Government will also promote children's culture, support basic education in the arts and increase the general and project grants to children's culture. In addition, every child and young person will be guaranteed an opportunity to pursue a leisure activity of their choice as part of the school day.

The Government will reinforce the obligation to consult young people and introduce new tools to develop it.

The Government will implement the 'Finland on the Move' programme to promote physical activity. The work of the new Sports Policy Coordination Body has begun. The sustainable construction of outdoor sports facilities will be supported by reducing the maintenance backlog and continuing to require energy efficiency for the facilities. Account will be taken in particular of people with disabilities and older people in efforts to promote equality in physical activity.

The Government pledges to assess the child impacts of its decisions, improve child budgeting, strengthen knowledge about child wellbeing and foster the inclusion of children and young people.

The Government will prepare an action plan against bullying and loneliness.

To secure the rights and wellbeing of the most vulnerable children, the Government will introduce a gradually tightening minimum staffing level in child protection services.

Implementing global responsibility:

Improving the status of women and girls is a priority in Finland's foreign policy. In development policy, this is closely connected to the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls, which in practice should be realised as a part of basic healthcare in each country. Access to basic healthcare and social security for all is crucial for the promotion of the status and fundamental rights of women and girls and for the promotion of stable societal development. Without health, it is difficult to go to school or participate in employment.

Through the World Health Organization (WHO), other international organisations and partnerships, Finland actively promotes developments including the realisation of universal health coverage, strengthening of health systems, health promotion and reduction of health inequalities, prevention and treatment of chronic diseases, and global capacity building in preparedness for and response to health threats. WHO plays a key normative and technical support role for all countries in the world as regards response to COVID-19 and reconstruction as well as the implementation of health-related SDGs.

During 2020, Finland has joined several organisations promoting vaccine development and cooperation (incl. CEPI, GAVI, IIVI). By supporting these organisations, Finland contributes towards the strengthening of the capacities of all countries and in particular developing countries for the anticipation, minimisation and management of national and global health risks.

Finland does most of its work related to sexual and reproductive health through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, WHO and other international and Finnish organisations. To an increasing extent, this work takes place in fragile areas and humanitarian crises where situations may change very rapidly, and the work is made more difficult by problems typically related to emergency conditions, such as a poor security situation, access to water and energy, and difficulty of long-term planning.

Our experience and solutions in health and social service development, digitalisation and data utilisation, health promotion and health and wellbeing technology make Finland an attractive cooperation partner in the global health and health diplomacy environment. Together with Germany, Finland leads the initiative of the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union (2019–2022) to strengthen the EU’s political and strategic effectiveness in global health. The aim is to develop the coordination and communication of EU Member States to promote strategic priorities in a proactive manner. The international promotion of the EU’s common values, such as democracy and the rule of law as well as fundamental and human rights, is a key element of the cooperation. The UN Technology Innovation Lab (UNTIL) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Finland promote global health solutions.

**GOAL 4:**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 4:

- 4.1:** Finland has achieved the targets for completion of primary and secondary education.
- 4.2:** The right to early childhood education and care will be extended to cover all children equally.
- 4.3:** The reform of vocational education and training has increased flexibility in terms of access and completion.
- 4.4:** Increasing attention is being paid to continuous learning.
- 4.5:** Gender disparities in learning outcomes are still considerable in Finland.
- 4.6:** Literacy is world-class, but the level of skills has declined in both numeracy and literacy.
- 4.7:** Education for sustainable development is mainstreamed at all levels of education from early childhood education and care through to the secondary level (including vocational education and training) and also included in the agreement negotiations between the Government and higher education institutions.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 4:

- The level of education and competence among the population will rise at all levels of education, difference in learning outcomes will decrease, and educational equality will increase
- Children and young people will feel well
- Education and training will enhance gender equality and non-discrimination in society
- Finland will be an internationally attractive place to study, conduct research and invest
- Every young person will stay on an education path.

To achieve the objectives of the Government Programme, the Government will submit an Education Policy Report to Parliament in early 2021. The Report will draw up a situational picture concerning education, training and research as well as an assessment of the current state and determine the desired state in relation to the main education policy

objectives of the Government Programme. This will entail a comprehensive review of education from early childhood education and care all the way to higher education. Long-term policies will be outlined for the preservation and improvement of the quality and effectiveness of the Finnish education system and Finnish research. As part of the Education Policy Report, measures focusing on international aspects and global effectiveness will also be formulated. (SDG targets **4.1, 4.2., 4.3.**)

The Government will raise the minimum school leaving age to 18 years. At the same time, in the context of compulsory education, upper secondary education will be made totally free of charge, including books and other learning materials, and education in the transition point of lower and upper secondary education will be reformed. The reform will take effect in stages one age group at a time starting from autumn 2021. (**4.1, 4.3**)

Education for sustainable development; climate change education; digitalisation, financial literacy and working life skills; and sexual and equality education will be mainstreamed at all levels of education. The Government will enhance democracy and human rights education and inclusivity at schools. (**4.7.**) Other positive actions towards the achievement of target 4.7 have also been the 'Climate Responsibility in Education' impact programme implemented by the Finnish National Agency for Education and the allocation for special funding for sustainable development themes in continuing education projects for teachers (application round in 2020).

The Government has prepared a National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme 2020–2023, which outlines measures that include creating a model for assessing individually and reliably every child's ability to attend school, supporting minorities and preventing exclusion, promoting young people's employment and mental health, addressing substance use and game addiction, ensuring equal opportunities for young people to access face-to-face support as part of the One-Stop Guidance Centre activities, and taking into account financial literacy skills and working life skills as part of young people's wellbeing. (**4.4.**)

The Government will substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship (**4.3, 4.4.**)

The aim is to promote continuous learning, strengthen adults' missing basic skills and respond to the labour need of different areas and sectors. The Government will implement a parliamentary reform of continuous learning, responding to people's lifelong need for upskilling and reskilling. The aim is to promote continuous learning, strengthen adults' missing basic skills and respond to the labour needs of different areas and sectors. The reform will also take into account the promotion of sustainable development, as global

citizenship skills are future skills that will be needed in working life as well. (4.4, 4.7.) The policies for the reform will be outlined in conjunction with the Government's mid-term policy review. The implementation of the reform will continue beyond the government term.

As part of competence development in working life, individual training programmes, for example at upper secondary and liberal adult education educational institutions, will be provided by also enabling vocational competence-based qualifications (4.4). Special priority will be given to people with low skills, retrained unemployed persons, and those who are at risk of unemployment (4.5). Labour policy education arranged as joint purchases with enterprises will also increase. In addition, the use of apprenticeship training will grow with a view to securing the first job, and as a channel for retraining and adult education and training. The allowances paid for the apprenticeship training period will be revised and simplified to ease the administrative burden on employers. On-the-job learning and the role of workplace counsellors will be strengthened.

The Government will improve the study leave system and enable its wider use by reforming the adult education allowance. This reform will support harmonisation of work and studying. Unemployed persons will have more opportunities to study part-time while looking for work (4.5).

The Government has put in place a subjective right to full-time early childhood education and care (ECEC). The Act on Early Childhood Education and Care has been amended, and the equality of children and families has therefore been reinforced. In addition, a two-year pre-school will be piloted, a pathway will be created from maternity and child health clinics to ECEC, and a support model for ECEC will be developed. Group sizes for over 3-year-olds will be reduced, and quality criteria for ECEC will be drawn up. The Government aims to ensure the availability of ECEC professionals throughout the country. In the long term, the Government seeks to move towards part-time free-of-charge ECEC.

The 'Right to Learn' development programmes for quality and equality in ECEC will help to ensure an equal start on the learning path and improve wellbeing. The aim is to narrow and prevent learning gaps and strengthen support for learning. (4.2.)

The Government will strengthen the study guidance provided at different levels of education. Measures taken will include improving the capacity of first- and second-generation immigrants to access further studies by providing more study guidance and multidisciplinary collaboration with their families (4.1).

The Government will reinforce the implementation of the reform of vocational education and training, workplace learning and the development of apprenticeships. To ensure quality, the level of funding for vocational education and training will be increased. (4.4.)

The Government will improve the quality of general upper secondary education and facilitate the implementation of the new Act on General Upper Secondary Education (4.1).

The Government will draw up an accessibility plan for higher education that will include a review of how universities and universities of applied sciences realise equality in terms of social aspects, regions and language. The review will also identify the obstacles minority groups are facing as regards seeking higher education, and appropriate action will be taken on the basis of the review outcomes. The plan will feature clear and measurable targets to facilitate access to education and boost the rate of completion among the underrepresented groups (4.3).

The Government has allocated funding for a significant increase in the number of available student places in tertiary education. The aim is to increase the general level of education, reduce the backlog of applicants and address the lack of skilled workers across sectors and regions. The share of higher education graduates will be raised to 50 per cent of young adults by 2030. Student places will be allocated particularly to those applicants who will study for their first higher education degree, and alternative options will be developed for gaining admission to degree education for those who wish to retrain or gain further qualifications (4.3).

The Government will pursue the Literacy Movement promoting literacy and reading. The Government will support basic education in the arts and raise the general and project grants to children's culture. In addition, civil society activity to inspire children and young people to read will be promoted.

National principles for recognition of prior learning (RPL) will be drawn up. The principles will seek to make visible the competences that individuals have gained by various means in working life and in the education system.

Implementing global responsibility:

Solving the global learning crisis is key to the achievement of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda as a whole. Finland supports the development of education systems in several African and Asian countries through measures including intergovernmental cooperation and CSOs. Opportunities for learning are enhanced in fragile states, conflict areas and humanitarian crises. Development cooperation funding will be allocated to a cooperation between higher education institutions of Finland and the Global South for institutional higher education capacity-building in developing countries. Through cooperation between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland has explored opportunities to address the global learning crisis and formulated its priorities for action. The education cooperation will also promote sustainable development competences and global citizenship skills. It is important to teach these skills not only to children and young people but also to the adult population.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is responsible for the international coordination and monitoring of SDG 4. Finland supports UNESCO's work at the expert level and as a funding provider and influences the UNESCO agenda as a Member State of the UNESCO Executive Board for 2017–2021. In 2019–2020, Finland provides voluntary funding of EUR 1 million per year to UNESCO's Capacity Development for Education Programme (CapEd). CapEd's focus is on least developed countries (LDCs) considered the farthest away from achieving the SDG 4 targets. In addition, Finland supports UNESCO's Strengthening Pre-Service Teacher Education in Myanmar (STEM) project with a total of EUR 5 million in 2020–2022. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) implements its 'Every Child Learns' UNICEF Education Strategy 2019–2030 in response to the global learning crisis. Finland takes part in a partnership group promoting the implementation of the Strategy, and the aim is to further solidify the cooperation. Alongside work in UNESCO, Finland also takes part in the development and quality enhancement of the international SDG 4 monitoring indicators through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Finland participates in cooperation and dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to curb climate change by means of education. A national example of intensified action by Finland is the 'Climate Responsibility in Education' impact programme implemented by the Finnish National Agency for Education since 2019, which bolstered climate responsibility education and its mainstreaming into the activities of schools and other educational institutions. The programme formulated a joint action programme of multiple parties on climate responsibility education to strengthen the theme in the future. Climate responsibility covers measures to curb climate change as well as aspects relating to climate change adaptation.

In the EU, Finland participates actively in the debate with the Member States, the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Support Team and stakeholders about how to take global education and development communication into account as part of the EU's upcoming development cooperation programming for 2021–2027. Global education is also one of the goals of the work of Teachers Without Borders (TWB), a network of teachers that supplies education experts for development projects where support is needed to enhance education quality.

Finland supports the work of the education sector in humanitarian crises through organisations including the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and Finnish CSOs. A total of 10 per cent of humanitarian funding channelled via the EU is also earmarked for education in emergency situations. Safeguarding education is particularly important in protracted conflicts and refugee situations.

**GOAL 5:****Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 5:**

5.1: The gender equality situation is good in Finland, but there are still some challenges.

5.2: Finland is the second most violent EU country for women, but there are plenty of ongoing measures focused on prevention and service improvement.

5.3: While legislation relevant to harmful practices has been developed, plenty of challenges still remain.

5.4: Progress is being made in the equality-oriented family leave reform, and the social security reform is expected to incorporate a gender perspective.

5.5: While gender equality is effective in political participation, there are challenges with economic decision-making.

5.6: Services relevant to sexual and reproductive rights and health are at a good level. There are ongoing measures to develop these further as well as to increase sexual education with a focus on autonomy.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 5:

- The Government's goal is to raise Finland into a leading country in gender equality and to improve equality ambitiously in different sectors of society.
- The Government is committed to promoting gender equality, for example in the Budget process and in all key reforms.

The Government has drawn up an Action Plan for Gender Equality, on which a government resolution has been issued and the monitoring of which is about to begin (SDG target **5.c**). The Government promotes pay equality by implementing a broad set of measures. The elimination of unjustified pay disparities and pay discrimination will be promoted through statutory measures to improve pay transparency (**5.1, 5.a**). Unjustified disparities in pay between women and men will be addressed more rigorously than at present. The gender impacts of collective agreements will be assessed as part of the Equal Pay Programme.

The Act on Equality between Women and Men will be amended to incorporate rights and meaningful opportunities for staff, staff representatives and individual employees to access pay information and address pay discrimination more effectively. Discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy will also be prevented. Legislation will be clarified to ensure that pregnancy and use of family leave may not affect the continuation of temporary employment. The prospects for improving the job security of employees returning from family leave will be studied, with the findings applied in necessary legislative and other measures. The Government will prevent discrimination in recruitment, with the measures to this end including an investigation of the feasibility of anonymous job applications.

To develop shared responsibility within the household and the family, the Government has appointed a parliamentary committee to prepare a national strategy for children based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (5.4). Alongside this, the proposals for measures put forward by the working group on alternating residence after parental separation will be advanced and child benefits for the fourth and fifth child will be increased. In addition, the Government will take the needs of single parents better into account by increasing the single-parent supplement to the child benefit so that families who live on social assistance will also benefit from the increase. Child maintenance allowances and the family provider supplement to study grants will also be increased.

The Government will carry out a comprehensive reform of legislation governing sexual offences based on the principle of physical integrity and the right to sexual self-determination. The definition of rape in the Criminal Code will be amended so that it will be based on the absence of consent while simultaneously ensuring appropriate legal safeguards. The range of services offered at support centres for victims of sexual violence will be extended and their coverage across Finland will be improved (5.2).

The Government will draw up an action plan for combating violence against women with the aim of increasing awareness among citizens and the authorities about violence against women and improving the referral of victims to services. The Government will increase the support services for victims, the number of places in shelters, and the resources allocated to shelters to conform to the level required by the Council of Europe. Violence against men will also be prevented in all its forms (5.2). The Government will ensure resources for the work against genital mutilation. The annulment of forced marriages will be enabled and the possibility to criminalise forced marriage will be examined (5.3).

An act on the legal recognition of gender that respects people's right to self-determination will be enacted. The requirement of infertility will be removed from the act, and medical treatments will be separated from the change of legal gender. Intersex children's right to self-determination will be strengthened, and cosmetic, non-medical surgeries on young children's genitals will no longer be performed (5.c).

As part of defence policy, opportunities for women to carry out voluntary military service and to serve in the Defence Forces will be improved, for example, by means of equality work and by increasing awareness of military service for women. A parliamentary committee will be set up to look into ways to develop general conscription and to meet national defence obligations. The aim is to maintain a high level of will to defend one's country and to strengthen social equity among citizens.

The Government will implement a family leave reform in cooperation between the Government and the social partners. The aim is an equal division of family leaves and care responsibilities between both parents, stronger non-discrimination and equality in the world of work, and reduced pay disparities between the sexes (5.4). The reform will take into account diverse families and various forms of self-employment. The prospects for increasing the flexibility of working time will also be examined with a view to balancing the harmonisation of work and family and prolonging working careers. The aim in particular is to improve part-time working opportunities for parents of small children and for those who are caring for older relatives. A new act on parenthood will be enacted to replace the Maternity Act and the Paternity Act (5.c).

A monitoring system covering all state administrative sectors will be created for monitoring equality. Going forward, a gender impact assessment will be a compulsory part of public administrative functions in all government departments.

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland pursues a human rights-based foreign and security policy. The central aim of this policy is to systematically promote gender equality and the full realisation of girls' and women's rights.

Finland focuses particularly on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), which are currently under challenge the world over, including within the EU. SRHR are about people's right to decide on their own sexuality and gender expression, their right and opportunity to make choices concerning themselves, their right to receive sexual and reproductive health services and quality sexual education, and their right to be protected against violence and harassment. In practice, the promotion of SRHR is about promoting maternity and reproductive health services, access to contraception and safe abortions, efficient sexual education, work against child marriages and genital mutilation, work against gendered and sexual violence, and promoting the rights of gender and sexual minorities.

The Government Programme aims to reach the target of gender-focused and mainstreamed actions, in accordance with OECD definitions, across 85 per cent of new

development cooperation programmes. There is a specific strategic focus on women and children's SRHR and on work to eradicate violence against and abuse of women and girls. In addition to advocacy concerning legislation, there is a strong focus in the work of Finnish CSOs to generate change at the community level through advocacy to eliminate harmful attitudes and practices. (5.6)

The needs and rights of women and children are a key priority of Finland's humanitarian policy. Finland supports SRHR particularly through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Finnish CSOs.

Gender equality, women's access to employment and their economic opportunities in developing countries are also promoted by means of the financial investment appropriation. Half of the new EUR 210 million loan granted to Finland's national development finance institution Finnfund in 2019 is earmarked for enterprises that strengthen the financial independence of women in developing countries or provide important services for girls and women. Gender equality issues, women's access to employment and economic opportunities will also be promoted through other financial investments and through development cooperation carried out by Finnish CSOs during the current government term.

Strengthening the role of women in peace mediation as part of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is also one of Finland's long-term priorities.

Finland supports UN activities in the advancement of gender equality and in particular underscores the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The Government will enhance its equality work at the EU level. Finland will support the efficient implementation of the EU Gender Equality Strategy adopted in March 2020. Important priorities outlined in the strategy include ending gender-based violence and stereotypes, promoting gender-equal economy (incl. the EU budget), achieving gender balance in decision-making, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the EU's external relations policies. (5.c.)

The EU must step up its work to eliminate all forms of violence against women and promote the accession of the EU Member States to the Istanbul Convention to enable its implementation in due course.

Finland will also draw attention to emerging themes such as the gender equality impacts of new technology and innovations. The gender perspective is important also in action against climate change.



GOAL 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 6:

6.1, 6.2: Finland has reached the targets for achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all and access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all.

6.3: Progress has been made with regard to improving water quality by reducing pollution, but some of the water bodies and groundwaters are yet to achieve good ecological status.

6.4: While slight positive progress has occurred in terms of water-use efficiency, there is still room for improvement in water recycling.

6.5: With regard to integrated water resources management, good progress has been made in the river basin management plans and in implementing measures included in the plans. Cooperation with neighbouring countries in transboundary waters is exemplary.

6.6: While progress has been made in protecting water-related ecosystems, some additional effort is still required, depending on areas.

6.a: In terms of international cooperation, Finland has been punching above its weight in both international organisations and developing countries.

6.b: Progress has also been made in engaging local communities in the activities through extensive development cooperation projects in Ethiopia and Nepal, for example.

Government objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 6:

As regards water services, the Government will focus on sustainable solutions to safeguard the security of supply and quality of services, taking also into account climate impacts and adaptation to climate change. The right to clean water and sanitation is also a prominent component of Finland's development policy.

The Government will implement a national water services reform to seek solutions that will help to upgrade Finnish water services and anticipate changes in the operating environment. The aim is to ensure safe, secure and high-quality water services for all customers of water utilities. At the same time, the aim is to make leaps towards the climate neutrality and resource wisdom of water utilities in Finland, utilising solutions based on new technology and the circular economy. (SDG targets **6.2, 6.1**).

The Government will promote the water-related circular economy by implementing a set of measures that focus on nutrient recycling, which will increase the production and consumption of biogas and create a market for recycled fertilisers, thereby significantly reducing the need to clear new fields for manure application and decreasing the nutrient load to water bodies. (6.3.)

The Government will continue the intensified Baltic Sea and water protection programme within at least its current scope throughout the parliamentary term in order to achieve a good ecological state of the water areas. The Government will also improve the condition of the Baltic Sea by broadening the use of gypsum, structural lime and nutrient fibre in fields, either as part of the agri-environmental payment scheme or through separate measures. (6.3.)

The Government will reduce the impacts of agriculture on water bodies by continuing the programme on more efficient water protection and the key project on nutrient recycling. Flood protection and water management in agricultural soils will also be promoted. Measures related to water protection and management will be targeted more effectively by increasing cooperation between farmers in solutions concerning water bodies. (6.5.)

Implementing global responsibility:

Water is a prerequisite for life and vital for human activity. Water is also one of the key factors of development. Shortage of water, occurrence of floods and poor quality of water are a particular concern in developing countries, and safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and water resources management are a key component of and prerequisite for the sustainable development of these societies. The absence of water services as well as poor hygiene are gender equality issues. In many countries, women and girls have primary responsibility for management of household water supply. The time spent fetching water and, in particular, having no access to decent sanitation prevent girls and women from attending school and studying.

The Finnish Water Way – International Water Strategy of Finland (2018) is a joint strategy of five ministries (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of the Interior) that guides all activities relating to the implementation of the SDG, including development policy. Finland is especially renowned for advancing cooperation in transboundary waters and water diplomacy and as a promoter of drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene in several developing countries, including Ethiopia, Nepal and Kenya. Effective cooperation will continue in these partner countries. The Programme for Finland's Water Sector Support (FinWaterWEI) in Central Asia funded by Finland was implemented in 2010–2019.

Finland operates actively in the UN and other international arenas to promote water security, cooperation in transboundary waters, good management of water resources as well as the promotion of water services and sanitation as human rights.

Finland initiated the preparation of both of the international conventions on water bodies (the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention) and supports their implementation. The conventions are key instruments in the promotion of water security, as they provide the framework for the use and protection of international water resources and for related intergovernmental cooperation. Cooperation in the management of shared water resources can help to alleviate tensions between countries and promote regional cooperation.

The conclusions adopted by the Council of the European Union in 2019 reaffirm the EU's commitment to safe drinking water and sanitation as human rights. The EU's new Drinking Water Directive seeks to promote access to water for the most vulnerable groups in the EU. The parties to the Protocol on Water and Health promote access to safe water in the pan-European region, while the World Health Organization (WHO) does the same at the global level.

Finnish enterprises operate directly and through subcontractors in areas suffering from a variety of water-related problems. This means that domestic consumption in Finland is strongly reliant on water resources located outside Finland. This is why a separate Water Stewardship Commitment was established as part of Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development to promote the sustainable use and management of water, to encourage enterprises to cooperate in water stewardship, to assist in the identification of water risks in their value chains and to develop best practices. Finland's key competence is our capacity to develop new technology solutions for e.g. the management of water-related risks and floods, modernisation of water utilities, prevention of water pollution, and safe recycling of water and nutrients.

**GOAL 7:****Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 7:**

- 7.1:** Finland has achieved the target of ensuring universal access to energy.
- 7.2:** Finland has succeeded in increasing the share of renewable energy.
- 7.3:** Finland has reached the energy efficiency target of the EU.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 7:

- Finland aims to be carbon neutral in 2035 and carbon negative soon after that. Finland will do this by accelerating emissions reduction measures and strengthening carbon sinks.
- It is the aim of the Government to increase the use of renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency.

The Government will promote the target of ensuring universal access to affordable and clean energy through a well-functioning energy market and regulation to safeguard the position of consumers.

The Government will improve the security of energy supply together with Finnish industry operators by developing a smarter electricity and district heating network, improving transmission connections and utilising new possibilities for energy storage (SDG target **7.1**).

Emissions will be reduced by implementing measures such as increasing the use of renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency and promoting the electrification of process industries to reduce emissions. Finland will increase the share of renewable energy through measures including increasing wind power capacity by streamlining the administrative and land use planning procedures relating to wind farm construction. The Government will both support energy companies in exiting coal as well as encourage properties using oil heating to switch to other forms of heating during the 2020s by putting in place separate action plans. (**7.2**)

The Government will draw up a sustainable taxation roadmap to serve its climate goal. The package will include a reform of energy taxation as well as transport taxation, promotion of the circular economy, and a study of emissions-based consumption taxation (7.2, 12.c).

The Government will lower the industrial electricity tax to the minimum rate allowed by the EU. The industrial energy tax rebate system will be phased out over four years, with operators no longer entitled to the rebate for 2025. Existing energy aid will be used to facilitate the industry transition to emission-free technologies during as well as after the transition period. Compensation for the indirect costs of emissions trading will end in its current form. A new fixed-term subsidy for electrification will be made available for energy-intensive companies in order to create a stronger incentive for carbon-neutral production and electrification of energy-intensive companies. Cost competitiveness will also be taken into account in the subsidy.

Taxation on heating fuels, such as coal, natural gas and fuel oil, will be increased by EUR 105 million net from the beginning of 2021. Peat taxation will also increase as part of the increase in heating fuels taxation. A price floor mechanism will be introduced in peat taxation in 2022. This, together with emission allowance pricing, will ensure that the energy use of peat will be at least halved by 2030. The Government will use part of the Just Transition Fund (JTF) to support investments in peat replacement. In addition, funds from the JTF will be used to support adaptation by peat entrepreneurs and peat workers who lose their livelihood and also to support extensive business diversification in the affected areas.

The second phase of the energy taxation reform will begin by setting up a body in autumn 2020 to prepare an energy taxation roadmap by the end of 2021. Together with emissions trading, the roadmap will support the achievement of the carbon neutrality target to 2035.

Construction and buildings play a key role in efforts to improve energy efficiency, as the production of energy consumed in buildings accounts for less than a third of the greenhouse gas emissions generated in Finland (7.3). Together with industry operators, the Government will create a sector-specific plan to achieve carbon neutrality in the construction sector, implement the low-carbon construction roadmap and develop legislative steering based on the lifecycle carbon footprint of buildings. The voluntary energy efficiency agreements approach has generated good results and will be continued. Energy efficiency agreements cover a comprehensive range of aspects from energy production, transmission and distribution to end-use of energy in the various sectors. In addition, aid will continue to be granted on a discretionary basis for investments in energy-efficiency projects and to accelerate municipalities' energy-efficiency projects.

The Government will implement a national biogas programme and support biogas investments (7.2).

Additionally, the efficiency of the circular economy and the recycling of materials will be increased in the construction sector. The Government will promote wood construction, as wooden buildings also store carbon. Finland's long-term repair construction strategy aims to increase the share of nearly zero-energy buildings from 10 per cent to over 90 per cent by 2050. The owners of residential buildings are encouraged to make repairs that will improve energy efficiency, for example with funding from energy subsidies, which will total EUR 100 million between 2020 and 2022.

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland especially supports increasing basic access to energy for poorest households as well as a low-carbon and climate-resilient transition in developing countries and emerging economies through its development policy and cooperation (7.b).

Finland carries out international innovation cooperation and promotes the internationalisation of clean solutions. This is how Finland promotes the global change required for the transition to an affordable and clean energy system.

**GOAL 8:**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 8:

8.1: Finland's economic growth has been at a moderate level in recent years. The economic outlook in Finland as well as globally is very uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.2: Productivity development has declined.

8.3: Finland promotes entrepreneurship and sustainable business growth

8.4: Finland promotes resource efficiency by means of the circular economy

8.5: The employment rate is 71.9 per cent

8.6: Finland has successfully reduced the number of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

8.7,8.8: Finland implements ILO provisions in its employment legislation, which applies equally to all workers.

8.9: Finland has succeeded in promoting sustainable tourism.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 8:

- The general government debt-to-GDP ratio will stabilise by the end of the decade.
- Inequality will decrease and income gaps will be narrowed.
- Finland is on a path to reaching carbon neutrality by 2035.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on people and societies. The virus is not only a threat to health; the economic and social disruptions caused by the pandemic are having an adverse effect on the livelihoods and wellbeing of people in Finland and the world over. In Finland, the Government has been quick to respond and has set up various business support schemes to help businesses cope with the pandemic. In addition, the Government has put in place temporary amendments to legislation concerning lay-offs, statutory employer-employee negotiations and the right of laid-off employees and self-employed persons to unemployment benefits. With these measures, the Government is pursuing labour market security and flexibility in the time of the pandemic.

Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the aim of the Government's economic policy remains to increase wellbeing and prosperity. This means ecologically and socially sustainable economic growth, high employment and sustainable public finances. In its economic policy decision-making, the Government will take account of the target for carbon neutral Finland, preparing for the impacts of climate change, and Finland's objectives and commitments with respect to EU and global climate policy (SDG target 13.2).

At the first phase of the sustainability roadmap, in June 2020, the Government set the objective to stabilise the general government debt-to-GDP ratio by the end of the decade. The Government will monitor the implementation of the sustainability roadmap and update it regularly in connection with deciding on the General Government Fiscal Plan and the budget proposal.

The transition to a carbon-neutral economy coincides with a wider transformation of work. A just transition to carbon neutrality will be supported by means of education and training and employment services including lifelong guidance and by promoting stronger business performance, development of work performed in the workplace, and stronger competences. The Government, during its term, will take employment measures to strengthen the economy, aiming to have an employment-generating impact amounting to 80,000 new jobs.

The Government will prepare a sustainable growth programme for Finland that will focus on implementing the objectives of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility in further preparation related to this. The aim of this programme will be to allocate EUR 0.9–1.2 billion over several years directly for supporting a green transition. The Government's long-term solutions on industrial, energy and tax policies decided in the government budget session will strengthen Finland's position as a safe, predictable and competitive country for investment and will generate jobs. During autumn 2020, the Government will submit a report to Parliament on the envisaged use of the funds for Finland's sustainable growth programme.

Phenomenon-based budgeting and sustainable development budgeting will be developed on the basis of the proposals of the working group report published by the Ministry of Finance. Developing countries' climate actions will be supported with international climate finance allocated to mitigation and adaptation in equal measure.

The tripartite preparation of the Government's employment measures (8.5, 8.6) covers at least reforming the unemployment security system, a work capacity programme for people with partial work capacity, a development programme for work and wellbeing at work (WORK2030), a research and development programme for work, health and work capacity, and expanded use of pay subsidies. The aim in reforming the third sector's

present pay subsidy is to integrate it with strong individual support, review of work capacity and other services to make it a mode of support for moving to the open labour market. The role of municipalities in particular as organisers of employment services will be strengthened. The labour market skills of those having migrated to Finland will also be improved and labour migration, particularly involving skilled labour, will be increased. Employment services will be renewed to support rapid re-employment.

The Government seeks to reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs). The aim is to guarantee young people aged under 25 years of age and all graduates under 30 years of age either a job or work trial, traineeship, workshop, apprenticeship or rehabilitation placement no later than three months into the period of unemployment. One-Stop Guidance Centre services and youth workshop activities will be consolidated and developed in cooperation with municipalities. The Government's aim is that a condition is set for social employment in public procurement. Further measures include increasing the use of apprenticeship training with a view to securing the first job. (8.5, 8.6.)

The EU regional and structural policy (cohesion policy) programme in the 2021–2027 programming period includes measures under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF). The aims of the ESF employment measures include achieving the transition of participating jobseekers and unemployed and economically inactive people into employment or education and training; reducing labour-market mismatch and structural unemployment; and improving the efficiency of employment, business and multisectoral guidance and advisory services as well as the functioning of the labour market. Further aims include improving the operating environment of the social economy and social enterprises and the conditions for business and employment provision. JTF measures seek to alleviate the problems arising from carbon neutrality measures such as decline in the number of jobs or needs for re-training.

Besides through employment growth, the sustainability of public finances can be strengthened most effectively by enhancing the productivity of publicly funded service provision. The Government will boost productivity growth in health and social services and other public administration through organisational as well technological measures, including digitalisation. Efficiency will be improved in public procurement and facility management.

The Government will implement an entrepreneurship strategy (8.3) that takes into account companies of different sizes as well as young growth companies. The ecosystem of services to entrepreneurs will be developed by adopting models to support the coping strategies of entrepreneurs. Support will be offered to newly established small-scale

entrepreneurs, and the formation of business cooperatives will be promoted. A pilot project concerning the way companies hire their first outside employee will be prepared. The functioning of corporate financing markets will also be fostered. Measures to improve the social security and pension cover of entrepreneurs will be explored. The Government is investing in the role of women in the economy and in women entrepreneurship (8.5).

In 2020, the Government commissioned a study into a national corporate social responsibility act and options for implementation of such an act. The aim of the study is to enact a corporate social responsibility act.

With the export and international growth programme, the Government will promote synergies in development, innovation and business internationalisation financing and Finnish businesses' access to emerging markets in particular. This programme also entails the preparation of sector-specific low-emission roadmaps for the various industry sectors.

The Government will boost the transition to the bioeconomy and circular economy through a new strategy for sustainable growth aiming for a more diverse industrial structure, export growth, business renewal and a stronger business environment, as well as the creation of international billion-euro ecosystems (8.2, 8.3). Increased production and use of biogas will enhance Finland's vitality and strengthen the circular economy as well as the effectiveness of climate actions (8.4).

The Government will strengthen the capacity of businesses to invest as well as financing for development. The measures concerning the development of corporate financing under the section of the Government Programme entitled 'Dynamic and thriving Finland' also contribute to the achievement of sustainable growth and the SDGs. These measures include providing the Finnish state-owned financing company Finnvera with a level of authorisations that is sufficient in relation to its risk management needs. Steps will be taken to offer a wide range of financing options to start-ups and SMEs. Finnish capital investment markets will be developed and the potential for introducing new tools to finance investments will be looked into. The Centre of Expertise for Impact Investing supports public sector actors in outcomes contracting, for example by using the (Social/ Environmental/Development) Impact Bond model.

The Government will launch a national programme covering the tourism sector to support continuous sustainable growth and to encourage entrepreneurship in the sector (8.9). The national measurement, follow-up and review of responsibility in tourism will be developed with particular regard to the 2030 Agenda Goals and targets.

The Government will support growth in the creative sectors and stimulate cultural tourism, for example by making better use of our World Heritage Sites (8.9, 12.b).

The Government will improve the profitability of agriculture by promoting active agricultural production and a sustainable food system (8.2). Investments will be secured by an additional capital input into the Development Fund of Agriculture and Forestry. The standing of farmers in the food chain will be improved through the 'Shared Food Table' concept and partnerships and by keeping in check the overwhelming negotiating power of grocery retail chains (8.3). The guidance and advisory services for farmers will be brought together into a new, network-based expertise and service centre. The Government will promote the development of new innovations relating to food, new production technologies and new plant-based products. Fish processing will be treated in the same way as other food industry sectors with respect to investment aid. The support system for reindeer husbandry will be developed and investment support for the sector ensured.

The Government aims to protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, in particular those in precarious employment (8.8). The status of individuals working in irregular casual employment and on zero-hours contracts will be improved. This will entail a study focusing on the working time agreed in employment contracts. Stabilisation of working time for persons with variable working hours will additionally be confirmed in legislation. Labour protection supervision resources will increase to improve the effectiveness of supervision related to occupational safety, combating the grey economy, monitoring the terms and conditions of service relationships and supervising the use of foreign labour. The flow of information between public authorities will be improved. The WORK2030 development programme for work and wellbeing at work included in the Government Programme will step up the renewal of practices in the world of work to respond to the transformation of work and to promote a safe and healthy work environment.

Finally, measures will be taken to ensure that people coming to work in Finland arrive with a permit that is intended for working. The status of foreign seasonal workers working independently (e.g. berry pickers) will be protected by legislation (8.7).

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland supports the growth potential of SMEs in developing countries through investment, business environment development, technology and innovations. Finnfund provides investment-based and loan-based financing while Finnpartnership promotes partnerships between businesses in Finland and in developing countries. Finland also advocates for stronger inclusion of responsibility and sustainability in the rules of international trade. Promoting workplace quality and corporate responsibility are also key objectives in the development cooperation of Finnish CSOs, which underscores increasing opportunities for women to earn a living.

Gender equality, women's access to employment and their economic opportunities in developing countries are also promoted by means of an appropriation for development policy investments. Half of the new EUR 210 million loan granted to Finnfund in 2019 is earmarked for enterprises that strengthen the financial independence of women in developing countries or provide important services for girls and women. Gender equality issues, women's access to employment and their economic opportunities will also be promoted through other financial investments during this government term.

Finland participates actively in cooperation in the ILO and the EU to promote just transitions. In addition, Finland is an active participant in developing responsible business initiatives in the international arena. Finland will continue its corporate responsibility efforts through measures including a study of the human rights impacts of businesses, to be carried out in 2020, and by providing training to businesses and supporting the implementation of a human rights-based approach in public financial instruments.

The Global Coalition on Occupational Safety and Health, chaired by the ILO, was established on Finland's initiative. Finland also serves on the Coalition's Steering Committee. The aim of the Coalition is to introduce practical solutions to improve working conditions around the world. This will be done by implementing the commitments of the UN, the G7 and the G20 countries and the European Union on improving occupational health and safety. The ILO serves as the Secretariat to the Coalition, which counts among its membership the European Union, the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the World Health Organization (WHO) as an observer and nations from all continents.

Finland is an active promoter of the European Youth Guarantee and actively shares its experiences in addressing youth unemployment.

Finland supports opportunities for people to earn a living and the creation of decent jobs also in its humanitarian activities in line with ILO Recommendations. Supporting livelihood opportunities is of particular importance in communities that have taken in high numbers of refugees. Finland channels its aid through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as well as Finnish CSOs.

Outcome and impact follow-up on private sectors receiving development cooperation funding will be further developed. Follow-up will focus on examination of the impacts of the greatest relevance to realising the aims and principles of development policy. For example, it is important to be able to examine what impacts the measures undertaken have on improving the livelihood and services of the very poorest people.

**GOAL 9:**

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 9:

9.5: Finland's R&D funding has been on a downward trend in recent years. The aim is to considerably boost R&D intensity by augmenting both public and private investment in research and development.

9.2, 9.4: Innovation funding is channelled into upgrading industrial sectors.

9.4: Finland aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035.

9.1, 9.5: Finland's success and international growth are based on education, research and development, technological knowhow and innovation. This has created prosperity and the conditions for socially and environmentally sustainable growth.

9.1: The transport infrastructure network requires a more systematic approach to long-term planning and development. The problem of prolonged under-funding of investments must also be addressed.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 9:

- By 2030, Finland will be a society of sustainable development with an internationally attractive research and development environment.
- R&D investments will be raised to 4 per cent of GDP and Finland will be built up into the world's best environment for innovation and experiments.
- Additional funding will have been allocated to the maintenance and development of transport and communications networks. A national 12-year transport system plan will be prepared.

The Government's RDI roadmap was completed in spring 2020. The roadmap defines the key focuses, objectives and tools of research and innovation policy in the coming years to improve the RDI environment and to achieve the objective of raising private and public RDI investment to four per cent of GDP (SDG target **9.5**). The Government will support growth by investments in RDI, by developing new operating models in public-private partnerships (PPP) and by attracting more top international talent to Finland. Solutions

to global challenges based on national strengths will be provided on a PPP basis. The overarching coordination and management of innovation and research policy will also be improved across central government.

On the basis of the current models, the Government will create conditions across Finland for successful clusters of excellence with higher education institutions, research institutes and businesses. Vocational competence chains will also be reinforced by highlighting how important universities of applied sciences, schools and SMEs are for the Finnish research, development and innovation system. Funding for these will be available from sources including the EU Structural Funds.

The Government will promote Finland's attractiveness as an investment opportunity for the research and development activities of both foreign and domestic businesses and reinforce the international competitiveness and attractiveness of the Finnish research and science community by investing in research environments and infrastructure.

The Government is preparing a renewable industry strategy, which aims to boost export growth, thereby creating opportunities for the sustainable growth of domestic demand and employment.

The Government supports opportunities for industry sectors to improve their sustainability and climate impacts. Innovation aid will be channelled to areas such as production process development and the innovation of more climate-friendly products as part of the programme work of Business Finland and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. In addition, a programme to improve the digital competences of industrial SMEs in particular will be prepared during 2020. Roadmaps aiming to identify development paths for reducing climate emissions from the various sectors and businesses have been prepared by the Government and industry sectors in cooperation.

In June 2020, the Government in cooperation with industry sectors completed the roadmap work aiming to identify development paths for reducing climate emissions from the various sectors and businesses. The roadmaps prepared for four energy-intensive industry sectors (energy, forest, technology and chemical industries) and nine other sectors aim to accomplish significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. The industry sectors involved in the roadmap work account for nearly half of Finland's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Finland promotes European industrial policy and sustainable growth in the European business sector. Finland promotes active trade policy based on openness as well as a rules-based multilateral trading system and the promotion of free trade, taking into account the principles of sustainable development. As part of its strategy for sustainable growth,

Finland contributes to the development programmes on competence areas and European ecosystems currently being prepared in the EU, and to new innovative solutions such as initiatives on energy storage and the battery industry (9.2) and the Commission's European Green Deal.

Finland aims for the EU to set the strategic goal that European education and research will rank number one in the world. Finland is in favour of a considerable increase in the level of funding for the Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ programmes to enhance and consolidate them.

The Government will facilitate the opportunities for foreign researchers, students and graduates and their families to stay in Finland by reforming the permit practices, streamlining the residence permit processes and reinforcing the connections between higher education and working life. Students will be granted a residence permit for the full period of their studies and after graduation it will be extended for a period of two years. Finland will continue to assess how the tuition fees payable by the non-EU and non-EEA migrants affect international access and the funding base of higher education institutions.

The Government supports the creation and international scaling-up of sustainable development innovations through innovation programmes¹⁷ on topics including clean energy (SDG 7), the circular economy (SDG 8, SDG 12), smart industry (SDG 9), health and wellbeing (SDG 3), clean technologies and low-carbon solutions (SDG 13), urbanisation (SDG 11) and sustainability-promoting technologies such as space technology. Industry renewal is also supported in order to ensure sustainable growth in sectors including the battery industry, tourism, space activities, the health sector, and transport and retail. The Government will prepare a health sector growth strategy, a reform of the Mining Act, and a report on the future of retail.

The EU regional and structural policy (cohesion policy) programme in the 2021–2027 programming period includes measures under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF). The focus in ERDF funding in Finland will be on RDI relating to the circular economy and carbon neutrality and on financing investment across the country to improve the energy efficiency of SMEs. At the EU level, the Commission has set the target of 30 per cent of ERDF funding contributing to climate objectives. JTF focuses on mitigating the problems arising from measures aimed at carbon neutrality (e.g. business renewal needs, job losses, re-training needs). The programme will also include a set of sustainable urban development measures falling under both the ERDF and the ESF. The programme provides cross-cutting support for the various SDGs.

¹⁷ Programmes of Business Finland and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

The Government will boost added value creation in wood product processing and promote wood construction and exports. In the sustainable food industry, the Government will expand added value creation in the domestic market and in exports and also take steps to improve the sector's general operating conditions. (9.2.)

The Government will update the Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy in order to foster Finland's position as a pioneer in sustainable bioeconomy, strengthen the vitality of rural areas and boost the value created by bioeconomy through the development of new added-value products and services, and strengthen the understanding of ecological limits as the foundation for natural resource consumption. The updating provides cross-cutting support for several SDGs including SDGs 2, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15.

The Government will improve the management of the basic transport infrastructure with a permanent total annual increase in funding. One-off investment funding will be allocated to the maintenance and development of transport and communications networks. This will include walking and cycling promotion and the upkeep and upgrading of private roads. In rail transport, the focus will be on improving the safety of level crossings in rail transport and track electrification (9.1).

The Government will continue the broadband subsidy programme to support the construction of high-speed broadband networks in areas where this cannot be accomplished on market terms (9.1).

The functioning, safety and sustainability of the transport system will be improved by preparing a national 12-year plan. The connection of Finland's transport network to the core network corridors of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) will also be advanced. The objective of the TEN-T Network is to establish a safe and sustainable transport system that boosts economic vitality. (9.1.)

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland supports sustainable and inclusive industrial development and the creation of resilient infrastructure through multilateral organisations as well as private and public sector investments in developing countries. Finland diversely promotes innovations responding to sustainable development challenges and the needs of developing countries as part of its multilateral and bilateral cooperation. Finland provides funding to the UNICEF and UNFPA innovation funds as well as the UN Technology and Innovation Lab (UNTIL) established in Finland in November 2018. In Zambia and in southern Africa, Finland is additionally engaged in bilateral private-sector projects incorporating the innovation perspective. The Business with Impact (BEAM) financing instrument and its successor, the Developing Markets Platform, together with the other programmes of Business Finland, is

geared to Finnish businesses that are looking to emerging markets for innovative business opportunities. The Public Sector Investment Facility (PIF) for developing countries is used to support infrastructure in line with the SDGs in developing countries.

The Government supports the creation and international scaling-up of sustainable development innovations through innovation programmes¹⁸ on topics including clean energy (SDG 7), the circular economy (SDG 8, SDG 12), smart industry (SDG 9), health and wellbeing (SDG 3), clean technologies and low-carbon solutions (SDG 13), urbanisation (SDG 11) and sustainability-promoting technologies such as space technology.

Finland develops bilateral and multinational innovation cooperation with its major partner countries as well as multinational actors such as the UN. The sustainable innovations and technologies of Finnish businesses and innovation actors may help in addressing sustainable development challenges at the local, regional and global level. This way, Finland advances a global transition to a resource-efficient economy and sustainable growth. Finland promotes cooperation and coherence between innovation policy and development policy.

By means of development cooperation, Finland supports the development of sustainable infrastructure, business and industry and technologies, as well as inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries. Finland fosters the international scaling-up of sustainable solutions. (9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 9.a, 9.c)

The support of Finnish CSOs to developing innovation activities in collaboration with local actors opens up new opportunities for actions such as scaling up social innovations.

18 Programmes of Business Finland and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

**GOAL 10:****Reduce inequality within and among countries****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 10:**

10.1: In Finland, income trends among the bottom 40 per cent have kept abreast with the rest of the population, but the number of people on basic social assistance has grown substantially in recent years.

10.2: Finland's universal welfare model has aimed to promote everyone's social, economic and political inclusion.

10.3: Legislation has been developed in a direction that emphasises equality and prevents discrimination.

10.4: Equality promotion has long been one of the objectives of fiscal policy, wage agreements and social security development efforts.

10.5: Finland has contributed to enhancing the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions.

10.6: Finland has supported enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in international economic and financial institutions.

10.7: Finland has supported a rules-based and responsible migration policy and developed its preparedness for a mass influx of migrants, and it is also systematically improving the quality of the asylum process and legal safeguards for asylum seekers.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 10:

- The Government's strategic goal is to promote wellbeing and reduce inequalities.
- The Government's aim is to respect and promote tolerance and human rights.
- Ensuring income security for all.

The social inclusion of all is not only crucial for the financing of the welfare society but also our duty towards each other from the human viewpoint.

The Government will reduce inequalities in working life by e.g. investigating the prospects for introducing an earned income subsidy implemented in respect of state income tax, which would provide an employment incentive in such areas as part-time and gig work

(SDG targets **10.2, 8.8**). In addition, the Government will examine new means, such as administrative sanctions, to address intentional or grossly negligent underpayment (**10.2**). Tools for reducing inequalities will also include the coordination of income from paid work, self-employment and other sources within the social security framework, particularly with regard to unemployment benefits, and the coordination of services and benefits as part of the social security reform.

Fair migration policy is an element in the efforts to curb global inequalities. The Government will increase the number of quota refugees to a minimum of 850 in 2020. This number will subsequently be assessed annually and set at 850–1,050, taking into account the number of asylum seekers. (**10.7.**)

The Government will ensure a smooth asylum process and implementation of fundamental rights, and an assessment will be made of a reasonable standard of proof. Asylum applications will be considered without undue delays in an individual procedure that guarantees legal protection. The aim will be to process applications within six months. The Government will seek to conclude return agreements with all key third countries whose citizens Finland can safely return. The Government will further develop legislation and related application practices to provide more flexible opportunities to secure a residence permit based on employment for those whose asylum application has been refused but who have found work. (**10.7.**)

The Government will examine problems relating to family reunification and the reasonable income limits applied to family reunification sponsors who have been granted international protection. The application of a requirement for sufficient financial resources to minor family reunification sponsors who have been granted a residence permit due to a need for international protection will be discontinued (**10.7.**)

The Government will reinforce the legal protection of asylum seekers by enabling the use of a counsel at asylum interviews. In addition, hourly rates for the counsels will be introduced and the general appeal periods applicable in the administrative courts will be taken into use in the asylum procedure. The Government will improve the provision of general legal advice to asylum seekers, assess the quality of the asylum procedure and the pursuit of the best interests of the child, and ensure the competence and diligence of lawyers assisting asylum seekers. (**10.7.**)

The Government will carry out a study on how the right to early childhood education and care is realised for undocumented children and children seeking asylum and will ensure the right of every young person, whether a person who has had to discontinue their studies before arriving in Finland or an undocumented person, to complete their comprehensive school education (**10.7, 4.5**).

The Government will introduce a format for integration work that will support the employment of immigrants and their integration into Finnish society. The quality, binding character and effectiveness of integration services will be improved in both national languages. Work must be accompanied by language instruction, and by vocational training for example. Positive and active integration will be promoted by strengthening the language and vocational skills of immigrants, accelerating placement in employment, and fostering knowledge of society and social participation. Access to language instruction should be available within three months of receiving a favourable residence permit decision.

Integration of asylum seekers must commence at an earlier stage, even at reception centres. Multidisciplinary Centres of Expertise in Immigrant Integration will be established, and the national dissemination of best practices will be promoted. Recognition of immigrant skills, guidance and the operations of centres of expertise will be strengthened, and the access of immigrants to integration and language instruction will be ensured. During its term, the Government will also draw up a broad-based action plan for combating racism and discrimination and promoting good relations between population groups to supplement the Government Integration Programme. In this context, the Government will assess the need to address the most serious forms of organised racism through legislation. (10.7.)

Systematic monitoring of discrimination and hate crimes will be developed by the Government particularly at the national level. The Government will take action to increase the minority issues competence and awareness of the authorities. Systematic monitoring of discrimination and hate crimes will be developed by the Government, especially at national level. Through its actions, the Government will improve the expertise and awareness of the authorities in minority matters.

The Government will prepare a third National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (see also SDG 16). Shortcomings related to the recognition of human rights problems and to human rights reporting will be systematically addressed by securing the activities of ombudspersons and other relevant authorities and by guaranteeing a favourable operating environment for CSOs and international actors. The Government will also partially reform the Non-Discrimination Act. The competence of law drafters in fundamental and human rights issues will be improved. (10.3.)

Access to assistance of those who are socially excluded and those at risk of social exclusion will be improved by developing and better coordinating the practices of various authorities when referring people to services. The ability to identify people at risk of social exclusion will be improved and application of an early intervention model will be enabled when several indicators of social exclusion are present.

The Government will respect and promote the realisation of the linguistic and cultural rights of all Saami people and Saami groups in a way that takes the relevant international conventions into account. As part of this work, the Government will examine the possible ratification of ILO Convention No. 169. The Government will continue the work to reform the Act on the Saami Parliament as well as the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and reinforce the support given to Saami language nest activities to meet their increased needs. (10.2, 4.5.)

The Government aims to promote age-friendliness in society. To reach the aim, a horizontal programme on ageing 2020–2030 will be prepared and a reform of legislation concerning older people has been launched.

The Government will improve the inclusion of older people and reduce unequal treatment by establishing an office of an ombudsperson for older people. The ombudsperson will monitor the realisation of the rights of older people and promote the realisation of the interests and rights of older people at the societal level together with other actors in the sector.

The Government has improved the financial status of low-income pensioners by raising the national pension and the guarantee pension. The increase in pensions safeguards access of pension recipients to income and reduces poverty and exclusion. Women living alone make up the majority of low-income pensioners. The increase will improve the income security of this specific group and therefore also improve gender equality.

The Government will improve the equal opportunities of persons with disabilities and reduce unequal treatment by reforming the Act on Disability Services and Assistance to ensure better consideration of the individual needs of persons with disabilities (10.3). At the same time, personal budgets for persons with disabilities will be piloted. Linguistic rights will be secured in health and social services for Swedish and Saami speakers and sign language users, and the need to amend the legislation on early childhood education and care and on comprehensive school education to make them compatible with the Sign Language Act and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be investigated. The Government will continue the programme to revive the Finnish-Swedish sign language, for example by determining the body responsible for research into the language. (10.3, 4.5.)

In addition, gender minority members and their families will be provided with individualised services when they need them.

Implementing global responsibility:

Strengthening the rights and status of persons with disabilities is an important priority in Finland's development policy. It is also a cross-cutting objective that is promoted both by taking special measures and by mainstreaming it across all development policy priorities. The status of women and girls with disabilities has been integrated into all gender equality objectives of Finland's development policy.

Finland plays an active role in the EU, the OECD and the UN to counter aggressive tax planning, tax evasion and harmful tax competition.

Through the UN and other international organisations and partnerships, Finland supports and seeks to promote comprehensive social policy where key determinants include providing access to social security for all, reducing inequalities, pursuing full employment and decent work, and implementing a human rights-based approach in all activities.

Finland aims to increase the capacity of both rights holders and duty bearers. This objective has been advanced by supporting efforts including those of the international movement of persons with disabilities: the International Disability Alliance and Finnish disability organisations involved in development cooperation (in particular the Abilis Foundation and Disability Partnership Finland) and their partners in developing countries are important allies for Finland. Finland is one of the biggest donors of the UN Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), and Finland has also supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015–2020. Finland provides funding for action on disability carried out by the African Union as well as the EU and engages in active advocacy under the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network to strengthen the accessibility of development cooperation and humanitarian activities. The promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities finds concrete expression in the programmes and projects of Finnish CSOs as actions adapted to a variety of contexts.

Improving the status of persons with disabilities is one of the key priorities of Finland's humanitarian aid and policy. Supported by Finland's active advocacy and funding, in 2019 the UN and major humanitarian CSOs adopted the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. Finland promotes the implementation of the Guidelines in roles including chair of the GLAD Working Group on Humanitarian Action.

Finland takes part in international cooperation to combat discrimination and hate speech. This cooperation takes place in forums including the EU and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Information, experiences and best practices are shared through the cooperation. In addition, Finland implements projects to promote equality and prevent hate crime, and these projects also involve actors from other countries.

Finland supports several international CSOs to promote non-discrimination at the national, regional and global levels (incl. the Minority Rights Group (MRG) and the Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)). Finland has supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights in 2015–2020.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialised agency of the UN advancing social justice and promoting decent work. According to the ILO Constitution, universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice. Through the UN and other international organisations and partnerships, Finland supports and promotes the model of universal social policy where the entire population is covered by the measures and the system.

**GOAL 11:**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 11:

- 11.1:** Practically all housing is adequate, and the number of homeless persons has decreased.
- 11.2:** 94 per cent of the urban population lives within the range of convenient access to public transport.
- 11.3.1:** Land consumption related to population growth has been high, but density has increased over the past ten years.
- 11.3.2:** The Land Use and Building Act ensures everyone's right to participate in land use planning.
- 11.4.1:** There is well-functioning legislation on cultural and natural heritage.
- 11.5:** Disasters seldom happen in Finland and are usually without injuries or substantial economic losses.
- 11.6:** The adverse per capita environmental impact of cities is at a low level.
- 11.7.2:** The share of open space for public use for all is relatively high.
- 11.a:** National and regional development planning is well established.
- 11.b:** Risk reduction strategies are implemented by cities and municipalities.
- 11.c:** Financial support to the least developed countries for the construction and retrofitting of buildings is low.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 11:

- Homelessness will be halved by 2023 and eradicated by 2027.
- Transport emissions will be halved by 2030. Road transport offers the greatest potential in reducing emissions

The Government will support sustainable urbanisation (SDG target **11.3**) through measures including the continuation of the national sustainable urban development programme and the implementation of a horizontal programme for suburban areas, which aims to promote residents' wellbeing and participation opportunities, increase the vitality of neighbourhoods and prevent segregation. Carbon neutrality and green areas will be a top priority when developing neighbourhoods.

Finland will prepare a national urban strategy to respond to the opportunities and challenges of urbanisation, taking into account the broad-based objectives of the New Urban Agenda of the UN (11.3). The Government's starting point is that regional and urban development will be socially just, environmentally sustainable and economically responsible. Action will be taken to strengthen the vitality of regions, municipalities and cities in all the diverse aspects as part of the sustainable growth strategy. A regional and/or thematic operating model that takes account of the special characteristics of each region will be created on the basis of agreements and partnerships. An action plan for sparsely populated areas will be drawn up, including experiments for the enhancement of vitality and wellbeing. (11.a.)

The Government will prepare an eight-year housing policy development programme for 2021–2028. The Government aims to halve homelessness by 2023 and eradicate it by 2027 (11.1). To this end, the Government has launched a cooperation programme with key urban regions, service providers and CSOs. The Government will also see to sufficient state subsidies for affordable housing production, including housing for special groups, and develop communal housing and implement an action plan on housing for older people. The housing situation of mental health and substance abuse rehabilitees will also be improved. Measures taken under the development programme for suburban areas aim to reduce segregation and improve wellbeing in suburban areas over the longer term.

The Government will finalise the reform of the Land Use and Building Act, the main objectives of which include creating a carbon neutral society and strengthening biodiversity. Good land use planning can considerably reduce the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change. Carbon neutral urban regions will be built, the volume of housing production will be boosted and the proportion of sustainable means of transport will be increased under land use, housing and transport (MAL) agreements made in the largest urban regions (11.2, 11.3, 11.6).

The Government will strengthen the presence and visibility of the authorities, particularly in areas with a lower level of service (11.3, 11.a).

The Government will increase rail investment, remove dangerous level crossings and prepare a government resolution on traffic safety. The Act on Transport Services will be reviewed and corrective measures will be taken concerning taxi services.

The Government will assist local and regional authorities in preparing their own carbon neutrality plans and implementing climate actions. The Ministry of the Environment is implementing a four-year municipal climate change solutions programme to boost climate work in Finnish municipalities and regions. Each year, the programme provides funding for more than ten municipal and regional climate projects, more than ten

experiments of a smaller scope and multiple extensive projects benefitting the climate work of all municipalities. The effectiveness of the programme will be boosted by interactive and supportive cooperation between the various stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels.

Finland is committed to halving transport emissions by 2030. Road transport offers the greatest potential in reducing emissions. The Government will promote the transition to sustainable biofuels and other low-emission alternatives in heavy-duty vehicles and air transport. A reform of taxes and payments in sustainable transport will be initiated. The volumes of public transport, walking and cycling will be increased. The introduction of a low-emission fleet in public transport will be accelerated. Conversion subsidies will continue at the current level. It will be ensured that conversions of vehicle propulsion technologies allowing low-emission mobility will be considered in car, vehicle and power source taxation. (11.2, 11.6.)

The Government will accelerate the electrification trend of transport. A national obligation will be introduced under legislation to build a charging infrastructure for electric cars whenever a large-scale renovation is completed in a housing company or on business premises. An obligation will be set for petrol station chains to provide charging points for electric cars. (11.2, 11.6.) The transition to low-emission transport will be supported by implementing a tax reform concerning transport-related fringe benefits effective from the beginning of 2021.

The Government will include sustainably produced biogas in the scope of the biofuel distribution obligation. In air transport, the objective is to reach, with the help of the blending obligation, a share of 30 per cent for sustainable biofuels by 2030. Piloting of carbon neutral synthetic fuels and launching of their production will be promoted. Finland will continue to play an active role in promoting measures to reduce air transport and maritime emissions internationally. (11.6.)

The Government will implement the National Air Pollution Control Programme 2030 with actions to reduce fine particulate matter emissions in order to reduce adverse health effects of air pollution (11.6).

The Government will launch the formulation of a cultural heritage strategy to strengthen the protection, conservation and sustainable use of cultural heritage. It is also regarded as important to ensure the protection of intangible cultural heritage (11.4).

In preparing the new architectural policy programme, the Government will address changes that have an impact on our future, consider how these could affect the built environment, and discuss how architecture may help to improve the quality of our living

environment. Sustainable development and the lifecycle approach are key perspectives in this. The Government will also launch measures to promote more efficient use of cultural spaces.

The Government will support the construction of outdoor sports facilities, reduce the maintenance backlog and improve energy efficiency. The plan is also to renovate and increase the number of local outdoor sports facilities and trails. The Government aims to create more neighbourhood outdoor places, such as parks and green areas, which are important for everyday physical activity especially for children, older people and groups with special needs. A national strategy for the recreational use of nature will be created. (11.7.)

The Government will promote the availability of high-speed communications connections to support future customer needs, digital services and automation.

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland has shouldered its global responsibility as a member of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

In 2016, the EU Ministers responsible for Urban Matters adopted the Pact of Amsterdam describing the main features of the Urban Agenda for the EU. Finland promotes sustainable urban development by participating in the Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU. The Urban Agenda for the EU also contributes to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted by the Habitat III Conference of the UN in 2016.

To promote transport emission reductions and to develop digitalisation, automation and a sustainable transport infrastructure, Finland is active in the EU, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and also organises international events to promote these themes.

**GOAL 12:****Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 12:**

12.1: Finland has a national strategy on sustainable consumption and production and is co-leading the global One Planet Programme on Sustainable Buildings and Construction.

12.2: Resource-efficiency has increased, but the consumption of raw materials is high and material footprint per capita is around 29 tonnes.

12.3: Finland is preparing a methodology on calculating food waste and a roadmap with goals and measures for reducing food losses.

12.4: Finland is a party to all multilateral environmental agreements concerning chemicals and an active participant in the voluntary Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) instrument. Finland has a National Programme on Hazardous Chemicals.

12.5: Per-capita amount of municipal waste generated in Finland has stayed below the EU average but grew in 2018.

12.6: The Accounting Act requires public-interest entities (incl. listed companies, banks and insurance companies) to report on their corporate social responsibility (CSR).

12.7: Finland is scoring well in European Benchmarking Studies comparing strategic use of Public Procurement for Innovation.

12.8: Sustainable development is mainstreamed into all levels of education.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 12:

The Government regards the circular economy as the foundation for the new economy and as a means of supporting e.g. sustainable consumption and production. The government term will see the implementation of a new programme to promote the circular economy, which will set the objectives and indicators, specify the measures to be taken and allocate the resources needed to promote the circular economy and achieve systemic change. In addition, to boost investments in the circular economy, the Government will introduce fixed-term investment aid for projects promoting the circular economy. To reduce the consumption of plastics and increase their recycling, the Plastics Roadmap for Finland will be implemented. From Recycling to a Circular Economy – the National Waste Plan to 2030 steers measures relating to construction and demolition waste, biodegradable waste, municipal waste, and waste electrical and

electronic equipment (WEEE). The EU's extensive package of waste legislation will also be implemented. (SDG targets 12.2, 12.5.)

The Government will implement a tax reform for sustainable development, which will also include promoting the circular economy and looking into the introduction of emissions-based consumption taxation (12.c).

One of the most effective tools to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns is to make public procurements more responsible. To improve the effectiveness and strategic management of public procurement, a National Public Procurement Strategy for central government and municipalities has been launched. Innovative public procurement is a tool for promoting the achievement of social, climate and sustainable development objectives such as carbon neutrality and circular economy as well as employment objectives. (12.7.)

The Government will promote sustainable consumption and production by using legislative means to boost the sharing economy, taking into account the rights of employees and the rules of fair competition in companies. Consumers' more sustainable and aware consumption will be enabled by introducing more extensive obligations in legislation for producers of goods and packaging to provide information to consumers regarding the environmental impacts of goods and packaging aimed at consumers. (12.2.) In addition, the Government commissioned a study concerning a corporate social responsibility act, taking into account companies of different sizes as well as international value chains (12.6). The study mapped out what kinds of obligations could be set for enterprises concerning activities to prevent the materialisation of risks relating to human rights or the environment.

The Government will continue the programme on more efficient water protection and the key project on nutrient recycling and support investments promoting nutrient recycling (12.2). The Government aims to halve the amount of food loss and food waste by 2030 and will draw up a roadmap to achieve this. Food loss and food waste will be reduced by removing barriers, increasing incentives and multiplying best practices (12.3). In addition, a national Climate Food Programme will be prepared with the goal of minimising the climate footprint of the food consumed and improving understanding of how food is produced.

The Government will develop regulation in support of nutrient recycling and improve the functioning of the market for recycled fertilisers (12.5). Fishing will be practiced in a way that secures viable and sustainable fish stocks.

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland promotes the adoption and strengthening of a circular economy approach in developing countries by means of both policy advocacy and concrete actions through bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. Development finance institutions are encouraged to promote cross-sectoral circular economy thinking in their strategies and projects by emphasising its role in action against climate change. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will intensify its cooperation with the African Development Bank and the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra to promote the circular economy in African countries by co-funding with the Nordic Development Fund a circular economy fund at the African Development Bank. Circular economy is also one of the core thematic areas of the Finnish UN Technology Innovation Lab (UNTIL).

Finland coordinates the Sustainable Buildings and Construction (SBC) Programme, which is part of the UN's 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (2012–2022). Under the leadership of the Ministry of the Environment, Finland acts as the coordinator of the SBC Programme co-led by the UN Environment Programme and the Australian Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). Themes of the SBC Programme include policy measures supporting sustainable construction, sustainable housing, resource efficiency in the construction process, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. For the final years of the SBC Programme, the thematic focus areas will be circularity and resilience in construction. The programme shares information about best practices, increases networking and fosters innovation in the sector.

Finland also promotes sustainable consumption and production internationally by providing funding for the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) administered by five UN organisations (UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, ILO and UNITAR). PAGE supports developing countries in their transition to a sustainable, low-carbon and inclusive economy to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the UN SDGs. Strengthening sustainable consumption and production as well as the circular economy are key elements of this work. There are currently 20 PAGE partner countries.

The Sustainable Buildings and Construction (SBC) Programme develops models for more sustainable production chains for construction in developing countries. Additionally, the programme activities include funding projects developing sustainable construction policies in Colombia, criteria for sustainable social housing in India and a sustainable housing design tool in Africa.

**GOAL 13:****Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts****CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 13:**

13.1: Awareness of the need for adaptation to climate change has increased. Implementation of national adaptation policies has contributed to increased climate resilience in many sectors, but variation across sectors remains.

13.2: The Climate Change Act defines a planning system to ensure a coherent, long-term approach to climate policy. The Government's new budget proposal aligns the economic policy with a target of carbon neutrality by 2035.

13.3: The concept of 'eco-social education' has been mainstreamed into the national core curricula for early childhood education and care, basic education and general upper secondary education.

13.a: Together with other developed countries, Finland is committed to mobilising USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for climate actions of developing countries.

13.b: Most of the Finnish climate-related bilateral development projects include a capacity-building component. Finland is one of the world leaders in supporting the capacity-building of developing countries' hydro-meteorological services.

Government objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 13:

- Finland will achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 and carbon negativity soon after that.
- Finland aims to be the world's first fossil-free welfare society.
- We will strengthen carbon sinks and pools in the short and long term
- Reducing the carbon footprint of construction and housing
- An ecologically sustainable EU as a global climate leader
- Low-emission transport
- Finland will scale up international climate finance and direct it equally to mitigation and adaptation

Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts is one of the key objectives of the Government. The Government will reduce climate emissions and boost economic development by reforming energy taxation and supporting industrial electrification.

The Government's measures respond particularly to target **13.2**, i.e. to integrate climate change measures into national policies. Target **13.3**, i.e. to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity relating to climate change, will also be promoted.

Reaching the ambitious carbon neutrality target requires stepping up emission reduction measures and strengthening carbon sinks in forests. The use of coal in heat and power production will be phased out by 2029. Emissions will be reduced in all sectors. Industrial emissions will be reduced through low-carbon roadmaps prepared for multiple sectors, for example. The roadmaps were prepared in cooperation with actors in the sectors and completed in summer 2020. Efforts will be made to reduce climate emissions from agriculture, strengthen carbon sequestration and maintain carbon pools through measures such as developing guidance instruments and incentives as well as a set of measures focusing on nutrient recycling that will increase the production and consumption of biogas and create a market for recycled fertilisers, thereby significantly reducing the need to clear new fields for manure application and decreasing the nutrient load on water bodies. In addition, a strong focus will be placed on research, education and training as well as advisory services, with carbon sequestration and carbon pool maintenance, low-carbon operations and competitiveness as the priorities.

Finland is committed to halving transport emissions by 2030. The Government's measures to promote this objective are described under SDG 11 concerning resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

The Government will carry out the emissions reduction measures in a way that is fair from a social and regional perspective and involves all sectors of society. To ensure wide involvement, the Government has appointed, and invited key societal actors to join, a Climate Policy Round Table that is chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Government will reduce the carbon footprint of housing and construction with a new aid system accepting applications for financial support for improvements in the energy efficiency of the building stock. Other important measures include the implementation of the Wood Building Programme and raising its level of ambition by setting new national targets. The implementation of the low-carbon construction roadmap and the new plan specific to the construction sector will contribute towards the objective.

The Government's key measures in order to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (**13.2**) are strengthening the role of the Climate Change Act as a guiding instrument, updating the medium-term climate change policy plan and the national climate and energy strategy and preparing a new guiding instrument, namely a climate programme for the land use sector. The medium-term

climate change policy plan and the new national climate and energy strategy will be completed by the beginning of 2021 and the climate programme for the land use sector shortly after that. The Climate Change Act will be updated in a way that will enable the achievement of the target of carbon neutrality by 2035. The target for 2050 will be updated. The government proposal for the revised Climate Change Act is due for completion in 2021. As stated in the Government Programme, emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2040 will be added to the updated Act in line with the path to carbon neutrality. The Climate Change Act will also include the land use sector and set a target for strengthening carbon sinks.

In addition to the implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, SDG target **13.1** to improve Finland's resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters will be promoted during the government term through measures including climate measures in the land use sector; as part of the national water services reform; flood protection and water management on arable land as well the development of flood risk management; and as part of the measures to improve security of supply and the reform of the Land Use and Building Act. Adaptation will also be promoted in all foreign and security policy sectors, including trade and development policy.

Climate measures in the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector include safeguarding the management, growth capacity and health of forests; advancing afforestation; reducing deforestation; means to reduce emissions from mires and peatlands; climate sustainable management of mire forests; and reducing emissions from and strengthening the carbon sequestration of agricultural land. Guidance instruments and incentives will be developed for strengthening the carbon sinks and pools of forests and soil. In addition, the Government will advance research and product development concerning high value-added wood products with a long carbon storage period, along with the sustainable utilisation of industry side streams.

Finland will work actively to develop the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) in such a way that the price of emission allowances will rise and guide operators towards emissions reductions quickly and efficiently. In addition, Finland is in favour of expanding the EU ETS so that it will cover all aviation emissions with a climate impact. Alternatively, a Europe-wide introduction of a tax on aviation fuel or an aviation fee could be examined. (**13.2**)

In education policy, the Government is mainstreaming climate education across the levels of education. SDG target **13.3**, i.e. to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity relating to climate change, will also be promoted.

The Government will strengthen the role of the Finnish Climate Panel as an independent, scientific expert body (**13.3**).

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland will promote actions under the Paris Agreement and work to combat and adapt to climate change in all foreign and security policy sectors, including trade and development policy. The climate foreign policy aim is to promote a global transition to low-emission, carbon-neutral and climate-resilient societies. Our advocacy on the various actors will involve all available instruments from bilateral diplomacy to partnerships as well as advocacy through the EU and multi-advocacy.

In October 2019, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs adopted the first action plan for climate-related foreign policy, which is based on the premise of incorporating action for greenhouse gas emission cuts and climate change adaptation into all of the Ministry's activities. Finland has continued to fund climate measures in developing countries, but there was a major decline in the 2018 disbursements due to earlier cuts in development cooperation appropriations. In 2019, Finland participated in the first official funding round of the Green Climate Fund and raised its support by 25 per cent from the first unofficial funding round. Half of the new EUR 210 million loan granted to Finnfund in 2019 is earmarked for the promotion of climate targets. Finland will increase its climate finance to developing countries in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The Government will ensure that communication about the quantity and targeting of Finland's international climate finance contributions is open and as up to date as possible. Reports will be provided on the effectiveness of climate finance. In its international climate finance, Finland will take into account the needs and operating environment of the recipient country.

Disaster risk reduction and proactive funding are important elements of Finland's humanitarian aid and policy. Finland provides funding for UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and chairs the Group of Friends formed by donors.

In international climate change negotiations, Finland is an active advocate as an EU Member State for raising the emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement, formulating long-term low-carbon development strategies, finalising the implementing guidelines of the Paris Agreement – the Paris Rulebook – and advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement in line with the temperature targets. Finland seeks to reinforce the EU's international climate leadership in cooperation with other Member States with an ambitious climate policy and aims for the emissions reduction target set for 2030 to be raised to at least 55 per cent.

At the meeting of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change held in Madrid in December 2019 during Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU, Finland was responsible for coordinating the EU Member States' positions and negotiating on behalf of

the EU together with the European Commission. The EU set carbon neutrality by 2050 as its long-term climate target during the Finnish Presidency. This was one of Finland's main objectives for its Presidency.

Finland also works actively to see the realisation of the new capital injection considered for the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), which currently has a strong climate mandate. Finland also promotes earmarking half of NDF funding for adaptation support. Developing countries' climate measures will be supported by increasing international climate finance. Finland will support measures to reduce black carbon emissions in its neighbouring areas. Environmental projects have been made priorities in the EU's Eastern Partnership policy and support for Central Asia. A total of 75 per cent of new financial investments will be targeted at climate measures.

By summer 2020, industry organisations will draw up the sector-specific low-carbon roadmaps set out in the Government Programme. Alongside reducing national emissions, the roadmaps will aim to identify the global handprint potential of low-carbon solutions provided by Finnish enterprises. Finland will also promote the export of resource-efficient circular economy solutions and competences as well as international circular economy cooperation. The global emission reductions enabled by the solutions may be many times greater than Finland's own emissions.

Finland will support climate change mitigation and adaptation also through organisations including CSOs, multilateral organisations and the private and public sector. Finnish CSOs are calling for climate justice. Those who are the least responsible for climate change are the ones who suffer the most from its effects.

**GOAL 14:**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 14:

14.1: Although long-term trends of marine pollution are declining, Finland has been unable to significantly reduce marine pollution in the last few years.

14.2: In 2018, 5 out of 42 assessed marine underwater habitats were assessed as endangered and 5 as vulnerable. Since 2008, 24 per cent of habitat types had declined.

14.3: Finland takes part in regional Baltic Sea cooperation in HELCOM to increase scientific understanding and to address the impacts of ocean acidification.

14.4: The Fisheries Act of Finland is based on sustainable use of resources in line with the best scientific information available. The status of Baltic herring (*Clupea harengus membras*) and European sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) stocks is mainly good but that of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) stocks is not.

14.5: In 2018, Finland achieved the target of 10 per cent coverage of the marine protected area of Finland's total marine area.

14.6: Support for the fisheries sector must be in line with the EU's state aid guidelines. EU support for fisheries does not permit measures leading to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, overcapacity or overfishing.

14.7–14.a Since 2016, Finnish Marine Research Infrastructure (FINMARI) has brought together all major components of the Finnish marine research community to increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology in order to improve the state of oceans and seas.

14.b: In accordance with Finnish legislation, small-scale artisanal fisheries have access to marine resources and markets.

14.c: In 2019, the Government adopted a resolution on Finland's maritime policy guidelines to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources through measures such as implementing international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Finland has actively contributed to international cooperation aiming to improve the state of the marine environment under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Environment Assembly (UNEP), e.g. regarding reduction of marine litter and microplastics.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 14:

Finland's aim is for the Baltic Sea to be clean and to constitute a robust marine environment that is used sustainably. The aim is also for the Baltic Sea region to take the lead in sustainable development and in the bioeconomy and circular economy.

To reach these aims, regional cooperation is vital. One of the Government's key measures is updating the Action Plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Region (EUSBSR) (June 2020) and the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) (December 2021). The Government will continue the intensified Baltic Sea and water protection programme within at least the current scope during the parliamentary term in order to achieve a good ecological state. (SDG target [14.2](#).) In addition, Finland will be active in the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and Northern Dimension Environment Partnership (NDEP). Updated under the leadership of Finland, the EUSBSR Action Plan promotes most of the SDGs, with a key focus on SDGs 8, 11, 13 and 14.

The Government will prepare a Marine Policy Action Plan with concrete actions concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine areas.

The Government will prepare a new strategy on Arctic policy, and Finland will assume a central role in building up the EU's Arctic policy. In its Arctic cooperation, Finland will seek a stronger role for the Arctic Council and will support the work of the Arctic Economic Council.

The Government will improve oil and chemical spill response capabilities in the Baltic Sea.

The Government will reduce nutrient loading to the Baltic Sea by broadening the use of gypsum, structural lime and nutrient fibre in arable land.

The Government will promote the use of fish species native to Finland and the use of Baltic Blend feed in fish farming and provide incentives for solutions that are based on the circular economy and reduce nutrient discharges ([14.1](#)). In addition, development measures concerning the environmental permit system for fish farming will be implemented, taking account of the level of protection of the aquatic environment ([14.2](#)).

The Government has launched a national programme to restore migratory fish stocks. The programme covers measures including removal of migration barriers and restoration of fish breeding grounds. ([14.3](#).)

The EU has participated actively in negotiations on fisheries subsidies reform in the World Trade Organization (WTO), and Finland has supported the efforts within the EU to find a solution. Negotiations mandated by SDG 14.6 could not be completed by December 2019, however, whereby a new aim was set to reach an agreement at the WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2020.

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland engages in active advocacy for the protection of oceans and supports the development of a legally binding instrument on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Finland participates actively in efforts to find solutions to the global marine plastic pollution problems and regards the launch of negotiations for an agreement to address plastic pollution under the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) as a potential solution.

Finland is politically committed to a global increase in the area of marine protected areas (MPAs) to 30 per cent by 2030. Finland is in favour of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) setting stricter limits for air emissions and discharges into water from shipping and improving the management of ship-generated waste.

Finland cooperates in the Baltic Sea protection context with the other coastal states and with the EU within the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) framework and, in the context of the protection of the Arctic marine environment, in the Arctic Council.

Finland's policy is to utilise fish stocks in accordance with the objectives of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) concerning Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and to have fishing opportunities set on the basis of the latest scientific advice. Finland made a commitment to this basic policy during its EU Presidency in 2019, and the decisions made on the 2020 fishing quotas for the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the Northeast Atlantic as well as the Mediterranean Sea enable the recovery of fish stocks and the sustainable exploitation of fish stocks in a balanced and responsible manner. The significant reduction of fishing opportunities concerning in particular the weak cod stocks of the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the Northeastern Atlantic can be regarded as the most important individual achievement. In addition, regulations were agreed concerning improvements in the selectivity of trawl fishing gear and reductions in by-catches of cod.

**GOAL 15:**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 15:

15.1: Sustainable use has been integrated into legislation and various plans, but additional investments are required to achieve their objectives.

15.2: There are guidelines for sustainable forest management and use. Opportunities to reduce deforestation have been explored.

15.5: Action has been taken to halt biodiversity loss, but it is necessary to step up the efforts and make additional investments.

15.6: The Finnish National Genetic Resources Programme for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery was updated in 2018 to provide guidelines for the preservation, protection and sustainable use of genetic resources.

15.7: National, EU and international law is implemented, e.g. in keeping with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and population management plans for different species.

15.8: National and EU legislation on invasive alien species are implemented and, in compliance with these, the second management plan to prevent invasive alien species was prepared in 2018.

15.9: The economic values of different species have been introduced into planning processes, but the work is still ongoing. 15.a: Financing is available from various sources, but some financing needs have yet to be covered.

Government objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 15:

The Government has launched the Helmi Habitats Programme to improve the state of Finland's degraded habitat types. Under the programme, the most valuable habitats in terms of biodiversity will be restored, managed and protected. The Helmi Habitats Programme will increase the efficiency of mire protection and restoration; the rehabilitation of aquatic bird habitats, wetlands and coastal areas; the management of semi-natural grasslands and wooded pastures as well as forest habitats; and the management and rehabilitation of coastal and aquatic environments. (SDG targets **15.1**, **15.5**, **15.a**.) In addition, the Government has launched the SOTKA project to improve waterfowl habitats in Finland.

The Government will continue the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSÖ) and has increased its financing. The implementation of the supplementary mire conservation programme will continue as part of the Helmi Habitats Programme. (15.5)

The Government will carry out pilots on the use of ecological compensation in contexts such as major infrastructure projects and evaluate the need to amend legislation based on experiences gained from the pilots (15.5).

The Government will continue species and habitat type inventories, launch a national programme to restore migratory fish stocks, and expand the network of national parks (15.5).

The Government will strengthen biodiversity through agricultural policy measures. Measures will include semi-natural grasslands and wooded pastures, biodiversity fields, local breeds and varieties, and increasing pollination services. (15.5)

The Government has updated the ownership policies of Metsähallitus, the state-owned enterprise that administers state-owned land and water areas, in a way that better reconciles the priorities of sustainable forestry, the availability of timber, biodiversity, recreational use of forests, climate policy targets and the various forms of land use. The annual entry of revenues requirements for Metsähallitus will take better account of the impacts on carbon sinks and biodiversity alongside aspects relating to forestry and the timber needs of industry. (15.2)

The Government will promote sustainable management and use of forests by reforming the sustainable forestry financing system to focus more on active, well-timed forest management and nature management measures, increasing carbon sequestration and improving biodiversity. The effectiveness of the Forest Act has been assessed. In addition, when implementing the National Forest Strategy, the Government will promote nature management of commercial forests through measures such as leaving deadwood and stumps, carrying out prescribed burning, creating snags, game cover and buffer zones, and taking measures to decrease impacts on water bodies. The use of continuous growth methods will be advanced on Metsähallitus land and also as part of the updated ownership policy. (15.1, 15.2, 15.5)

The Government will reduce the need to clear peatlands by increasing the processing and productisation of manure (15.1). In addition, an afforestation and wetland programme will be introduced for arable lands not suited to profitable food production and for peat production areas that are no longer in use (15.1).

The Government will tackle the issue of invasive alien species more effectively through legislation and greater funding for preventive measures (15.8).

The Government will increase the total amount of funding for nature conservation by EUR 100 million at the annual level. Resources for environmental research and environmental administration will be increased. (15.a)

Implementing global responsibility:

Finland regards it as important that biodiversity targets are achieved and that the preservation and restoration of natural capital is promoted internationally. Finland will actively engage in international cooperation concerning biodiversity. Finland will support adopting the new post-2020 objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and increasing the efficiency of their implementation to safeguard biodiversity and eradicate biodiversity loss. Finland will also support efficient cooperation relating to biodiversity conventions and promotion of synergies between the Rio Conventions and the chemicals conventions.

Finland has promoted the status of women and gender equality and strengthened land management under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (15.3).

Finland provides funding for forest measurement and inventory freeware used already in more than a hundred countries. Finland has provided funding for measures to reduce illegal logging and timber trade in developing countries and strengthened land ownership of local and indigenous populations. (15.2.)

Finland will support the EU's international leadership in biodiversity. At the EU level, Finland finds it important to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of biodiversity objectives through common and consistent European-wide policy measures. Finland supports the need to also take into account marine biodiversity and the sustainable management of marine areas.

Finland provides funding for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP, CBD, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and projects of Finnish CSOs (e.g. WWF Finland, Siemenpuu Foundation, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation). Funding has increased slightly from the previous government term, but more will still be required to reach Finland's pre-cut level. (15.a.)

Finland's National Forest Strategy 2025 sets the objective for international forest policy and efforts influencing EU policies to promote the attainment of the SDGs and the good operating conditions for forest-based business and activities as well as to reinforce international business opportunities. The Strategy provides a comprehensive list of Finland's objectives and measures in international forest policy that will be advanced through bilateral, EU and international cooperation. At the EU level, the EU Forest Strategy

is an important tool through which Finland wants to improve the coherence of regulation affecting forests and the forest sector. The EU Forest Strategy should also take better into account the EU's activities in international forest-related processes.

Forests, their sustainable management and use, the numerous services provided by them as well as their protection and restoration play key roles in the achievement of many of the SDGs. In international forest policy, Finland aims for the recognition of the significance of forests and the entire forest sector and seeks to promote an approach ensuring the balanced consideration of all of the different elements of the sustainable management and use of forests. Through its activities, Finland will additionally promote restoration, combat deforestation and promote socially, economically and ecologically sustainable afforestation.

**GOAL 16:**

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 16:

16.5: Finland is internationally considered a country of low corruption and bribery offences are rare.

16.6, 16.7: The Legatum Prosperity Index ranks Finland's governance as the most effective in the world, and people's political and social rights are effectively realised in Finland.

16.1, 16.2: The long-term downward trend in homicide rates bottomed out in 2018. There has been an increase in the number of sexual assaults against children reported to the police.

16.3: According to international studies, the Finnish judicial system is the most independent in the world.

16.4: Over the 2010s, new foreign organised crime groups have emerged in Finland.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 16:

The Government will improve the competence of law drafters in fundamental and human rights issues. The Government will prepare a third National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and carry out a partial reform of the Non-Discrimination Act. In the EU, Finland supports the realisation of common fundamental values by means including the requirement that aid to Member States (from e.g. Structural Funds) be linked to compliance with the core values of the EU. (SDG target **16.3**.)

The Government aims to ensure sufficient resources for the administration of justice and shorten the total length of judicial proceedings. The costs of judicial proceedings will be reduced and the proceedings will be made smoother, for example by utilising digitalisation and by enhancing the special expertise of judges in the different branches of law. Criminal proceedings will be expedited by ensuring better cooperation between prosecutors and the police. The Government will look into the possibility to lower the criteria for determining legal costs and raise the income limits in legal aid, to provide legal aid to medium-income people, and to regulate legal expenses insurance.

The Government will pay particular attention to reducing offences against children and intimate partner violence. To prevent sexual violence against children, the Government in cooperation with the relevant organisations has drawn up a plan for the national implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in Finland. An expansion of the Child Advocacy Centre model to help children subjected to sexual abuse and violence will be promoted. (16.2)

The Government will carry out a comprehensive reform of legislation governing sexual offences based on the principle of physical integrity and the right to sexual self-determination. The definition of rape in the Criminal Code will be amended so that it will be based on the absence of consent while simultaneously ensuring appropriate legal safeguards. The range of services offered at support centres for victims of sexual violence will be extended and their availability across Finland will be improved. (16.1)

The Government will draw up an action plan for combating violence against women with the aim of increasing awareness among citizens and the authorities about violence against women and improving the referral of victims to services. The Government will increase the support services for victims, the number of places in shelters, and the resources allocated to shelters to conform to the level required by the Council of Europe. A post for an independent rapporteur on violence against women will also be established and the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) will be ensured. In the EU, Finland will advocate for full implementation of the Istanbul Convention in all the activities of the European Union. (16.1)

The Government will draft an act on assistance to victims of human trafficking so that local authorities can assist the victims. A reference to victims of human trafficking will be added to the acts that concern healthcare and social welfare. The Government will additionally prepare a strategy and action plan to combat human trafficking. The Act on the Reception of Persons Applying for International Protection and on Identifying and Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings will be updated so that it will no longer be so closely connected to the criminal procedure, as required by international obligations. A team will be established for detecting and investigating human trafficking offences and the status of human trafficking victims will be improved, regardless of the progress of criminal proceedings in the human trafficking case. Provisions on safe and supported housing services for victims of human trafficking will be enacted, and the services will be provided in the manner required by EU law. (16.2)

The Government will strengthen the role of the Finnish Council of Regulatory Impact Analysis while also introducing a Government-level system for ex post regulatory impact analysis in Finland. The Government will also draw up a comprehensive action plan for

better regulation. Inter-ministerial support will be increased to ensure that the impacts of legislation on people's income security, the environment, equality, human rights, and operating conditions for businesses can be thoroughly assessed. **(16.b)**

The Government will intensify anti-corruption measures by drawing up a national anti-corruption strategy and action plan. Provisions will be enacted on the protection of persons reporting suspected cases of corruption (under the EU Whistleblower Protection Directive) and transparency in all decision-making will be increased. An act on a transparency register will be enacted based on parliamentary preparation and consultation of civil society. The aim is to improve the transparency of decision-making and, through this, to prevent inappropriate influence and to reinforce public confidence. **(16.5)**

The Government has launched a cross-administrative democracy programme extending until 2025. The National Democracy Programme 2025 brings together the numerous measures under the Programme of Prime Minister Marin's Government to promote civil society and inclusion. The objective of the Programme is to promote equal opportunities for all to participate in society and to put participation at the centre of public administration activities. **(16.10)**

With this in mind, the Government will prepare a public administration strategy that will have at its core a service pledge to the citizens. The measures outlined in the strategy will, among other things, strengthen the realisation of fundamental rights. **(16.10)**

The Government will strengthen compliance with the Act on the Openness of Government Activities by setting a stricter obligation for authorities to comply with the Act and the related legal practice and case law in a manner that promotes transparency, and by clarifying the sanctions that can be imposed for violations of the Act. **(16.10)**

The Government will draw up a revised Strategy for the National Languages of Finland to ensure that everyone has the right to receive services in the national languages and to improve the language climate. Furthermore, the Government will draw up a language policy programme that takes account of the other languages spoken in Finland, especially the Saami languages, the Romani language, the Karelian language and sign languages. **(16.10)**

The Government will improve the accessibility of e-services. Special attention will be paid to the language used by the authorities. The use of plain language will be increased to ensure that services are accessible to everyone. **(16.10)**

Finland will secure a credible national defence and ensure that sufficient resources are available. The aim of our foreign and security policy is to prevent Finland from becoming party to a military conflict.

Finland will pursue an active policy of stability to prevent military threats and will not allow its territory to be used for hostilities against other countries. International defence cooperation, international training and exercises and participation in international crisis management play an important role in Finland's foreign, security and defence policy.

The Government will submit a comprehensive cross-sectoral report on internal security to Parliament at the start of the 2021 spring session. (16.1, 16.3, 16.4)

The Government seeks to combat economic crime through the new Strategy and Action Plan for Tackling the Grey Economy and Economic Crime for 2020–2023 (16.4).

Implementing global responsibility:

Peacebuilding and the reinforcement of well-functioning democratic societies are one of the four priorities of Finland's development policy. To an increasing extent, Finland's assistance is going to fragile states. A new 'rule of law and democracy' appropriation in development cooperation has been set up to advance this priority. The priority will gain weight especially from financing provision and advocacy efforts relating to peace mediation. In addition, strong support to civil society actors will support inclusive societal dialogue to contribute to the building of peaceful societies and general democratisation.

Finland implements and promotes a comprehensive approach to crisis management. The key objective in crisis management is to bolster security and stability in conflict areas and to boost the competence and capacity of countries affected by conflict. Finland's ability to offer crisis management capabilities will be strengthened and a consistent package from crisis management through to peace mediation and reconstruction will be built. (16.1.)

The Government supports the creation of channels of cooperation between humanitarian efforts, development cooperation and peace efforts in order to resolve protracted crises.

Finland works actively to strengthen international humanitarian law (IHL). IHL work has grown in significance, as the majority of people in need of humanitarian aid live in conflict areas. In this work, Finland will build on the European Council conclusions adopted in Finland's EU Presidency in which the EU Member States committed to provide stronger protection to civilians, healthcare workers and the victims of sexual violence, to communicate IHL to an increasing extent also to non-state armed groups, and to combat the adverse effects of anti-terrorism measures and sanctions on humanitarian aid.

The focus areas in Finland's arms control policy are to combat illegal arms trading and improving Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) controls in developing countries. Finland is one of the largest contributors of funding to the UN Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT) and the Voluntary Trust Fund for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). (16.4.)

The revised Taxation for development – Finland's Action Programme 2020–2023 seeks to strengthen developing countries' own tax base through more efficient taxation and to strengthen and reform tax administration and tax policy institutions with a focus on Africa.

The Government aims for Finland to increase its participation in the UN's mediation and dialogue processes and in other similar processes. The Government will step up networking with Finnish mediation providers, and this approach will be developed further on the basis of Finland's strengths. Finland is committed to assuming its share of responsibility for international peace. In Finland's foreign policy, a stronger priority will be placed on conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

In line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, Finland will promote women's participation in peace talks and peacebuilding, with an emphasis on safeguarding women's and girls' rights in peace processes (16.1).

Finland will continue to support activities related to the Youth, Peace and Security theme, and will prepare a national action plan on the implementation of UN Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (16.1).

Finland will promote universal adherence to and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Finland will not export defence materiel to countries that are engaged in war or are violating human rights (16.4)

Finland is actively involved in international cooperation related to anti-corruption and anti-bribery efforts within the frameworks of institutions including the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe (CoE), the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU). Finland is a signatory to the above-mentioned international organisations' anti-corruption conventions. (16.5.)

To further develop Finland's crisis management policy, the Government will draw up a comprehensive document setting out the objectives for crisis management across parliamentary terms. The Government's aim is to raise the strength of Finland's civilian crisis management force to at least 150 specialists. (16.1.)

**GOAL 17:**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 17:

17.2–17.5: Finland falls short of the 0.7 per cent GNI target in official development assistance (ODA), but the new Government has decided to increase the disbursements and to formulate a roadmap to reach the 0.7 per cent target.

17.1: Finland is going to achieve the goal of doubling ODA to support domestic resource mobilisation in low-income countries in 2022.

17.6–17.8: Finland has strengthened its support to UN innovation and technology activities.

17.9: Providing capacity building for the implementation of the SDGs in developing countries has been incorporated in projects and programmes in a cross-cutting manner.

17.10–17.12: Developing countries are effectively taken into consideration in Finland's trade policy.

17.13–17.17: Political commitment, a whole-of-government approach and multi-stakeholder engagement are in place to foster policy coherence on sustainable development.

17.18–17.19: Statistical capacity-building and support to develop measurements and disaggregated data is incorporated in development cooperation projects as appropriate.

Government Programme objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 17:

SDG 17 concerns support to developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The Government promotes global partnership through actions including the following:

Finance

In line with Finland's commitment to the UN, the Government aims to direct 0.7 per cent of GNI to development cooperation and 0.2 per cent of GNI to least developed countries. A roadmap and timetable will be prepared for fulfilling these commitments. (SDG target 17.2)

The Government will contribute to improvements in the taxation systems of developing countries. A revised Taxation for development – Finland's Action Programme 2020–2023

has been prepared. Finland supports domestic resource mobilisation to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection in African and other developing countries in particular and also advocates for hearing the voice of Africa in global tax policy negotiations. The compliance of businesses receiving development cooperation funds with the criteria of tax responsibility and transparency will be ensured. A set of guidelines is being drafted for this purpose.

Finland plays an active role in the EU, the OECD and the UN to counter aggressive tax planning, tax evasion and harmful tax competition. Finland also actively promotes the updating of the EU list of tax havens. The EU will introduce public country-by-country reporting. (17.1)

In Finland's own development policy and in actions within the EU, the Government will support an increase in both private funding and corporate involvement in regard to investments that promote sustainable development in the developing world. We will ensure that sufficient resources are budgeted for Finnfund and will continue the use of development policy investments. (17.3)

Since 2016, part of Finland's development cooperation has been provided in the form of development policy investments. Taking the form of loans and investments, these serve to supplement other development cooperation efforts. Development policy investments help to allocate capital to entrepreneurial activities that create employment, as well as to other activities that promote sustainable development activities. Development policy investments improve societies' preconditions to operate also indirectly. For example, lack of electricity is like a handbrake that hinders societal development and therefore energy production from renewable sources is the largest single sector into which Finland has channelled its investments. Another objective of development policy investments is to bring about financial leverage, that is, to stimulate the flow of also other public or private money to the same target of investments. Investments are primarily made in the poorest countries.

Finland takes part in debt relief programmes for developing countries (HIPC and MDRI) through the World Bank and also by means of additional funding to the African Development Fund. From time to time, Finland has also financed debt relief measures for individual nations. Somalia will begin receiving debt relief in 2020, and Finland will contribute to this from its development cooperation funds. Under the debt relief programme, the international community will finance the cancellation of Somalia's debt to the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This is a condition for Somalia's eligibility for the HIPC debt reduction initiative and, above all, for Somalia's access to other, wider development funding from development banks, which in turn is vital to the reconstruction of Somalia.

The United Nations Office for Projects Services (UNOPS) has launched its Sustainable Infrastructure Impact Investments (S3I) office in Finland. Through the S3I, UNOPS channels private capital into significant infrastructure projects supporting sustainable development in developing countries.

The Government will work to develop a multilaterally regulated, fair and balanced system of investment agreements which supports the channelling of foreign direct investments (FDI) on the basis of sustainable development principles. (17.5)

As part of its development cooperation, Finland's supports the COVID-19 response in developing countries. By September 2020, funding of more than EUR 50 million had already been allocated to measures relating to COVID-19, the majority of this drawn from the development cooperation budget for 2020 and some also from appropriations of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Technology

Finland works to promote sustainable innovations by means including the UN Technology and Innovation Lab (UNTIL) that recently launched operations in Finland. On track to become a leading unit in the UNTIL network, the UNTIL Finland lab enables testing and scaling up of sustainable technological innovations for use by the UN and developing countries.

Finland supports the operations of the UNOPS Sustainable Infrastructure Impact Investments (S3I) initiative and the UNOPS Global Innovation and Technology Programme operating under it in Finland.

Finland develops bilateral and multinational innovation cooperation with its major partner countries and this way promotes the development and introduction of new sustainable innovations and clean solutions.

Capacity building

In development policy, Finland makes a strong contribution to building up institutional capacity in several sectors in developing countries (incl. tax administration, auditors, public financial administration, education). Besides bilateral and multilateral projects and programmes, capacity building also takes place through inter-institutional cooperation in many countries (e.g. meteorological institutions) and through cooperation between higher education institutions. Civil society capacity building in developing countries, from the perspective of rights holders in particular, is underscored in the cooperation between civil society actors.

In humanitarian aid, Finland takes account of the long-term impacts of the chosen actions and, to the extent possible, avoids the creation of overlapping structures when the existing systems enable the efficient, equal and fair delivery of aid to those most in need of it. With regard to cash transfers, for example, this translates into promoting or maintaining the aid beneficiaries' forms of economic activity.

Trade

In a global world, economic value chains are complex networks. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in the global value networks and may have added momentum to the existing trend towards regionalisation and away from globalisation. A positive development lies in that a transparent production chain is perceived as a corporate strength even more strongly than before from the viewpoints of crisis resilience and sustainable development alike.

The Government promotes open and fair trade by working to reform and strengthen the multilateral trade system built around the World Trade Organization (WTO) (17.10).

The Government will advocate for the EU to remain open to international trade and will work towards expanding the EU's network of bilateral trade agreements in Asia, Africa and Latin America (17.10).

Through development cooperation, the Government supports the capacity of the poorest developing countries to engage in foreign trade. The binding nature of the SDGs contained in the trade agreements signed by the EU will be reinforced and their implementation will be monitored (17.10).

In cooperation with the business sector, Finland will develop a binding regulatory framework on corporate responsibility as part of the reform work under way in the UN and the OECD.

Policy coherence, partnerships and generation of data

The Government will draft guidelines applicable across parliamentary terms for the various sectors in order to promote policy coherence and effectiveness supportive of development and will carry out reforms that will improve the results and effectiveness of development cooperation (17.14).

A strong partnership will be built between CSOs and central government with a view to reducing inequality. The practices in various administrative branches for granting discretionary government transfers to organisations will be examined and harmonised

where appropriate. The principles governing this work will be respect for the autonomy of CSOs with a view to reducing bureaucracy and securing long-term sustainability and predictability, equal treatment of organisations, and openness and transparency. (17.14)

The development cooperation work of Finnish CSOs is based on strong, long-running partnerships with actors in developing countries that make it possible to develop wider, multi-actor cooperation (17.17).

4 Policy principles for implementation and pledges for policy reforms

The 2030 Agenda is a policy programme of intergenerational importance that requires current generations to act in a way that ensures that future generations, too, can have a good life.

The Government finds it important that efforts towards sustainable development are pursued in a sustained manner, with a perspective that spans across parliamentary terms. Consequently, the Government will continue to implement the 2030 Agenda on the basis of the same policy principles defined in the previous 2030 Agenda report from 2017. These policy principles – long-term action and transformation; policy coherence and global partnership; and ownership and participation – describe the way things are done in Finland, that is, the way Finnish society promotes the SDGs.

The policy principles that guide the Government's efforts towards sustainable development are largely consistent with the principles defined in 'The Finland we want by 2050 – Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development' that guide the work of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development.

Government pledge for fair and equal treatment across generations: "Older people are worried about the availability and quality of services and how they will be able to cope. Young people are worried about the conditions for life on earth as the climate is changing, but also about their opportunities for education, training and employment amid growing uncertainty in the labour market. We want to build a child-friendly Finland that is a good place to go to school, work and have a family. We want to make sure that every young person has the opportunity to study, participate and pursue their dreams. At the same time, we want to guarantee a dignified old age for everyone so that nobody is left alone."

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

The Government wants to reform Finnish political culture and decision-making. Reforming society and increasing equality can succeed only if we strengthen people's trust in the ability of our democratic system to function. The pledges made in the Government Programme aim for policy reform and are inextricably linked to the policy principles in sustainable development.

The Government takes into account the policy principles and the policy reform pledges in implementing all major reforms set out for the government term. The National Democracy Programme 2025 currently being drafted performs both the sustainable development policy principles and the Government's pledges of policy reform in terms of manner of drafting and content. The Programme encompasses the numerous measures under the Programme of Prime Minister Marin's Government to promote civil society and inclusion. Several administrative branches are involved in the drafting. The Programme will serve as an umbrella for the ministries' democracy projects. It will provide a framework for implementing the measures relating to democracy outlined in the Government Programme and address other needs to promote democracy that may have arisen in consultations or been identified by the drafting and coordination group for the National Democracy Programme. A section on inclusion will also be prepared for the public administration strategy within the framework of the National Democracy Programme.

Government pledge for a new kind of interaction: "We need a more cross-sectoral approach to the preparation of matters and decision-making. We will develop ways to engage a broader group of stakeholders in reforming society. A new kind of interaction means both involving people much more strongly in public administration activities and searching for and testing new ways of interacting."

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

A – Long-term action and transformation

For nearly 30 years, the model of sustainable development adopted in Finland has been founded on the continuity of strategic sustainable development policies. National strategies and programmes on sustainable development have been prepared over several government terms, and the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development has been operating since 1993 under ten different Governments, usually chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Global Sustainable Development Report prepared by the Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the UN Secretary-General defines the four levers of change to be governance, economy and finance, individual and collective action, and science and technology¹⁹.

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 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 both in Finland and globally. It is also important to foster a critical but constructive public debate in order to identify areas of society in need of change.

Government pledge for long-term policy-making: "We commit to taking account of long-term objectives and to engaging in systematic parliamentary cooperation between the Government and Parliament. We can reach our long-term objectives by introducing new practices for cooperation between Parliament and the Government."

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

Government reports are an instrument of systematic parliamentary cooperation that increases interaction between the Government and Parliament and enhances the long-term nature of decision-making. The Government will prepare reports on topics including foreign and security policy, defence policy, EU policy, internal security, education and the future of the retail sector.

Roadmaps provide a way to ensure the timeliness and coherence of policy measures over the longer term. During the Government term, roadmaps will be prepared on topics including sustainable taxation, low-carbon goals in various sectors, reducing loss and waste in the food chain, competences and learning, achievement of the UN goals for development financing, and Finland's actions towards achievement of the SDGs.

Drafting long-term reforms of social significance in parliamentary committees ensures the commitment of all parties in Parliament to decisions that extend beyond the parliamentary term. The Government has appointed five parliamentary committees to consider development of Finland's crisis management policy; ways to develop general conscription and to meet national defence obligations; preparing a national strategy

¹⁹ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf

for children; the right of counties to collect taxes and the dismantling of multisource financing; and a reform of the social security system.

Democracy policy in Finland is developed on a long-term basis. Policy-making under the current Government Programme will take into account the Government report on democracy policy submitted to Parliament in 2014, in which increased inequality in citizen participation and the downward trend in voter turnout were identified as particular challenges to democracy. The National Democracy Programme 2025 will be prepared and implemented by an inter-administrative working group for preparation and coordination and the parliamentary steering and working groups operating in conjunction with it. The legislative packages relating to the Elections Act and election financing and to the transparency register will be subject to parliamentary preparation together with all parties in Parliament.

The completion of the National Democracy Programme will pave the way for a government resolution to be issued towards the end of the government term and outlining the measures to promote democracy that will extend beyond the government term.

The Government will strengthen the long-term approach in decision-making also through preparing a new strategy on Arctic policy and by extending the terms of land-use, housing and transport (MAL) agreements in urban regions.

In order to reinforce transformation, the Government will invest to promote piloting and experimenting by implementing the recommendations of the parliamentary advisory board for promoting new approaches. The government term will see the launch of pilot projects on the deployment of effective services and schemes; a national experiment on free contraceptives to everyone under the age of 25; experiments utilised in restructuring basic social security; pilot projects related to bureaucracy and information, for example; and a trial on basic income, drawing on the outcomes of the basic income experiment in the previous government term.

Government pledge on continuous learning in government: "Amid constant changes, we do not imagine we know in advance what will work and what will not. Instead, we will seek out information and conduct experiments so that we can act in ways that will benefit our citizens."

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

During the parliamentary term, the Government will implement a one-off programme of future-oriented investment that supports the attainment of the Government Programme's objectives and long-term sustainability of general government finances.

Phenomenon-based budgeting and particularly sustainable development budgeting will be developed on the basis of the proposals of the working group report published by the Ministry of Finance. They will be used as a practical and helpful tool.

The Government's foresight activities will be linked more closely with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The first part of the Report on the Future will create alternative scenarios where sustainable development is taken into account. It will thus also include deliberation on any unsustainable development and its consequences.

B – Policy coherence and global partnership

Policy coherence is key to successful efforts towards sustainable development. Another important aspect is coherence between efforts made in Finland and the realisation of Finland's global responsibility. We must accumulate more knowledge on the global impacts of our activities and influence these through means including legislation and international cooperation. Achieving the SDGs the world over requires strong global partnership both among nations and between nations and civil society actors.

In order to strengthen policy coherence, the Government will augment the mutual synergy and consistency of its planning, budgeting and reporting processes relative to the simultaneous promotion of economic, ecological and social sustainability. The inter-administrative ministerial working groups set up to promote the coordinated implementation of the strategic themes under the Government Programme will contribute greatly to policy coherence. The strategies of the ministries will have a significant impact on the accomplishment of policy coherence.

The role of the Finnish Council of Regulatory Impact Analysis will be strengthened, and a government-level system for ex post regulatory impact analysis will be introduced in Finland. The Government will start preparing this as soon as possible.

The Government will continue to direct resources of the Government analysis, foresight, assessment and research activities for generating data that promotes sustainable development and benefits decision-making.

Government pledge for knowledge-based policy-making: "Legislative preparation of a high quality is a key condition for the credibility and legitimacy of policy-making. We commit to knowledge-based policy-making and systematic impact assessment in all legislative preparation. We will engage in deeper cooperation with the scientific community."

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

The Government will draft guidelines applicable across parliamentary terms for Finland's development policy to promote policy coherence and effectiveness and carry out reforms that will improve the results and effectiveness of development cooperation.

In order to strengthen global partnership, the Government will implement measures including the following, presented under SDG 17:

In line with Finland's commitment to the UN, the Government aims to direct 0.7 per cent of GNI to development cooperation and 0.2 per cent of GNI to least developed countries. A roadmap and timetable will be prepared for fulfilling these commitments.

The Government will strengthen tax system development in developing countries and play an active role in international forums to counter aggressive tax planning, tax evasion and harmful tax competition.

The Government will work to develop a multilaterally regulated, fair and balanced system of investment agreements which supports the channelling of foreign direct investments (FDI) on the basis of sustainable development principles.

Finland will promote open and fair trade by working to reform and strengthen the multilateral trade system built around the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is important for the EU to remain open to international trade and to work towards expanding the EU's network of bilateral trade agreements in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In cooperation with the business sector, Finland will develop a binding regulatory framework on corporate responsibility as part of the reform work under way in the UN and the OECD.

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 for Sustainable Development. Although the Government bears most responsibility for implementation, sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda affect everyone.

Finnish society has a strong tradition of collaboration and broad ownership, and sustainable development, too, is perceived as a process of social transformation in which everyone may take part. The practical efforts to promote sustainable development largely take place in cities and local communities, businesses, CSOs, educational institutions, workplaces and homes.

The Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development is a key instrument for including all of Finnish society to work towards sustainable development. The Government has appointed the Commission, chaired by the Prime Minister, for a new five-year term.

The operational commitments, developed by the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, provide organisations and active citizens with the opportunity to pursue sustainable development goals on their own. More than 2,000 commitments to action promoting sustainable development have been made. These encompass all sectors of society: businesses, schools, CSOs, administration, trade unions, political parties, cities, and even private individuals. The Government will continue to develop the operational commitment service.

A strong democratic system is a basic condition for a participatory society. The Government promotes versatile opportunities for participation and effective means of direct democracy. These include user democracy, citizens' juries, resident interviews, youth councils, online councils, and participatory budgeting. Furthermore, the Government will seek ways to make participation in politics and political debate lighter and easier, for instance through pop-up events.

Finland's 'State of Sustainable Development' monitoring system is a way of involving the scientific community and civil society in the generation of data on sustainable development. The maintenance of this participatory monitoring system will be continued.

Racism and discrimination have no place in an inclusive society. The Government will draw up an action plan against racism and discrimination. Determined action will be taken to tackle discrimination in recruitment, and the competence and awareness of the authorities in minority issues will be increased.

An inclusive society is built on equality. The Government has prepared an Action Plan for Gender Equality and is committed to promoting gender equality, for example in the Budget process and in all key reforms. Equality and non-discrimination plans will be made obligatory at the various levels of education and in early childhood education and care.

The Government will ensure the implementation of linguistic rights in all actions of public authorities, public administration and the drafting of legislation.

Government pledge for non-discrimination: "Human rights and human dignity belong to us all. We pledge to build a Finland that is tolerant and respects and promotes everyone's human rights. Our country has zero tolerance for bullying and racism. We want to build a nation that is equal, accessible and supportive."

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

5 Organisation of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Manner of organisation in the Government

The Government addresses its objectives and measures leading to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through its regular management system. The Government Programme is the plan of the Government for achieving a Finland that is socially, ecologically and economically sustainable. The Government holds regular joint government evening sessions to keep its shared idea of the current situation up to date and to support the implementation of its main objectives. There are four statutory Ministerial Committees: the Ministerial Committee on Foreign and Security Policy, the Ministerial Committee on European Union Affairs, the Ministerial Finance Committee and the Ministerial Committee on Economic Policy. A further six ministerial working groups have been appointed to address employment promotion; climate and energy policy; health and social services; competence, education, culture and innovation; child and youth policy; and internal security and strengthening the rule of law. The ministerial working groups are chaired by the ministers responsible for each topic and all ministers and ministries which the said phenomenon/strategic theme concerns are represented in the working group. The aim is to achieve a strong inter-administrative approach and coherence in implementation.

Manner of organisation in central government

In the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, public administration is guided by the Government Programme and its implementation plan and by this report. The key forums ensuring inclusiveness and an inter-administrative approach in public administration are the regularly convened meeting of permanent secretaries, the Sustainable Development Coordination Network, the national sustainable development monitoring network and the advisory staff network. All ministries are represented in these networks. These networks

and forums for cooperation are essential to the coherent and efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Several ministries have adopted the 2030 Agenda as a key element and starting point in the drafting of ministry strategy and other central policies. In the administrative branches, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is nationally and internationally cascaded from strategies to concrete action by means of operational and performance planning, performance management and financial planning. Several ministries have internal sustainable development coordination networks in place.

Participation of society

In the implementation of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda, the Government carries on Finland's long-running tradition of broad participation of society. Forums to safeguard participation and consultation of society include the long-established Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee. These bodies are regularly consulted at all major stages of 2030 Agenda implementation where the broad-based involvement of society is vital.

In the current parliamentary term, a Climate Policy Round Table has been appointed within the framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Its purpose and mission is to create a common understanding of how Finland can make a just transition to a carbon neutral society within an accelerated timeframe. The Finnish 2030 Agenda Youth Group that serves to support and drive onward the work of the Commission will also continue to operate. In its work, the Commission is also supported by an independent Expert Panel on Sustainable Development. The Development Policy Committee, meanwhile, has been made a permanent parliamentarily and societally representative advisory body on development policy by a Government Decree issued in the current government term. The mandate of the Committee includes the global responsibility and strengthening of development policy effectiveness that are a part of sustainable development.

Implementation model in light of assessments and audits

Finland and its implementation of the 2030 Agenda have been the subject of many national and international reports and studies. A report by the OECD²⁰, for example, finds that Finland has in place the key building blocks for ensuring a coherent implementation of the SDGs going forward. This is attributed to political commitment at the highest level and a whole-of-government strategic framework, enhanced coordination across and within government, and systematic and participatory follow-up and review.

PATH2030 – An Evaluation of Finland's Sustainable Development Policy²¹ prepared in the previous government term found in summary that there is a diverse participatory approach to sustainable development. The report also found, however, that sustainable development has not been sufficiently integrated into all governmental sectors and their management systems and that governmental work on sustainable development is poorly resourced.

The national 2030 Agenda implementation model was also audited in 2019 by the National Audit Office of Finland (NAOF)²². The audit report concludes that while ministries now attach greater importance to sustainable development, there is still no clear or coordinated connection between sustainable development and the content of policy preparation in individual ministries. The policy principles of sustainable development, such as global responsibility and long-term action, have furthermore not been analysed. The NAOF recommends that the ministries should analyse more systematically the ecological, economic and social sustainability of policy contents.

20 <https://www.oecd.org/governance/pcsd/Finland.pdf>; <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/oecd-outlines-finlands-efforts-on-policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development/>

21 <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161601>

22 <https://www.vtv.fi/en/publications/promoting-sustainable-development/>

6 Follow-up and review of national 2030 Agenda implementation

Promoting sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are long-term processes that require systematic follow-up and review as well as continuous 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.

Key actors

The Government is responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland as well as for organising the follow-up and review of national implementation. Parliament supervises and reviews the activities of the Government, 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.

Besides Parliament, key forums for the follow-up and review of the Government's implementation of the 2030 Agenda are the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee. 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. The work of the Commission is supported and driven forward by the Expert Panel on Sustainable Development. The Development Policy Committee plays a major role in the follow-up and review of the global dimension of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee is tasked with monitoring and analysing the implementation

of Finland's international development policy commitments and development policy. It formulates a common vision of political parties and stakeholders on current issues in development policy. In addition, the Committee issues recommendations on the planning and implementation of development policy and also more broadly on the promotion of sustainable development in the various policy sectors.

Follow-up indicators

The state of sustainable development is monitored in Finland by means of two sets of indicators. Global progress towards the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda is monitored by means of the UN global indicator framework, the data on which is collected by the statistical authorities in each country. Statistics Finland, with the support of the Prime Minister's Office, has set up a UN SDG indicator cooperation network consisting of representatives of the main data producing bodies. Statistics Finland has also established a national reporting platform for global SDG indicators. The national reporting platform is publicly available at https://www.stat.fi/tup/kestavan-kehityksen-yk-indikaattorit-agenda2030_en.html.

The national state of sustainable development is monitored by means of a set of national SDG indicators. These indicators reflect the situation in Finland relative to the objectives set in the 'The Finland we want by 2050' strategy of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. The indicators have been agreed and are updated within the Sustainable Development Coordination Network consisting of a broad representation of actors from the various sectors of society. The 40+ indicators have been divided into ten baskets, each of which addresses sets of phenomena that are key from the viewpoint of sustainable development. Each year, in the context of updating the indicators, the Coordination Network conducts a detailed analysis of the reasons for and impacts of the changes in the indicator values and reviews development in Finland relative to development in other parts of the world. These basket-specific analyses are available on the State of Sustainable Development website at <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/monitoring>.

The state of sustainable development is also reviewed annually by a Citizen Panel on sustainable development. The Panel, convened by the Prime Minister's Office and the National Commission on Sustainable Development, brings together around 500 volunteers each year to assess Finland's current state and recent developments in the topics covered by the indicators. The opinions of the Citizen Panel are available on the State of Sustainable Development website at <https://kestavakehitys.fi/en/monitoring/citizens-panel>.

Besides the sets of SDG indicators, the Government also monitors the achievement of the objectives of the Government Programme. The indicators applicable throughout the government term were decided in autumn 2019. They are linked to the 70-odd strategic goals in the Government Programme. While 1–2 indicators have been established for most goals, the achievement of some is monitored by means of interpretative texts. The indicators are updated twice annually (spring and autumn, roughly speaking) according to the Government’s situational picture needs. The indicators will be published on a Government Programme follow-up website to be made available in late 2020.

The SDG indicators and the Government Programme indicators complement each other. The SDG indicators provide an overview of the situation in Finland, while the Government Programme indicators speak to the progress and effectiveness of the Government’s policy actions. Both sets of indicators are coordinated and maintained by the Prime Minister’s Office, which also has an active role in national UN indicator work.

Global activities are moreover reviewed on the basis of the theories of change and aggregate indicators for development policy priority areas. Many of the indicators are based on the UN SDG indicators.

National sustainable development policy evaluation

In its first report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Government committed to conducting a comprehensive and independent assessment of Finland’s sustainable development policy and the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda every four years. The sustainable development efforts of the current Government build on the findings of the first such assessment carried out in 2019.

In the current parliamentary term, Finland’s sustainable development policy and national implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be subject to the following assessment:

Review of the 2030 Agenda implementation will be supported by strengthening the coordination of assessment efforts in the various administrative branches. This will be accomplished by setting up a sub-group under the Government working group for the coordination of research, foresight and assessment activities (TEA Working Group) to focus on review. The working group shares information about the administrative branches’ review plans, harmonises the assessment carried out in the administrative branches and explores the possibilities of linking the sustainable development and 2030 Agenda implementation perspective into the assessments.

An independent external evaluation on the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be commissioned in autumn and winter 2022–2023. This evaluation will consist of a holistic examination of Finland's progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the accomplishment of the actions described in this report. The TEA Working Group sub-group will be responsible for preparing the assessment proposal. The assessment will be designed in collaboration with the National Commission on Sustainable Development and through co-creation. In implementing the evaluation, use will be made of assessments conducted during the parliamentary term in the various administrative branches

The auditing of the national 2030 Agenda policy conducted by the National Audit Office of Finland (NAOF) will be integrated into the assessment and utilised to the extent deemed appropriate by NAOF.

The promotion of sustainable development in the activities of agencies that are on-budget entities will be subject to closer scrutiny.

The implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is also under development in the EU as part of the European Semester that also includes an examination of national actions.

Finland has reported on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a Voluntary National Review in 2016²³ and, most recently, in July 2020²⁴. From the viewpoint of SDG achievement, the Government considers it important for all countries to submit regular progress reports to the UN. The Government plans to submit Finland's next national progress report in 2025.

Utilisation of follow-up and review data in decision-making

The first report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda issued in the previous parliamentary term introduced an annual cycle of follow-up and review during the period up to 2030 as well as a four-year cycle for each parliamentary term. With these, follow-up and review data is integrated into political decision-making (see Figure 2). The Government will continue to observe the follow-up and review cycles and practices introduced in the previous parliamentary term.

23 Voluntary National Review 2016 https://kestavakehitys.fi/documents/2167391/2186383/VNK_J1016_National_report_net.pdf/48be3fcf-d40c-407a-8115-e59b2c0683ee/VNK_J1016_National_report_net.pdf.pdf

24 Voluntary National Review 2020 <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/162268>



Four-year cycle for the parliamentary term

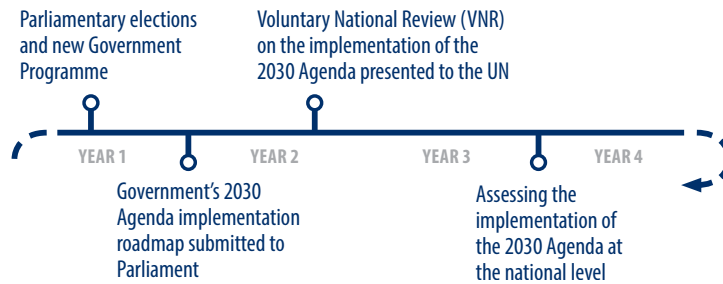


Figure 2. The year clock for the follow-up and review of national implementation, and a description of the four-year cycle of each parliamentary term

The Government's efforts to promote sustainable development are discussed in the Government's annual report. Alongside the report at hand, the annual report also allows Parliament to express its views on the progress and priorities of the Government's sustainable development work.

An event called 'The State and Future of Sustainable Development' is organised annually under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office and in cooperation with the National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee.

A synthesis report on the state of sustainable development in Finland will be prepared towards the end of the current parliamentary term, in 2023, to support sustainable development efforts in the next parliamentary term.

At the global level, development policy results will be followed up in the next development policy results report. Finland's results in its development policy priority areas will be determined on the basis of the priority-specific indicators included in performance management.

7 Towards sustainable development policy spanning over parliamentary terms

The Finnish Expert Panel on Sustainable Development published in February 2020 a report entitled 'Six paths towards sustainability'²⁵. According to the Expert Panel, the transition to sustainability must, to an increasing extent, be steered by finding interlinkages, as the world evolves through interconnected systems and human activities.

The Expert Panel has identified four steps to promote a transition to sustainability: 1) interdisciplinary research brings transparency to material and financial flows, and produces knowledge of the impact of new technologies and experiments; 2) when planning is based on knowledge and collaborative activities, sustainability will become the new normal for individuals and communities; 3) the use of materials, as well as the use of land in its natural state, must be reduced in all activities, and financial instruments must be adjusted to take sustainability criteria into consideration; and 4) sustainable development must form the basis of all decision making, planning, and budgeting, in both the private and public sectors.

The Expert Panel and the UN Global Sustainable Development Report identify six entry points where action is needed: 1) human wellbeing and capabilities; 2) sustainable and just economies; 3) food systems and nutrition patterns; 4) energy decarbonisation and universal access; 5) urban and peri-urban development; and 6) global environmental commons.

The PATH2030 report recommended that Finland prepare a roadmap, spanning over parliamentary terms, on how and on what timetable Finland would achieve the 2030 Agenda SDGs²⁶. Extending until 2030, such a roadmap would strengthen decision-making

²⁵ https://www.kestavyyspaneeli.fi/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2020/03/Finnish_Expert_Panel_on_Sustainable_Development_Publications_1_2020.pdf

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf

²⁶ <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161458>

beyond a single parliamentary term as well as the continuity of sustainable development policy. The roadmap would identify those Goals and targets where Finland has in place a concrete plan for achievement as well as the areas where a more systematic approach should be adopted. The Government is considering the different ways of producing the roadmap and initiated in autumn 2020 a preliminary study on roadmap preparation.

A report on Finland's development policy principles spanning multiple parliamentary terms will be prepared to strengthen policy coherence in support of development as well as effectiveness. With regard to ODA, a roadmap for achieving the 0.7 and 0.2 per cent GNI targets will be prepared.

Appendix 1 – Sustainable Development Goals and targets for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UN General Assembly Resolution “Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” A/RES/70/1 Goals and targets	
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	
1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
1.4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
1.5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
1.a	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
1.b	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	
2.1	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
2.2	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
2.3	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
2.4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
2.5	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
2.a	Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
2.b	Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
2.c	Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	
3.1	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
3.2	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under 5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
3.3	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
3.4	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
3.6	By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
3.7	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
3.8	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
3.9	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
3.a	Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
3.b	Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
3.c	Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
3.d	Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	
4.1	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
4.2	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
4.3	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
4.4	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
4.5	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
4.6	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
4.7	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
4.a	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
4.b	By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
4.c	By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	
5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.6	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
5.a	Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
5.b	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
5.c	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	
6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
6.a	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
6.b	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
7.a	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
7.b	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	
8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
8.6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
8.7	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
8.9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
8.10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
8.a	Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
8.b	By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	
9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
9.3	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
9.4	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
9.5	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
9.a	Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
9.b	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
9.c	Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	
10.1	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
10.2	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
10.3	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
10.4	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
10.5	Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
10.6	Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
10.7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
10.a	Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
10.b	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
10.c	By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	
11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
11.a	Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
11.b	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
11.c	Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	
12.1	Implement the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.3	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
12.6	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
12.7	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
12.a	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
12.b	Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
12.c	Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*	
13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. *Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
13.3	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
13.a	Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
13.b	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	
14.1	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
14.2	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
14.3	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
14.4	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
14.5	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
14.6	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
14.7	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

14.a	Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries
14.b	Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
14.c	Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	
15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
15.2	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
15.4	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
15.5	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
15.6	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
15.7	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
15.8	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
15.9	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
15.a	Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
15.b	Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
15.c	Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	
16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
16.4	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
16.5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
16.9	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
16.10	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.a	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
16.b	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	
Finance	
17.1	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
17.2.	Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
17.3	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
17.4	Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
17.5	Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries
Technology	
17.6	Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
17.7	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
17.8	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology
Capacity-building	
17.9	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
Trade	
17.10	Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
17.11	Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
17.12	Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access
Systemic issues Policy and institutional coherence	
17.13	Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
17.14	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
17.15	Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development
Multi-stakeholder partnerships	
17.16	Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.17	Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability	
17.18	By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
17.19	By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

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ISSN PDF 2490-1164

ISBN PDF 978-952-383-085-1