



Government Report on the Implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Publications of the Finnish Government 2024:63

Government Report on the Implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Finnish Government Helsinki 2024

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Abstract

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development guides Finland and the other United Nations Member States towards a sustainable future. The agenda seeks to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development in which the environment, the economy and people are taken into account equally. It consists of 17 goals that all countries should achieve by 2030.

The halfway point between the adoption of the agenda and 2030 has already passed, but the world is still far from achieving the goals. Faster and more extensive actions are needed to make the agenda a reality. The UN's most recent sustainable development report found that Finland was furthest along in implementing the goals. That said, there are significant negative externalities associated with Finland's actions.

The programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government aims for a strong and committed Finland that can withstand global storms. A key vision of the Government Programme is a society where people feel they are included and can trust one another, and where the most vulnerable people are taken care of.

The report describes the current state of Finland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the main actions taken by the Government to promote each of the goals in Finland and globally, and the mechanisms in place for organising, monitoring and assessing the implementation. The report was drawn up by the Prime Minister's Office together with the central government's Sustainable Development Coordination Network.

Keywords 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, sustainable development, Agenda 2030, international cooperation, UN

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Valtioneuvoston selonteko YK:n kestävän kehityksen toimintaohjelma Agenda2030:n toimeenpanosta

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Kieli englanti

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Tiivistelmä

YK:n kestävän kehityksen toimintaohjelma Agenda2030 ohjaa Suomea ja muita YK:n jäsenmaita kohti kestävää tulevaisuutta. Se tähtää köyhyyden poistamiseen sekä kestävään kehitykseen, jossa ympäristö, talous ja ihminen otetaan tasavertaisesti huomioon, ja sisältää 17 tavoitetta, jotka maiden tulisi saavuttaa vuoteen 2030 mennessä.

Ajallisesti katsottuna tavoitteiden toimeenpanon puoliväli on ylitetty, mutta maailmanlaajuisesti tarkastellen niiden saavuttamisesta ollaan kaukana. Tähän vaaditaan entistä laajempia ja nopeampia toimia. YK:n viimeisimmässä kestävän kehityksen raportissa Suomen arvioidaan olevan pisimmällä tavoitteiden toimeenpanossa. Toisaalta Suomen toiminnalla arvioidaan olevan merkittäviä kielteisiä ulkoisvaikutuksia.

Pääministeri Petteri Orpon hallituksen ohjelman tavoitteena on vahva ja välittävä Suomi, joka pärjää maailman myrskyissä. Hallitusohjelman visiossa on keskeisenä periaate, että ihmiset tuntevat osallisuutta ja luottamusta toisiinsa ja heikoimmista pidetään huolta.

Tämä selonteko kuvaa Suomen nykytilanteen Agenda2030:n toteuttamisessa, hallituksen keskeisiä toimia kunkin kestävän kehityksen tavoitteen osalta Suomessa ja maailmanlaajuisesti sekä toimeenpanon organisoinnin ja sen seurannan ja arvioinnin mekanismit. Selonteon laadinnasta on vastannut valtioneuvoston kanslia yhdessä valtionhallinnon kestävän kehityksen koordinaatioverkoston kanssa.

Asiasanat kestävä kehitys, Agenda 2030, kansainvälinen yhteistyö, YK, kestävän kehityksen toimintaohjelma Agenda2030

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Statsrådets redogörelse om genomförandet av FN:s handlingsprogram för hållbar utveckling Agenda 2030

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FN:s handlingsprogram för hållbar utveckling Agenda2030 styr Finland och andra FN-medlemsländer mot en hållbar framtid. Målet med programmet är att utrota fattigdom och att styra mot en hållbar utveckling där miljön, ekonomin och människan beaktas på lika villkor, och det innehåller 17 mål som länderna ska uppnå före 2030.

Tidsmässigt har genomförandet av målen kommit halvväggs redan tidigare, men globalt sett är man långt ifrån att uppnå målen. Det krävs allt större och snabbare åtgärder. I FN:s senaste rapport om hållbar utveckling bedöms Finland vara längst i genomförandet av målen. Å andra sidan bedöms Finlands verksamhet ha betydande negativa externa effekter.

Målet i statsminister Petteri Orpos regeringsprogram är ett starkt och engagerat Finland som tar sig genom världens stormar. En central princip i regeringsprogrammets vision är att människor ska känna delaktighet och förtroende för varandra och att de svagaste ska tas om hand.

Denna redogörelse beskriver läget för genomförandet av Agenda 2030 i Finland i dag, organiseringen av det nationella genomförandet, regeringens väsentliga åtgärder för varje mål för hållbar utveckling såväl i Finland som globalt samt mekanismerna för uppföljning och bedömning av genomförandet. Statsrådets kansli har tillsammans med statsförvaltningens samordningsnätverk för hållbar utveckling svarat för utarbetandet av redogörelsen.

Nyckelord handlingsprogrammet för hållbar utveckling Agenda2030, hållbar utveckling, Agenda 2030, internationellt samarbete, FN

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Contents

Introduction	7
1 Situation of 2030 Agenda implementation in Finland	11
2 Government efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals	18
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.....	18
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.....	23
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	28
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.....	35
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.....	42
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	50
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	54
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.....	58
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.....	67
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.....	72
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	78
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	83
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.....	88
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	93
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	97
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	102
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.....	110
3 Finland’s sustainable development implementation system and actors	113
4 Follow-up of national 2030 Agenda implementation	116
Appendix: Sustainable Development Goals and targets	118

INTRODUCTION

The global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations (UN) has been guiding Finland and other UN Member States towards a more sustainable future since 2016. The 2030 Agenda aims at poverty eradication and sustainable development taking equal account of the environment, the economy and people. The 2030 Agenda was adopted by the UN Member States in 2015. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the countries should achieve together by 2030. In terms of time, we have already passed the halfway mark but, in terms of global implementation, we are still far from reaching the SDGs. Although progress has been made in many respects, achieving the SDGs by 2030 calls for more extensive and faster actions.

The UN's most recent Sustainable Development Report¹ ranks Finland first in SDG achievement. According to the report, Finland has achieved just over 86% of the 17 SDGs set. The Nordic countries are strongly represented among the top-ranking countries. Sweden comes second after Finland, Denmark third and Norway seventh. On the other hand, the same report assesses Finland's negative spillover impacts as significant, with Finland ranked 139/167 in the comparison. Finland's challenges regarding negative spillover impacts include the climate and nitrogen emissions caused by its imports elsewhere in the world, as well as deforestation.

The main observation of a report on the performance of OECD countries² was that OECD countries have achieved some of the SDGs (relating to securing basic needs, good governance and cooperation), but much still remains to be done regarding many of the SDGs. These include, in particular, efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, to restore trust in institutions and to limit pressures on the environment.

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

2 OECD 2022: The Short and Winding Road to 2030 – Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets. OECD, Paris.

The Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government³ seeks to make Finland a strong and committed country that can withstand global storms. According to the Government Report on Finnish Foreign and Security Policy⁴, Finland's foreign and security policy is founded on value-based realism. Its goal is to safeguard Finland's independence and territorial integrity, to avoid becoming involved in a military conflict and to improve the security and wellbeing of the people of Finland. Finland's activities are founded on democracy, the rule of law, human rights, equality and non-discrimination.

Sustainable prosperity is based on the principles of education and culture, knowledge and competence, respect for work and entrepreneurship, and non-discrimination and equality. Climate measures will be implemented in a manner that is economically, ecologically, socially and regionally sustainable and just. Finland seeks to be carbon neutral in accordance with the Climate Act and will respond to its international commitments through climate and nature policy.

The Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government emphasises that Finland is a strong democracy whose people have confidence in public institutions. Confidence in public administration is based on its ability to serve people openly, efficiently and responsibly. The challenges of Finnish society include declining competence levels and health, along with inequality, which affect people's ability to participate in society.

This report describes the current state of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Finland, the key actions of the Government in respect of each of the 17 SDGs in Finland and globally, the policy principles guiding implementation, the organisation of implementation work at the national level and the mechanisms in place for monitoring and evaluating implementation. 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 relating to implementation or preparation which, while not recorded in this report, materially affect the promotion of the realisation of sustainable development.

3 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-929-8>

4 https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/165723/VN_2024_35.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

The preparation of this report takes place in a geopolitically uncertain situation. The COVID-19 pandemic caused major upheavals around the world and profound impacts on the functioning of Finnish society, too. Uncertainty is currently being caused particularly by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impacts, such as inflation, uncertainties in the energy sector, hybrid operations, and other international conflicts. Finland is not alone in facing these uncertainties. The global promotion of sustainable development has been slowed down not only by Russia's aggression but also by several other concurrent geopolitical tensions, conflicts and crises around the world as well as by the negative impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, that is, the so-called triple planetary crisis.

Leaving no one behind (LNOB) is the overarching and cross-cutting theme of the 2030 Agenda. A key principle of the vision of the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government is for people to be able to feel included in society and trust one another and for the most vulnerable people to be taken care of. People can count on things turning out well.

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 supports them staunchly. Finland has also always emphasised and supported multilateral cooperation based on international rules. 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 further develop the EU and 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. The EU must continue strong efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda as presented in its first Voluntary Review submitted to the UN in 2023⁵.

NATO membership places Finland even more firmly in the European and transatlantic security community. Finland is part of NATO's collective defence and is, therefore, covered by the security guarantees enshrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. NATO's deterrence and defence are of fundamental importance to Finland's security. At the same time, Finland's strong defence capability and resilience strengthen the whole Alliance. Finland's NATO membership does not affect the status of the Åland Islands, which is based on international conventions.

5 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3801

The long-term challenges both globally and as regards Finland are largely the same as before. Due to the economic challenges, it is important to invest in employment measures, increase productivity and restrict expenditure growth. Climate solutions must be scaled up, taking account of the sustainable growth of the economy. At the same time, we must safeguard democracy and the rule of law as well as the realisation of fundamental and human rights. Finland will shoulder its global responsibility and support multilateral cooperation, fragile states and vulnerable groups.

Finland is responsible for its footprint and the impacts of its actions. A secure and sustainably developing world is also in the best interests of the people of Finland. According to the Government Report on Foreign and Security Policy, the achievement of the UN SDGs in accordance with the 2030 Agenda has been jeopardised due to reasons including difficulties in multilateral cooperation, the repercussions of Russia's war of aggression and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with the Government Report on Foreign and Security Policy, Finland is committed to accelerating the global implementation of the UN SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Finland is an open and reliable long-term partner that engages in genuine dialogue on issues considered important by developing countries. Finland tries to alleviate tensions between Western countries and developing countries. Finland promotes multi-actor cooperation between states, businesses, civil society organisations (CSOs) and private sector donors, as well as dialogue between generations and opportunities to participate for young people. In its development policy, Finland will focus on its strengths where it has good opportunities to support sustainable development. In line with the Government Report on International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation, the aim is to better support Finland's commercial and economic interests in developing markets and increase the economic independence of countries by strengthening the responsibility of developing countries for their own development. A significant portion of Finland's development cooperation remains grant based.

From the very outset, Finland and its Governments have been determined in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. This current report is the third one submitted to Parliament. The report has been drafted in a broad-based and inter-administrative manner. The drafting has been coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office together with a sustainable development coordination network spanning all ministries.

1 Situation of 2030 Agenda implementation in Finland

The vision of the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government is prosperity founded on a sustainable economy. The title of the Government Programme – A strong and committed Finland – communicates that Finland is a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society that relies on cooperation and that also shoulders its global responsibility for sustainable development. In addition to social, economic and ecological sustainability, our overall sustainability thinking also covers sustainability of security, democracy and the rule of law as well as human and cultural sustainability.⁶ There are several actors in Finnish society responsible for implementing measures to strengthen society's overall sustainability in Finland and globally.

The situational pictures concerning the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have been divided in accordance with five sustainability dimensions in the same way as in the societal sustainability assessment work of the Prime Minister's Office. The situational pictures presented in this report focus on targets and monitoring topics based on the 2030 Agenda. The sustainability assessment will produce a broader situational picture on society.

2030 Agenda situational picture: Ecological sustainability

Finland aims to achieve carbon neutrality in accordance with the Climate Act. Around 80% of the greenhouse gases (GHG) causing global warming are generated in energy production and consumption, including transport. The majority of Finland's emissions (70% in 2023) arise specifically from the production and consumption of fossil energy⁷. The energy sector has, however, undergone rapid decarbonisation in recent years. In 2023, 52% of the electricity generated in Finland was from renewable sources (54% in 2022). Consequently, significant changes in GHG emissions have been seen in energy and other industries. Fossil emissions

6 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-380-7>

7 <https://stat.fi/en/publication/clmpw5zl2iw7w0bw1nfrnsg70>

have even been reduced faster than projected in Finland⁸. The net reduction of Finland's GHG emissions is not, however, on the trajectory required for the 2035 carbon neutrality target and EU commitments. This is due in particular to the reduction of the carbon sink⁹. According to the Annual Climate Report on 2024, additional measures are therefore needed in all sectors¹⁰.

As regards biodiversity, the network of protected areas covers 14.3% of the total area of Finland¹¹. The OECD report measuring the distance to the SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda found that Finland has reached the so-called Aichi biodiversity target (ABT) of conserving at least 10% of marine areas but has fallen behind the 17% protection target set for terrestrial and inland freshwater areas. The target can, however, be regarded as having been reached if central government and privately owned land areas under statutory protection as well as areas being officially converted into nature reserves, and other areas under effective protection measures are also taken into account as protected areas. The report also found that, despite biodiversity loss being a global concern, the conservation status of Finland's most important species is much higher than in most OECD countries.

One of Finland's particular weaknesses in ecological sustainability is the functioning of the circular economy¹², where the current Finnish situation is at or below the European average. Finland could also perform much better in the amount of electronic waste and nitrogen emissions. Domestic material consumption (DMC) is also among the highest in Europe, and the circular material use (CMU) rate (4.5% in 2021) is clearly below the EU average (12%)¹³. The Finnish recycling rate of municipal waste (waste generated in housing and comparable waste from trade and services and corresponding waste from industry support activities) even decreased to 37% in 2021. The figure is clearly below the EU average (48%).

8 <https://ilmastopaneeli.fi/suuntaviivat-kohti-hiilineutraalia-suomea-paastot-vahenevat-vauhdilla-maankayttosektorin-nettonielua-vahvistettava/> (in Finnish)

9 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-361-390-4>

10 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-361-374-4>

11 <https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisu/management-effectiveness-evaluation-of-finlands-protected-areas-2023/>

12 https://stat.fi/tup/kiertotalous/kiertotalousliiketoiminnan-indikaattorit_en.html

13 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-558-0>

2030 Agenda situational picture: Human and cultural sustainability

According to the Bildung Review 2023 of the Ministry of Education and Culture¹⁴, Finland is facing major challenges in education and training. The structure of financing for education and training has changed, as there has been a decrease in financing for general education, while at the same time financing for vocational upper secondary education and training, in particular, has been strengthened.

The decline in achieved learning outcomes that has persisted in Finland for more than 20 years has been exceptionally rapid in international terms. The reasons for the upward trend that continued into the 1990s and the subsequent declining and diverging trend still remain largely unclear. Despite the decline, young people's achieved learning outcomes are still good in international comparison.

The number of research and development workers has remained quite stable in Finland in the 2000s, especially in the enterprise sector. Participation in doctoral education has declined among Finns. Holders of a doctoral degree accounted for 20% of all RDI workers in 2021. In the enterprise sector, the corresponding figure was 7%. The trend in the overall level of Finland's R&D investments has followed the R&D investment trend of the private sector. Enterprises currently account for around two thirds of Finland's R&D expenditure.

R&D expenditure has been growing in Finland since 2016. In 2022, R&D expenditure accounted for 2.95% of GDP. Finland aims to increase R&D expenditure to 4% of GDP by 2030. Under the act in force from the beginning of 2023, R&D expenditure will be increased to achieve 1.2% of GDP in 2030. The first increases in central government R&D funding took place in the 2024 Budget. Reaching the target also requires the private sector to significantly increase its R&D investment. In OECD statistics, Finland's R&D intensity is above the average of OECD countries (ranked 11th of 37 countries).

Culture and the arts are important factors in building the sustainability of societies. The public financing of culture and the arts consists of central government and municipal financing. Culture is financed by several different ministries and administrative branches, but the focus of examination is often specifically on appropriations for arts and culture granted by the Ministry of Education and Culture. These have remained very close to the same level over the past ten years.

14 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-263-744-4>

The gross value added of the cultural industries has decreased from the early 2000s. In 2008, the gross value added in the field of culture was 3.6%, whereas the corresponding figure in 2022 was 3.1%. Economic indicators alone are unable to reflect the dynamism of culture and the arts and their role in building the foundation for societal sustainability, but they do indicate that growth in these sectors has been slow over the past decade.

2030 Agenda situational picture: Sustainability of democracy, the rule of law and security

The situation of Finland in terms of democracy, the rule of law and security is good in international comparison. In Finland, people have good access to participation in societal activities and civic engagement (voting in elections, taking part in association activities, etc.). Finland is also ranked among the top countries in international rule-of-law comparisons. For example, the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index¹⁵ ranks Finland third right after Denmark and Norway.

The OECD assessment of performance across the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda identifies areas in which Finland could do better. These can be found particularly in safety and security (violence and preventing violence-related deaths). Positive developments have, however, been seen regarding this target, too, in Finland.

The key issue in Finland is to ensure that trends jeopardising democracy, the rule of law or security in society can be prevented. Through the objectives set in its Government Programme and its actions, the Government seeks to strengthen democracy and security by means including creating prerequisites for individuals and communities that bolster equality, participation and wellbeing.

2030 Agenda situational picture: Social sustainability

Finland has achieved globally good results regarding social sustainability. The situation in Finland is very good in terms of social cohesion (a feeling of togetherness between the different population groups in society), which is a key component of social sustainability. The comparison between OECD countries shows

15 <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/>

that income differentials and poverty rate are relatively low in Finland. Finland has also traditionally featured a high labour market participation rate of women, strong pillars of democracy (free elections, freedom of the press) in global comparison and access to non-parliamentary influence (right to strike, permitted demonstrations, etc.). Trust in other people was the highest in Finland among the OECD countries in 2021, and the level has remained stable since 2013. Social cohesion does, however, require continuous maintenance. The World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report¹⁶ raised the possible erosion of social cohesion as one of Finland's biggest risks over the short term.

Absolute poverty, that is, the lack of sufficient financial resources to secure basic life necessities, is almost non-existent in Finland. In Finland, the challenge is relative poverty, that is, the scarcity of financial resources impeding or preventing the achievement of the standard of living or lifestyle generally regarded as the minimum in society. Concern about increasing energy poverty (growing heating and electricity costs increasing the financial burden of households) that has arisen due to the war in Ukraine, for example, is a significant risk factor in Finland because of our geopolitical location. A report on the topic finds, however, that Finland has performed well in preventing energy poverty¹⁷.

Finland has also succeeded well in international comparison in reducing inequality. Inequality in income distribution is among the lowest in OECD countries and there have been no major changes here in recent years. Finland's comprehensive social security system protects the population against social risks.

Finland's biggest challenges regarding social sustainability include issues relating to public health in particular. The OECD study measuring the distance to the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda found that the Finnish healthcare system continued to be at an internationally good level. Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease is also below the OECD average. Avoidable (preventable and treatable) mortality in Finland is lower than the EU average but higher than in the other Nordic countries. Public health problems are caused by poor nutrition, smoking, alcohol and lack of physical activity. These are reflected in, for example, obesity in the population and prevalence of problems caused by alcohol (disruptive behaviour, violence, deaths caused by alcohol, etc.).

16 <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/>

17 https://energiavirasto.fi/documents/11120570/209788025/Energy+Poverty+in+Finland_report_2024.pdf/abe48e9a-f847-63b9-c6fa-4acae25fa88a/Energy+Poverty+in+Finland_report_2024.pdf?t=1714373079979

The rate of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) has decreased in Finland in the past few years. In addition, young people's suicides have decreased, despite still being one of the most common causes of death among young people. However, even after the crises of the past few years, young people's faith in the future and trust in institutions have not decreased and remain at a good level. Young people's trust in society is one of Finland's most important resources and opportunities.

Young people are not a uniform group, so their wellbeing is also polarised. Socio-economic background and the situation at home strongly influence young people's opportunities to get an education, work, maintain their health and engage in hobbies. This means that young people may have very different starting points for growth and development, and it is important to take into account support for young people's families in promoting their wellbeing.

2030 Agenda situational picture: Economic sustainability

Based on the 2030 Agenda indicators, the situational pictures relating to Finland's economic sustainability contain both strengths and risks. The biggest challenge in the sustainability of Finland's general government finances in recent years has been a general government deficit, which has resulted in an increase in the debt-to-GDP ratio. General government expenditure is increased particularly by the demographic change where the size of the older population grows, increasing care, pensions and health expenditure. At the same time, the contraction of the working age population is adversely impacting the funding base of general government finances. This can be compensated for by increasing wellbeing at work and labour productivity, by high-skilled labour immigration and by promoting the functional capacity of the ageing population.

The volume change of Finland's GDP per capita has, except for the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, been positive but turned negative again in 2023. Except for very recently, the Finnish employment rate trend has also been positive and the key rights of workers are safeguarded well in international comparison. The major short-term challenges faced by Finland are how to secure the employment trend, how to further reduce the number of NEETs and how to increase the employment of ageing persons. As regards economic growth, the big issues alongside the employment trend include productivity challenges, investment rates and capital utilisation.

With regard to a sustainable economic system, Finland's challenges include the slow phasing in of circular economy models (to read more, see the section on ecological sustainability above). The number of personnel of circular economy establishments has varied between 45,000 and 50,000 since 2013, despite an increase in the establishments' turnover from EUR 8 billion to EUR 11 billion from 2013 to 2021. The number of establishments also decreased by 18% from 2013 to 2021, totalling around 11,000 in 2021.

In addition to risks, potential opportunities can also be seen in the situation. The ongoing energy transition offers Finland opportunities for new business, investments and spearheads for exports. Clean electricity, energy technologies and digitalisation open up markets for Finnish low-carbon solutions. Investment plans worth nearly EUR 270 billion that show potential but involve uncertainties are currently anticipated for Finland. The projects planned include in particular wind power, data centre, battery and biorefinery investments¹⁸.

18 <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/165710>

2 Government efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

Finland is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Efforts to fully achieve the SDGs form an important condition for the fulfilment of the main objectives of the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government.



Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND IN LIGHT OF THE TARGETS UNDER SDG 1:

1.1: Based on the UN criteria (income below USD 1.25 per day), there is no one living in extreme poverty in Finland.

1.2: No significant changes took place in the low income rate (at-risk-of-poverty rate) between 2018 and 2022. Risk of poverty has reduced slightly among children (aged 0–17) but increased among the working-age and older populations.

1.3: Finland provides comprehensive social security covering the whole population. The level of basic social security has increased in relation to the general price and earnings level over the past five years.

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 decreased following a legislative amendment. There are more men than women with payment defaults in Finland.

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

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

- The Government will reform social security to make the system simpler, with more incentives for work.
- The Government will implement a comprehensive reform of social assistance that will improve people's ability to live independently, reduce long-term dependency on social assistance and clarify the role of social assistance as a last-resort discretionary cash benefit included in basic social security.

In the Finnish welfare society, poverty occurs as relative poverty, which is defined as the inability to achieve the standard of living generally regarded as the minimum in society or a decent life due to the scarcity of financial resources. Absolute poverty, which means undernourishment, hunger and deprivation of basic biological needs is in practice non-existent in Finland (SDG target 1.1).

As regards relative poverty, special attention must be paid to vulnerable persons, who can be found, for example, in families with children, pensioner households and among long-term unemployed persons and persons with an immigrant background (SDG target 1.2). The Government seeks to reduce poverty and

exclusion by developing benefits and services as a package. The Government will improve the incomes of families with children by raising the child benefit for children under three years of age, increasing the single parent increment for child benefits, developing the family provider increment of study grants, and increasing the child benefit for families with many children.

Finland is committed to the basic target of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, set by the European Commission in March 2021, to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million (out of which at least 5 million should be children) by 2030. Finland's national target is to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 100,000, of which at least one third are children. According to Statistics Finland, 146,000 children aged 0–17 (14.1% of the age group) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022¹⁹.

The Government will implement broad reforms to reach nationally appropriate levels of social security systems and social security (SDG target 1.3). The Government will clarify basic social security by implementing a reform that will improve the profitability of work, streamline social security and simplify benefits, taking into account the recommendations and reports issued in the Social Security Committee's interim report.

The parliamentary Social Security Committee, which consists of representatives of the political parties, will look into special considerations that should be taken into account in developing social security, including social security for families with divorced parents and the special features of minimum social security. The Committee will examine the risk categories of social security, that is, how current benefits and the services associated with them correspond to people's real-life situations such as unemployment, illness and disability.

The Government will implement a comprehensive reform of social assistance that aims to improve people's ability to live independently, reduce long-term dependency on social assistance and clarify the role of social assistance as a last-resort discretionary cash benefit included in basic social security. The reform will include a review of the level of social assistance and the increments based on the number of children. The reform aims to at least halve the number of people in need of social assistance.

19 <https://stat.fi/julkaisu/cltcqq5wij6tw07w2y9ejc3x5> (in Finnish)

The Government will strengthen social justice by ensuring permanent support for food aid organisations, investing in the eradication of long-term homelessness, reducing drug-related deaths among young people, eliminating hepatitis C, helping the most vulnerable people, phasing the annual payment ceilings for reimbursements for medicines and extending the coeliac allowance (SDG target 1.4). All reforms of social security will include an assessment of age-related impacts.

The Government will also pay attention to the accessibility of services and the use of plain language in services. As the range of digital services and devices grows, the availability of services and sufficient support must also be ensured for those who find it difficult to use digital solutions.

High-quality and reasonably priced housing will be promoted through non-subsidised dwelling construction. The Government will direct social rental housing more efficiently to people on low incomes or with little wealth and to specific groups that find it difficult to rent a home through the private rental market. This builds the resilience of those in vulnerable situations (SDG target 1.5). The Government will also implement an overall reform of housing allowance that will make it easier to channel the allowance to those most in need.

Resilience will be strengthened with preventive services for families under the Social Welfare Act. The Government is also committed to reviewing, in every government budget session, the possibilities, within the spending limits, of increasing funding to reduce poverty and inequalities.

The Government will promote policies favourable to families with children, and the measures identified during work under the National Child Strategy will be continued as part of the implementation of the Government's child and family policy. 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.

The unemployment of a parent or parents is the main reason for poverty in families with children in Finland. The Government will reform social security to make the system simpler, with more incentives for work. Rehabilitation and rehabilitation services for children and young people with neuropsychological disorders will be improved through Kela's discretionary rehabilitation under a fixed-term programme.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Eradication of poverty is one of the key SDGs of the UN. Finland contributes towards the reduction of multidimensional poverty by means such as its development cooperation instruments, including by supporting country programmes and carrying out bilateral development cooperation, funding the activities of civil society organisations (CSO) and UN organisations, supporting sustainable enterprise activity and participating in multilateral cooperation. Finland has, for example, as a member of the Global Coalition for Social Justice of the International Labour Organization (ILO), provided the Coalition with significant financial support. The Coalition aims to urgently address the increasing prevalence of extreme poverty, in-work poverty, child labour and inequality globally.

Since only a small portion of the financing required to implement the SDGs can be covered by public financing, during this Government term Finland will seek to further strengthen the role and participation of the private sector in development cooperation and finance. Development finance must be used strategically so that participation in investments that are important for developing countries are attractive to the private sector. Developing countries' own private and public financing must also be improved in order to reduce dependence on foreign aid and debt. Further details of the cooperation are outlined in the Report on International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The promotion of gender equality has direct impacts on poverty eradication and sustainable development. Gender inequalities slow down global development. Finland promotes the rights of women and girls in a cross-cutting manner in its foreign policy and, correspondingly, gender equality is a key cross-cutting objective of development policy. Finland focuses particularly on providing women and girls with access to sexual and reproductive health services. This contributes towards the economic growth of families and society as a whole and the economic and political participation of women and girls. Societies and economies are strengthened by the participation of women and girls in education and decision-making and by women's increased economic participation.

Finland also aims to reduce poverty through bilateral country programmes formulated for long-term cooperation countries. For example, in Nepal Finland's bilateral cooperation is targeted at areas including water services, sanitation and hygiene improving climate resilience and health. Development cooperation supports the development of economic activity and realisation of gender equality and social inclusion in the areas.

The work of development banks provides sustained support to poverty eradication and implementation of other SDGs. Finland's priorities in development bank cooperation are education and training, circular economy, strengthening domestic revenue base, and climate actions. Supporting Ukraine is a priority for development finance institutions (World Bank, EBRD and EIB Global) operating in the region.

To support the development of least developed countries (LDC), Finland will organise a series of LDC Future Forums together with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) in 2024–2028. These annual forums will seek concrete solutions for the promotion of sustainable development in the world's poorest countries. The forums provide the opportunity to offer Finnish solutions to promote development.

CSOs play an important role in implementing Finland's development cooperation objectives, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development. They reach the most vulnerable groups and have capacity for agile operations in fragile and difficult contexts. In line with the Government Programme, the focus of Finland's development cooperation will shift from bilateral country programmes to development cooperation engaged in by Finnish CSOs.

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 well that everyone has access to safe and nutritious food all year round.

2.2: Undernourishment is almost non-existent in Finland, whereas overweight is a major public health problem and burdens general government finances.

2.3: Agricultural productivity is at a good level in Finland, but there are challenges involved in the profitability of agriculture for producers. Finland has ensured everyone's right to land and other productive resources and inputs.

2.4: Finland's aim is a sustainable and profitable food system. The EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) and the national set of tools to promote incentivised and cost-effective food production play a key role.

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 objectives and actions to promote the achievement of SDG 2:

The Government's actions regarding SDG 2 focus particularly on the profitability of agriculture, food security and security of supply.

Hunger is very rare in the Finnish welfare society. Access to safe and nutritious food all year round has also been ensured well for all population groups (SDG target 2.1). Undernourishment due to people not being able to afford to buy food is also very rare in Finland. A report by UN agencies²⁰ lists Finland together with the other Nordic countries as countries where undernourishment and the risks caused by it (to the growth of young children, nutrition needs of pregnant or lactating women as well as older persons, etc.) was almost non-existent (SDG target 2.2). Undernutrition or malnutrition has, however, been observed among, for example, hospital inpatients and people living in an institution.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is preparing a Sustainable and Profitable Food System package²¹, containing the long-term strategy for Finnish food production and the food-sector growth programme aiming to increase food exports in line with the Government Programme (SDG target 2.4). The profitability of agriculture is a major issue in Finland due to factors including the impact of the country's geographic location on the duration of the growing season.

The Government will look after the income of food producers by developing the agricultural support system in such a way that they will be better targeted at actual food production (SDG target 2.3). In addition, the Government is committed to the proposals outlined in the final report of the parliamentary evaluation group for

20 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc0639en>

21 <https://mmm.fi/kestava-ja-kannattava-ruokajarjestelma> (in Finnish)

agricultural profitability and development prospects²² and has launched immediate measures to implement the proposals so that the position of primary producers and the balance of the whole food chain can develop in a fairer direction.

Promoting generational transfers and re-parcelling in agriculture and creating sensible farm structures also help to secure the livelihood of food producers. Improving the attractiveness of rural entrepreneurship and creating incentives for moving to rural and archipelago areas contribute towards the strengthening of rural vitality and non-agricultural employment.

The Government is committed to implementing the entries in Finland's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan until 2030²³ concerning food and nutrition security that help to protect ecosystems, strengthen capacity to adapt to extreme weather, drought, flooding and other damage, and progressively improve soil quality. The Government will ensure the functioning of the water supply and keep water resources in national hands.

To ensure the sustainability of animal production, the Government will monitor the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act²⁴ and its impacts on Finnish food exports. Improvements in animal welfare will create a foundation for production animal health, low use of antibiotics and safe food. The national Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan for 2023–2027²⁵ (Finland's CAP Strategic Plan) contains voluntary measures to improve the welfare and health of production animals and to increase farm biosecurity. The Government will also ensure access to veterinary services in all parts of the country. Active measures will be taken to combat animal diseases and plant pests (SDG target 2.5). The protection and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture are guided by the Finnish National Genetic Resources Programme for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery²⁶ and the Genetic Resources Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry²⁷.

The Government is exploring ways of developing food-sector statistics and cost indices and open access to information so that the position of primary producers and the balance of the whole food chain can develop in a fairer direction (SDG target 2 c).

22 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-526-9> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

23 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-814-7>

24 <https://finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2023/20230693> (in Finnish)

25 <https://mmm.fi/cap27/cap-suunnitelma> (in Finnish)

26 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-453-994-4> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

27 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-366-002-1>

The Nordic Nutrition Recommendations (NNR)²⁸ were adopted in summer 2023. For the first time, they contain scientific recommendations on what kind of diet is both healthy and ecological. The reform of Finland's national nutrition recommendations based on the NRR is underway. Following the reform of the population-level nutrition recommendations, recommendations specific to target groups affecting the food supply of establishments such as early childhood education and care as well as schools will be updated. The new recommendations take aspects relating to environmental sustainability more strongly into account. Improving diets is a major challenge, as people in Finland comply poorly with nutrition recommendations. For example, the intake of salt is too high compared with the nutrition recommendations for nine out of ten people in Finland.

Finland is committed to implementing the procurement criteria for public food services and procurement of food, which take account of aspects such as environmentally friendly farming methods and animal health and welfare perspectives.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

As regards food security, Finland supports, particularly in developing countries, the organisation of small-scale farmers and sustainable agricultural production and the development of land management and food value chains. These also help to create rural jobs. Improving the opportunities of rural women in access to agricultural training, production inputs and information plays a key role in reaching the targets.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is one of the world's largest providers of funding for agriculture and rural development in the poorest countries. The organisation promotes food security and nutritional health and works to reduce rural poverty in developing countries. Finland is a staunch supporter of IFAD and a member of the Executive Board for a three-year period from February 2024. Finland aims to promote the strengthening of private-sector cooperation in IFAD's activities by means including making use of innovations, mobilising private-sector competence and combining public- and private-sector projects. Finland also aims to support IFAD in the development of innovation activity and digital solutions and the broad-scale utilisation of innovations in project activity. In the work of the Executive Board, Finland actively upholds the significance of gender equality, disability inclusion, indigenous peoples' rights and biodiversity.

28 <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-nutrition-recommendations-2023>

Finland has also invested in IFAD's Africa Rural Climate Adaptation Finance Mechanism (ARCAFIM). ARCAFIM supports improved access to finance for small-scale food producers and small and medium-sized rural agribusinesses in Eastern Africa so that they can invest in production methods that are resilient to a changing climate. The investments improve farming productivity and business profitability and, consequently, food security. ARCAFIM will also create new jobs and improve the living conditions of up to 1.5 million people. Private-sector financing will account for half of the mechanism's funding.

In Ethiopia, more than 20 million land parcels have been registered using a method developed by Finland. The official land certification system increases transparency, forces officials to act in accordance with the regulations and reduces conflicts related to land rights. Secured land rights encourage farmers to invest in sustainable agricultural production, reducing poverty and improving food security. Finland provides development cooperation finance for the programme.

Finland is one of the founders and a co-chair of the global School Meals Coalition. The Coalition's goal is for every school-aged child to have access to a daily school meal by 2030. Among other benefits, school meals promote more equal opportunities and education for all, regardless of gender or financial resources. They educate children about a healthy diet and improve learning capacities. School meals support gender equality and facilitate parents' work outside the home. School meals generate jobs for women in particular and promote economic growth.

Finland promotes school meals at a high level. Finland's Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Ville Tavio acts as the School Meals Coalition Champion. Finland supports the school meals work of the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN organisation responsible for food assistance, and provides funding for WFP work as the Coalition secretariat. Finland provides technical expertise for countries wishing to develop their school meals programmes.

In the humanitarian sector, Finland provides funding for WFP, which also delivers relief including life-saving food and cash-based transfers to the world's crisis regions. Through WFP, Finland supports assistance for the most vulnerable people in crises involving major humanitarian needs and funding shortfall. Through WFP, Finland also seeks to improve the position of persons with disabilities in emergencies.

Finland promotes the achievement of SDG 2 in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, which is a strategically important organisation for Finland. FAO's work is divided into normative and operational activities, and it has a special mandate as a developer of international norms and standards. Thematic areas important for Finland include sustainable management and use of renewable

natural resources (including forests and water), climate change and biodiversity, promoting equality issues, and One Health, an integrated, unifying approach to the health of people, animals and ecosystems, and promoting good governance. Finland is engaged in long-term forest-sector cooperation with FAO. In addition, Finland has provided targeted support to promote FAO's information and standards (Codex Alimentarius) work in the food sector.

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: Maternal mortality is very rare in Finland. In 2011–2020, there were a total of 14 maternal deaths relating to childbirth.

3.2: Neonatal and under-five mortality is very low in Finland and has been continuously decreasing.

3.3: There are no epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria in Finland. Finland has effectively combated hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

3.4: Premature mortality from non-communicable diseases is very low in Finland. Prevention and treatment of diseases is at a globally high level in Finland, but our performance in the Nordic context is less strong. There are challenges concerning mental health disorders that require appropriate measures. The situation is being monitored and the measures will be continued and enhanced.

3.5: Problems caused by substance abuse are significant in Finland. The prevention and intensified treatment of substance abuse play an important role in achieving the target.

3.6: The number of deaths from road traffic is decreasing continuously in Finland. The number of traffic fatalities decreased by more than one third from 2010 to 2023. Injuries from road traffic accidents recorded by the police reached the halving target in 2023.

3.7: The target of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services has not yet been reached, but measures to reach the target continue. Reproductive health is taken into account in various national strategies and programmes.

3.8: Finland provides universal social security coverage and an extensive health and social services system. There is still room for improvement in the quality and availability of primary services in particular. Pharmaceutical services and availability of vaccines is ensured well for the entire population, although some regional variation can be seen in vaccination coverage.

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

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

- Promoting policies favourable to families with children on all levels and assessing effects on children and families in policymaking.
- Implementing a national health and wellbeing programme in cooperation that spans administrative branches and non-governmental organisations to strengthen the impact of health and wellbeing promotion.
- The long-term target for improving traffic safety is zero traffic fatalities in 2050.
- A national action plan covering all administrative branches to promote physically active lifestyles and functional capacity (Get Finland Moving programme). The programme will promote ongoing programmes and formulate new approaches to physical activity.

Maternal mortality is very rare in Finland and continues to decrease (SDG target 3.1). Maternal deaths relating to childbirth amounted to a total of 65 deaths or 12.3 deaths per 100,000 childbirths in 2011–2020. Maternal mortality directly related to childbirth, where the cause of death related to pregnancy, childbirth or postpartum, was 14 cases or 2.6 per 100,000 childbirths in 2011–2020.²⁹

Child mortality is also very low in Finland. At the beginning of the 2000s, stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life accounted for 5.8 per 1,000 total births. In 2021, the corresponding figure was 3.4 per 1,000 births (totalling 167 children). In 2023, 103³⁰ children under the age of 5 died in Finland, which in proportion to the number of children born means Finland clearly achieving SDG target 3.2.

The Government promotes family-friendly policies. The measures identified during work under the National Child Strategy will be continued as part of the implementation of the Government's child and family policy. The Government also promotes help and support for those who have experienced miscarriage or sought an induced abortion.

Finland has advanced water services and well-functioning, high-quality sanitation, but the availability of clean water requires continuous preparedness. Efficient methods verifying water quality play a key role in ensuring water security (SDG target 3.3).

The Government will make efforts to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by making the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases more effective, increasing lifestyle counselling and taking prevention measures (SDG target 3.4). The Government has also launched the cross-administrative Get Finland Moving programme³¹ promoting physically active lifestyles, which aims to increase physical activity in every age group. The Sports Policy Coordination Body established in the 2019–2023 Government term continues the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of work to promote physical activity implemented by various ministries and their administrative branches.

The role of culture in promoting wellbeing has been strengthened on a long-term basis. The Government will enhance cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. For this purpose, a

29 Kiuru, Heino & Gissler (2022). Perinatal statistics – parturients, deliveries and newborns 2021. Parturients' mean age is still rising. Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare Statistical Report 41/2022.

30 Official Statistics of Finland (OSF): Deaths [online publication].

31 <https://suomiliikkeelle.fi/en/suomi-liikkeelle/>

cross-administrative collaboration group for cultural wellbeing (Taiku4) has been appointed for the Government term. The working group aims to promote broader and more systematic use of culture and the arts as part of preventive healthcare and social welfare services.

The Government will ensure the implementation of mental health and substance abuse services legislation together with the wellbeing services counties. The measures identified during work under the National Mental Health Strategy and Programme for Suicide Prevention 2020–2030³² will be continued. The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme 2024–2027³³ adopted by the Government also includes measures supporting young people’s mental health.

The Government will improve the availability and effectiveness of healthcare and social welfare services related to mental health and substance abuse issues (SDG target 3.5). The Government will pay particular attention to preventive mental health and substance abuse work in activities for children and young people and draw up a broad-based action plan to prevent social exclusion among young people and to address the gaps in wellbeing and mental health problems. The Government will also support the wellbeing of young people in broad-based cooperation with a range of social parties. In addition, substance abuse and mental health services for other vulnerable groups, such as homeless people and pregnant mothers will be ensured. The rehabilitation reform and coordination will be continued in accordance with the proposals of the rehabilitation committee³⁴ and the rehabilitation reform plan³⁵.

The number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents has decreased in Finland (SDG target 3.6). The impacts of decades of work to improve traffic safety are visible, but Finland is still lagging behind countries such as Norway and Sweden in traffic safety. The Government is committed to a zero vision where zero traffic fatalities will have been achieved in Finland by 2050. The zero vision target will be implemented by means of the Traffic Safety Strategy for 2022–2026³⁶, which includes an action plan with 103 measures to improve traffic safety in the various modes of transport.

32 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-5401-4>

33 <https://okm.fi/en/national-youth-work-and-policy-programme>

34 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-3891-5> (in Finnish)

35 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-8443-1> (in Finnish)

36 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-243-746-4> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

The Government will enhance contraceptive counselling to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies, abortions and sexually transmitted diseases (SDG target 3.7). The Government also promotes the provision of the necessary help and support for those who have experienced miscarriage or sought an induced abortion. Low-threshold services will also take account of the need to provide support for couples and parenting.

The Government will update the relevant legislation as far as maternity and child health clinics, school healthcare services and other services for this age group are concerned, improving the effectiveness of such services. The Government will continue the reform of pharmaceutical matters and ensure the implementation of rational pharmacotherapies. The aim is to improve the health and functioning of the population and the effectiveness, safety and quality of pharmacotherapies with due regard to economy, equality and availability (SDG target 3.8). This will be implemented, for example, by means of better compatibility and integration with the e-prescription and the Prescription Centre. The availability of high quality and affordable necessary medicines for all will be enabled by dividing the annual excess applied in the reimbursements for medicines into parts. The Government will endorse positive attitudes towards vaccination and improve vaccination coverage.

The quality recommendations for guaranteeing a good quality of life and improved services for older persons will be implemented in 2024–2027.

The Government will also adopt the new Act on Disability Services and Assistance, which will ensure the realisation of the rights of and availability of services for persons with disabilities.

The Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government aims to increase the participation rate of children with an immigrant background in early childhood education and care. This will improve the Finnish and Swedish language skills of children with an immigrant background and their integration into Finnish society and support the integration and language learning of the entire family. As part of the implementation of the Child Strategy and the Child Guarantee³⁷, there are plans to develop service counselling in early childhood education and care for children and families with an immigrant background.

37 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-784-3> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

The Finnish model for leisure activities aims to ensure a leisure activity for everyone regardless of where they live. The Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government ensures that every child and young person can pursue at least one leisure activity of their choice. Children's and young people's leisure activities will be developed in cooperation with leisure activity providers.

At the beginning of 2024, the Government launched a national health and wellbeing programme³⁸ aiming to reduce the wellbeing deficit and disease burden caused by the main chronic diseases and conditions and their risk factors, increase work ability and functional capacity and reduce disparities between population groups related to health and wellbeing problems.

Deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination are fairly rare in Finland. The Government will promote early detection and good treatment of symptoms caused by indoor air problems and develop support for those who have become ill due to indoor air to improve their coping at work (SDG target 3.9).

The implementation of the National Nature Recreation Strategy 2030³⁹ and its action plan for 2023–2025 prepared by the Ministry of the Environment will continue in broad-based cooperation to achieve positive impacts on people's wellbeing and the Finnish economy. The strategy and the action plan aim to improve access to nearby natural environments, promote health and wellbeing, ensure sustainability in nature recreation, identify resources and cooperation potential, and take account of diversity in nature recreation. Information on national hiking areas will be compiled under the Nationalparks.fi service of Metsähallitus, and the areas will be developed as a brand similar to the national parks to enhance the wellbeing effects of nature.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Maternal mortality still remains one of the greatest public health challenges in low-income countries. Finland supports the realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) so that everyone – particularly women and girls – has the opportunity to decide on their own body, number of children and future. This is also important in the management of population growth. Research shows that improving access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services prevents maternal mortality by ensuring safe childbirth, maternity and child health clinic

38 https://stm.fi/-/kansallinen-terveys-ja-hyvinvointiohjelma-terveydeksi-kaynnistyy?languageld=en_US

39 <https://ym.fi/en/recreational-use-of-nature>

services, and family planning. Good realisation of SRHR is a cornerstone of access by women and girls in particular to school and societal participation. When women and girls have access to information and services relating to SRH, they are able to study and to participate in developing their society and in working life. This is why it is important to invest in SRHR, and this is also a prerequisite for other development.

Finland's most important partner in this work is the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNFPA promotes SRHR work, access to SRH services and reduction of maternal and child mortality. Finland provides both core funding and earmarked funding for UNFPA. In 2023, Finland's support provided more than 700,000 women and young people with access to SRH services and prevented around 475,000 unplanned pregnancies. Support for Finnish civil society organisations (CSOs) channelled through the programme-based support instrument contains comprehensive elements for SRHR realisation at the grassroots level.

Finland's priorities in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) are promoting comprehensive health security (including the promotion of the One Health approach where the wellbeing and health of people, animals and ecosystems are closely linked), combating antimicrobial resistance, and strengthening the resilience of health systems. In addition, Finland has made long-term efforts to promote dialogues between health and economy as well as a wellbeing economy and supports WHO in the implementation of the WHO resolution on Economics of Health for All. At WHO, Finland promotes the achievement of universal health coverage, where the key issue is to ensure basic public services for all, including SRHR and related services. Non-communicable diseases (especially mental health issues) as well as digitalisation and the impacts of climate change on health and the resilience of health systems are also key themes for Finland. As cross-cutting themes, Finland promotes human rights, non-discrimination and equality in the health context. Finland supports international cooperation to develop prioritised epidemic and pandemic vaccines and to improve their global availability (SDG target 3.b).

Through the Public Sector Investment Facility (PIF) featuring mixed credits, Finland finances a project where the Kenyan Ministry of Health updates maternity clinics the services of which cover around 300,000–400,000 people. The project aims to reduce neonatal mortality and improve maternal health in the region.

Finland participates in road traffic safety work both in the EU and the UN. Finland is also involved in the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety operating under the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Global Forum keeps the international conventions on road traffic safety up to date and seeks to develop road safety practices that can improve road traffic safety globally.

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: The target for completion of primary and secondary education is achieved well in Finland. Basic skills are at a good level, but a downward trend has been seen recently. There is a need to strengthen basic skills.

4.2: Opportunities for access to early childhood education and care and the right to pre-primary education are realised equally among all children.

4.3: Following the vocational education and training reform, everyone has improved opportunities to participate in upper secondary education. The minimum school leaving age has been raised to 18 years, and upper secondary education is free of charge. Expansions of education supply have supported access to higher education.

4.4: Attention should be paid to challenges faced in lifelong learning.

4.5: Educational equality is at the core of education policy. Challenges include factors such as socioeconomic differences and gender being reflected in achieved learning outcomes.

4.6: Young people's competence and skills in mathematics, literacy and natural sciences are still at a high level in international comparison in Finland, but a decline has been seen since the beginning of the 2000s.

4.7: The principles of sustainable development are employed at all levels of education from early childhood education and care to upper secondary (including vocational) education, and higher education institutions have also committed broadly to promoting sustainable development.

Government 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, differences 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.

According to PISA surveys⁴⁰, learning outcomes have been declining in Finland since 2006. In particular, the falling levels of basic skills (literacy and numeracy) need to be addressed. The participation rate in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education is high, but there is room for improvement in achieved learning outcomes (SDG target 4.1).

The Government's aim is that Finland will reclaim its place among the world's most skilled and competent nations and that skills and competence will be back on a path of growth. Efforts will be required for the development of every pupil and student's basic skills. Stronger basic skills will increase the number of those who subsequently complete a degree or qualification and at the same time raise the education level. In upper secondary education, this will be reflected in the competence level better meeting the needs of working life. The Government has also outlined that it will implement a skills and competence guarantee aiming to ensure that every young person has sufficient core skills for continuing to further studies.

High-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) improves learning potential and equity in education. In Finland, every child has a right to ECEC and pre-primary education (SDG target 4.2). However, there are challenges that affect the provision of ECEC, such as the availability of qualified staff in growth centres. Universities will increase their intake for ECEC teachers. By enabling retraining,

40 <https://okm.fi/en/pisa-en>

upgrading of qualifications and blended education, the Government will also secure opportunities for those already working in the sector to qualify for the roles specified in the Act on Early Childhood Education and Care.

ECEC participation rate is increasing continuously in Finland, but we are still lagging behind the other Nordic countries. The Government will target special measures at raising the participation rate of children with an immigrant background in ECEC. This will improve their Finnish and Swedish language skills and their integration into Finnish society.

There is good access to post-comprehensive education in Finland. Problems in participation are caused above all by shortages in basic skills and capacities (SDG target 4.3). The Government will restructure the financial system in general upper secondary education as well as the financing model for vocational education and training. A key mission of general upper secondary education will continue to be to guarantee broad-based general knowledge and to give eligibility for higher education. The aim for vocational education and training is to increase and maintain the population's vocational skills and competence, to meet the skills and competence needs of working life, and to promote the completion rate of education and training and employment following education and training.

According to the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government, the mission of vocational education and training (VET) is to ensure that each student has sufficient vocational and educational skills and working life skills to transition to the world of work or further studies after graduation (SDG target 4.4). For VET to better meet the needs of working life, the Government seeks to strengthen cooperation between VET and businesses and industry. This way VET corresponds better with the needs of the world of work and businesses.

In higher education, the education level has remained at the same level throughout the 2000s⁴¹. Around 40% of 25–34-year-olds complete a university or university of applied sciences degree in Finland. The Government is committed to taking measures to increase the number of young adults with a higher education degree to as close to 50% as possible by the year 2030. To reach this target, the Government is committed to increasing the number of student places available in higher education. The new available student places will focus in particular on urban growth centres, areas where the initial intake relative to the number of young people is low, and sectors and areas which are projected to experience a significant labour shortage.

41 <https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/>

In addition, the Government will prepare measures to reduce accumulation of education, so that more available student places would be allocated to young people applying for their first right to complete a degree.

As regards research and development (R&D), the Government is committed to implementing the proposals of the parliamentary RDI working group⁴² on how the funding of Finland's R&D activities will be raised to 4% of gross domestic product by 2030. The Government has prepared a multi-annual plan for the use of R&D funding, which guides the allocation of additional funding. R&D development also bolsters skills and competence and the quality of education and training and increases the future opportunities of students. For example, the Government has invested EUR 255 million in the implementation of a doctoral education pilot.

Equality in education in has been realised in Finland excellently across the board in international comparison, as reflected in indicators such as PISA results, but challenges have emerged over the past 15 years or so. Spatial segregation in education, larger gender gaps in achieved learning outcomes, and a growing need for support for learning are examples of challenges that Finland must respond to (SDG target 4.5).

The Government aims to ensure high-quality printed and digital teaching material in both national languages. The status of indigenous minority languages must also be strengthened in education. The Government will also examine ways to reinforce the status of children using sign languages in ECEC and in primary and lower secondary education.

PISA results⁴³ show that literacy and numeracy among young people in Finland is still above the OECD average (SDG target 4.6). Finnish results have, however, declined significantly since 2006. The gaps in terms of achievement level of students (high-achieving – low-achieving) as well as socio-economic background are widening.

The Government is committed to the implementation of the national Strategy for Mathematics, Science and Technology (STEM Strategy)⁴⁴ to improve students' knowledge of mathematics and sciences. A sufficient level of expertise and the

42 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-715-7>

43 <https://www.oecd.org/publication/pisa-2022-results/>

44 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-263-733-8>

growing need for experts in the STEM fields are at the core of the National STEM Strategy and Action Plan. Aims include a more equal field of STEM teaching and education promoting non-discrimination.

The Government will launch foresight activities to assess the development needs of primary and lower secondary education. The aim of the work is to gather a wide range of researchers and experts from different disciplines and from fields of education and training to assess the development needs in primary and lower secondary education. Support for learning will be clarified and the chain of support will be made uniform from early childhood education and care through to upper secondary education.

The Government will also assess the effectiveness of teaching Finnish or Swedish as a second language and literature. The aim is for the pupil or student to achieve such basic language skills that they are able to operate and study on equal terms with other pupils and students in the surrounding language community.

In Finland, teaching in both ECEC and general education is based on a variety of local curricula and national core curricula (for ECEC, for pre-primary education, for primary and lower secondary education and for general upper secondary education). The national core curricula describe the sustainable development path that takes account of the learner's age and capacities (SDG target 4.7). The Government is committed to implementing these national core curricula.

In its new term in 2024–2027, the national Teacher Education Forum, which brings together higher education institutions and other stakeholders, will continue the implementation of the Teacher Education Development Programme⁴⁵ published in 2022. The development programme aims to respond to the new teacher education needs in the operating environment of the 2020s and also takes account of sustainable development perspectives.

The Government also aims to place a key focus on environmental education and the opportunities for children and young people to enjoy nature. The Government will reform the legislation on basic education in the arts. The reform aims to make access to teaching smoother, taking into account different fields of art.

45 <http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2022053140998>

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Finland uses development cooperation funds to support a solution to the global learning crisis in order to ensure inclusive, equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities. The development of education systems is supported through multilateral cooperation and, in addition, in Ukraine and several African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries through intergovernmental cooperation and programme and project support for several Finnish CSOs. Opportunities for learning are enhanced particularly in fragile states, conflict areas and humanitarian crises. Finland also finances the Higher Education Partnership (HEP) cooperation programme between higher education institutions in Finland and in developing countries, which supports the expertise of the institutions in developing countries in terms of contents, pedagogy and administration. Finland also supports the strengthening of the education sector of various countries on a commercial basis particularly through the Education Finland programme of the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI).

Finland is active in influencing the EU's common education development policy and the education policy of UN organisations, development banks and the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR).

In its cooperation and financing through international financial institutions, Finland has invested in improving quality education and learning opportunities and in strengthening education systems. A particular focus has been on cooperation with the World Bank, as it is the biggest finance provider for education in developing countries.

In its ownership steering and policy advocacy of development banks, Finland has advocated for regional development banks (Asian Development Bank, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean) also to increase their loan portfolio targeted at strengthening and reforming education systems. Finland is also involved in Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the largest education-sector fund that finances the tackling of education challenges across developing countries.

Finland has encouraged development finance institutions to increase their influencing as well as financing role as regards international education financing and, above all, to allocate expert support to increases in and efficient use of education financing in developing countries in their national finance and domestic budgets.

Finland supports education in humanitarian crises primarily through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and Finnish CSOs. Safeguarding education is particularly important in protracted conflicts and refugee situations. Finland emphasises access to education for children and adults with disabilities. A total of 10% of humanitarian funding channelled via the EU is also earmarked for education in emergency situations. Finland provides financing for Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the global fund for education in emergencies.

The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is a key global actor in the education sector and an important UN organisation partner for Finland. Finland’s priorities in UNICEF’s work include strengthening the rights and status of women and girls as well as people with disabilities, promoting innovations and investing more strongly in inclusive and high-quality education.

Finland has engaged in closer cooperation with UNICEF through the activities of the UNICEF Global Learning Innovation Hub based in Helsinki. The Hub develops edtech-based education solutions for poorest developing countries, making use of the expertise and solutions of Finnish and international edtech enterprises and using them in projects of UNICEF country offices. Finland also supports the development of education policy, teacher education, ECEC and vocational education and training in least developed countries through the Capacity Development for Education (CapED) programme of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Teaching is one of the priority sectors in Finland’s development cooperation in Ukraine. Finland has supported the implementation of the reform of Ukraine’s own education sector. Further support for the education sector for the 2024–2028 period is currently being planned. Education sector projects will focus on developing vocational education and training (VET) and a general upper secondary education reform, which is implemented as a bilateral project. The VET-sector project is implemented by the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) partnering with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The planning of the projects is based on requests for support submitted by Ukraine, and the projects will also contribute to Ukraine’s reconstruction and path towards the EU.

The Finnish Centre of Expertise in Education and Development (FinCEED) of EDUFI participates in solutions to the learning crisis by, as part of the EU’s Global Gateway projects, developing education policy in countries belonging to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and to the East African Community

(EAC) (the PEERS project) as well as teacher education and training under the Regional Teachers' Initiative for Africa and, in Sub-Saharan Africa, VET under the Opportunity-driven Skills and VET in Africa project.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has prepared an Africa Action Plan⁴⁶ for its administrative branch to promote Finland's Africa Strategy. The Action Plan encourages actors to seek solutions supporting learning together with African partners.

The internationalisation of higher education and research in 2017–2025 is supported through the Team Finland Knowledge (TFK) network of specialists in higher education and research in accordance with the policies agreed. Counsellors working in Finnish missions (New Delhi, Beijing, Pretoria, Singapore, Washington, Los Angeles, London and Sao Paolo) build contacts for sharing, for example, Finnish knowledge, expertise and educational innovation.

Higher education institutions engage in active cooperation with actors from developing countries. EDUFI coordinates the Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument (HEI ICI) (continued from the beginning of 2024 as the Higher Education Partnership (HEP) Programme) as well as the TFK partnership programme launched in 2022 and supporting cooperation projects of higher education institutions primarily with Southern Africa and Latin America. The number of Finnish participants in EU-funded projects such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe has also increased in the African continent.

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: Gender equality is mainly realised well in Finland, but the eradication of discrimination involves challenges particularly with regard to gender minorities.

46 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-263-791-8>

5.2: Statistics show that Finland is a violent country for women. There are several ongoing and upcoming measures in Finland focused on preventing violence and improving services.

5.3: While legislation relevant to harmful practices such as child and forced marriages and female genital mutilation is advanced in Finland, challenges still remain.

5.4: The Finnish family leave system is as a rule equal and has been developed in recent years. The gender perspective has also been taken into account in Finnish social security and its reform.

5.5: By international standards, gender equality is realised well in Finland both in terms of leading roles in the economy and public life as well as in political participation. Plenty of challenges still remain, however.

5.6: Services relevant to sexual and reproductive rights and health are at a good level in Finland. Measures for their further development are taken all the time. A great deal of effort is also made to increase sexual education with a focus on autonomy.

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

- The Government aims to promote the joint objectives to eliminate gender-based discrimination and to promote gender equality.
- The Government is committed to promoting equality, gender equality and non-discrimination in society. The Government will draw up an action plan for gender equality.

In foreign and security policy (including development policy), Finland has traditionally leaned towards promoting the rights of women and girls (SDG target 5.1). The Government's development priorities include strengthening the rights of women and girls as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Equality, gender equality and non-discrimination are the overall foundation of the Government's activities. At the very beginning of the Government term, the Government issued a statement⁴⁷ to Parliament on promoting equality, gender equality and non-discrimination in Finnish society.

Violence against women and girls is a significant problem in Finland. The preliminary results of the EU-wide survey on gender-based violence against women (EU-GBV) conducted by Eurostat show that around one in three women aged 18–74 in Finland had experienced physical intimate partner violence and one in two psychological intimate partner violence in their lifetime⁴⁸.

The Government seeks to combat violence against women by strengthening the prevention and identification of violence in the authorities' operations and in services for which the municipalities and wellbeing services counties are responsible (SDG target 5.2). Finland will continue to implement the obligations under the Istanbul Convention by means including strengthening the network of shelters for victims of violence. In addition, so far, a total of 24 support centres for victims of sexual offences have been opened in Finland. The Government also intends to improve the identification and combating of honour-based violence.

The Government will step up measures to combat human trafficking and ensure the exchange of information between the authorities (SDG target 5.2). Human trafficking will be prevented in a cross-administrative and comprehensive way. The implementation of the previous Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings ended at the end of 2023. The Government has decided on the preparation of a new action plan. Forced marriages are detected increasingly in Finland. Each year, dozens of people who are considered as having been forced into marriage are taken as clients in the assistance system for victims of human trafficking⁴⁹. Forced marriage has been criminalised in Finland as trafficking in human beings, aggravated trafficking in human beings or coercion. The Government is committed to monitoring the functioning and impacts of the provisions on the annulment of forced marriages and, if necessary, to taking measures to revise the legislation (SDG target 5.3). With regard to forced marriages, it is particularly important to seek to influence attitudes and increase awareness of forced marriages as a human

47 <http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe20230829112043>

48 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/gender-based-violence/overview>

49 <https://ihmiskauppa.fi/en/human-trafficking/forms-of-human-trafficking/forced-marriages/>

rights violation. It is also of primary importance to assist victims in gaining access to support and help. In June 2024, the Government submitted a proposal clarifying the punishability of forcing into marriage under the Criminal Code. This would make acts with the intention to compel into a forced marriage or a corresponding relationship punishable as trafficking in human beings. The provision is due to enter into force at the beginning of 2025.

Genital mutilation is a form of gendered violence and a violation of international human rights conventions. Mutilation is punishable under the Criminal Code in Finland. According to the Action Plan for the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) published by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, there are an estimated 10,000 girls or women living in Finland who have undergone FGM⁵⁰. In addition to this, up to around 3,000 girls are at risk of FGM. These figures include girls born in Finland whose parents originate from a country where FGM is common.

The Government seeks to eliminate all harmful practices such as FGM by strengthening the authorities' capacity to identify FGM as a phenomenon and to exchange information. The Government will also step up measures to prevent FGM. In line with the Government Programme, FGM will be more explicitly criminalised in the Criminal Code. Taking a minor girl abroad to undergo FGM will also be criminalised. A government proposal concerning this was submitted to Parliament in June 2024.

The distribution of family leaves and care responsibilities between genders is internationally at a good level in Finland (SDG target 5.4). A more even distribution of family leaves and care responsibilities plays an important role in improving women's position in the labour market. The gap between men and women in the use of family leaves still remains large. This is the case particularly regarding child home care allowance. The allowance is mainly used by women (92% in 2020), and those using the allowance for a long period of time are most commonly mothers whose labour market position is poor⁵¹.

50 https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/161524/STM_J_07_19_Action_plan_for_the_prevention_of_female_genital_mutilation_FGM.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

51 <https://ylehti.fi/yleinen/yp-2-23-kotihoidon-tuen-yleisyys-ja-kesto/> (in Finnish)

The Government will monitor the results of the family leave reform, continue to work for a more even distribution of family leaves and promote the use of family leaves by fathers. The Government will also explore ways to distribute the costs of parenting more evenly. Attention will be paid to developing services that support the reconciliation of work and family life. These include in particular morning and afternoon care of children and the availability of care during holidays.

During the Government term, the Government will carry out a population policy study to examine the wellbeing, incomes and reconciliation of work and family life of families with children, and the situation of involuntarily childless people. The study will pay particular attention to the individual challenges of families with small children, single parents, student families and families with many children.

The Government will also promote the incomes of families with children by raising the child benefit for children under three years of age, increasing the single parent increment for child benefits, developing the family provider increment of study grants, and increasing the child benefit for families with many children.

In international comparison, gender equality is realised well in Finland in political, economic and public life (SDG target 5.5). For example, the share of women among parliamentary election candidates and elected Members of Parliament was record-high in the last two parliamentary elections. The share of women on the boards of listed companies is also at a record-high level in Finland (31% in 2022)⁵². However, regardless of the good progress made, women still account for a much larger share of the population (51%) than their share in leadership positions.

To promote the broad-scale realisation of gender equality in Finnish society, the Government will draw up a cross-administrative action plan for gender equality. Based on the policies to be outlined in the action plan, the Government will update and promote the joint objectives determined in the Government Report on Gender Equality Policy to eliminate gender-based discrimination and promote gender equality. The promotion of equality will be taken into consideration in the budget process and in key reforms and projects.

52 https://kauppakamari.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Naisjohtajakatsaus_062022.pdf (in Finnish)

A gender impact assessment will be carried out on government proposals and key projects when the matter is assumed to have an impact on gender equality. The budget proposals of ministries will provide a summary of those activities of the administrative branch that have significant gender impacts. Gender equality will also be promoted in the ministries' performance guidance. The Government's network of working groups on operational gender equality and non-discrimination develops gender mainstreaming in central government. Gender equality training is employed to increase awareness among political leadership and senior public officials.

The Government will promote equality and non-discrimination in working life. A more even distribution of family leaves and care responsibilities plays an important role in improving women's position in the labour market. The Government will monitor the results of the family leave reform, continue to work for a more even distribution of family leaves and promote the use of family leaves by fathers. The Government will eliminate discriminatory practices and structures in working life by promoting compliance with legislation on discrimination through more effective information, dissemination of good practices and, among other measures, effective monitoring of the platform economy. More effective measures will be targeted at preventing discrimination based on pregnancy leave and family leave, in particular.

Strengthening the status of women and girls as well as sexual and reproductive rights and health are important objectives for Finland underlying not only development policy but in general all policy (SDG target 5.6). Finland continues to be strongly committed to policies under 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.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Human rights and improving the status of women and girls are key elements of Finland's foreign and security policy. Promoting gender equality is one of Finland's long-term objectives. In line with the EU policy, Finland seeks to make gradual progress towards 85% of development finance promoting gender equality. Finland will focus particularly on SRHR. These rights are challenged internationally. SRHR themes and measures are challenged even within the EU. Finland supports the promotion of SRHR by supporting maternity and reproductive health services, access to contraception and safe abortions, sexual education, action against child marriages and genital mutilation, action against gendered and sexual violence,

and promoting the rights of gender and sexual minorities. Finnish CSOs carry out advocacy concerning legislation and at the community level to eradicate harmful attitudes and practices.

Finland promotes gender equality internationally by supporting the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) through voluntary funding. UN Women seeks to promote gender inequality and eliminate discrimination as well as to strengthen the status, opportunities and rights of women and girls. In the Executive Board of UN Women, Finland has emphasised Women, Peace and Security actions, disability inclusion, changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, developing the organisation's professionalism and better cooperation within the UN system, and supported the strengthening of ethical activities. Alongside core funding, Finland has supported the work of UN Women at the country level in Tanzania, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon to, for example, increase women's political participation and to prevent gendered violence.

Finland participates actively in UN Women's five-year Generation Equality campaign (2022–2026). Finland has made 13 commitments to the campaign, with their concrete contents consisting of projects spanning across administrative branches. Finland holds an international Action Coalition Leader role in one of the six of Action Coalitions of the campaign. This Action Coalition focuses on technology and innovation for gender equality. Finland has advocated issues including digital mediation, digital safety of women human rights defenders, and strengthening of digital literacy among women and girls in developing countries.

Finland supports the UNICEF project to develop virtual safe spaces (VSS). VSSs promote women and girls' access to their rights and to available services with regard to gendered violence and sexual and reproductive health.

Gender equality is one of Finland's priorities in humanitarian aid. Finland promotes all humanitarian actors taking account of preventing gendered violence and assisting survivors. Finland is a member of the Call to Action initiative promoting the systematic addressing and financing of this in humanitarian aid. Finland is committed to preventing and eliminating sexual exploitation, abuse and

harassment in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. This is also a condition included in development cooperation and humanitarian aid financing agreements.

In Ukraine, gender equality is promoted as a cross-cutting theme in all projects. Finland's support focuses on issues including the education sector, rule-of-law development, energy security and the environment. Finland supports actions including the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine and, in its support, emphasises gender equality and, in particular, the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

Gender equality is also promoted through development policy investments. All investment negotiations include gender equality objectives as a cross-cutting theme and, in some investments, a mutually agreed section is allocated specifically to projects promoting gender equality. For example, Finland is an anchor investor in ADB Ventures, an investment fund that makes the majority (75%) of its venture capital investments in growth companies promoting women's economic empowerment and equality in working life.

Finland implements the UN Resolution on Women, Peace and Security by means of a National Action Plan (NAP) supporting the realisation of women's rights in conflicts, women's equal and stronger participation in peacebuilding, peace processes, crisis management and decisions concerning peace and security.

Finland also promotes the economic and political participation of women. For example, in Nepal, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, Finland supports women's competence- and capacity-building to provide access to employment and decent work. In Tanzania, Finland supports the political participation of women (including women with disabilities) at the local level.

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 and 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.

6.3: In 2023, 98% of all wastewater was treated safely and the status of 87% of the surface area of Finland's lakes was regarded as good.

6.4: While slight positive progress has occurred in terms of water-use efficiency, there is still room for improvement in water recycling. Based on cooperation between several ministries, Finland has drawn up a national Water Stewardship Action Plan 2023–2025 supporting the target set for enterprises to become the most responsible water stewards in the world by 2030.

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

6.6: The Helmi Habitats Programme has produced good results through measures including restoration and management of aquatic bird habitats, restoration of shore meadows, and protection and rehabilitation of mires.

6 a: In 2022, public development cooperation finance for water and sanitation projects amounted to around EUR 11.7 million. Finland has promoted water diplomacy in different ways, including in conjunction with the UN Water Conference.

6 b: Participation of local communities: activities have been promoted through a long-term approach in contexts such as extensive development cooperation projects in Ethiopia and Nepal.

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

- The Government is committed to ensuring the functioning of the water supply and keeping Finland's water resources in our own hands.
- Improved ecological status of water bodies will be promoted by increasing the efficiency of wastewater and stormwater treatment and reducing the nutrient load from agriculture and forestry.
- The living conditions of migratory fish will be improved, and flowing waters will be restored.

Finland will ensure that water services will remain in public ownership and control. Municipalities and water utilities will be required to carry out systematic development of water services and good asset management (SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2).

The Government will promote the improved ecological status of water bodies in both inland waters and marine areas by decreasing the pollution and nutrient loading of waters with diverse actions. The programme on more efficient water protection has generated good results and will be continued. The Government will explore the centralised and efficient treatment of wastewater in sparsely populated areas, especially in the Archipelago Sea and coastal regions. It will be required that the reliability and high quality of the treatment of municipal stormwater is ensured. The dredging of river and stream deltas will be promoted to reduce flood damage and thereby mitigate nutrient loading of water bodies. The Government will take measures to reduce the impacts of forest drainage on the environment and waters. The Government will also prohibit the dumping of snow in water bodies (SDG target 6.3).

The wellbeing of migratory fish stocks is important for biodiversity, sustainable nature tourism and recreational fishing alike. The Government will improve living conditions of migratory fish by restoring flowing waters and enabling the recovery of the natural life cycles of fish. The Migratory Fish Programme⁵³ (NOUSU) will be continued and developed, and the programme will implement a diversity of projects to improve migratory fish passages. The most important programme measures are migration barrier removal, various fish passes, fishways and downstream migration structures, habitat remediation and related research, monitoring and development projects. Fisheries obligations included in water permits will be updated.

53 <https://mmm.fi/vaelluskalat/vaelluskalaohjelma> (in Finnish)

In addition, the Government will update the Water Act so that, in addition to updating old water permits, fisheries obligations can also be set for ‘zero obligation’ plants. The purpose of the amendments to the Water Act is to support the rehabilitation of national migratory fish populations. The Government will facilitate the progress of fish passage projects and enable experiments and pilots in watercourses. The Government will promote the restoration of the Palokki rapids in Heinävesi to rehabilitate the threatened fish populations in cooperation with stakeholders in the area. At the same time, sustainable tourism in the area will be promoted. The national Fish Passage Strategy will be updated to better reflect the current situation in the guidance of migratory fish stock management work (SDG target 6.6).

Finland’s actions to promote the SDG internationally

The mission of the Finnish Water Way – International Water Strategy of Finland⁵⁴ (2018–2030), 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 Ministry of Social Affairs and Health), is responsible and equitable water security.

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 UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 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.

Finland advances international conventions on transboundary waters in shared waters and is a significant player in water diplomacy. Finnish water diplomacy combines our strengths: technical expertise in the water sector, experience in international transboundary water cooperation and expertise in peace mediation. The starting point for the water diplomacy promoted by Finland is the idea that

54 https://um.fi/documents/35732/0/Finnish+Water+Way_en+%281%29.pdf/81aa62ce-5e9a-5fdf-31fe-dd34136f033f

shared water resources and the identification of the political, economic and social advantages arising from water resources can act as part of preventive peace mediation.

Water diplomacy to solve water-related disputes is a priority of the Centre for Peace Mediation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Centre for Peace Mediation has several water-related processes at various levels underway each year, in addition to which the Ministry for Foreign Affairs coordinates the water diplomacy network. Three Ministries (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of the Environment) also finance the joint Water4Peace project.

Finland is especially renowned for advancing water supply, sanitation and hygiene and providing related expertise in several developing countries, including Nepal, Ethiopia and Kenya. For example, in Nepal Finland's support is estimated to have provided more than two million people with access to clean drinking water. Long-term cooperation enhances opportunities to expand activities in fields such as research and commercial cooperation.

Water-sector development cooperation between Finland and Nepal has received EU delegated funding since 2018. This was the first time delegated funding was granted for development cooperation in the water sector. The cooperation has been fruitful, and the EU has now expanded the delegated funding to other sectors, too.

The long-term cooperation in Ethiopia has also been effective: The water supply points built with Finland's support have made clean drinking water accessible to around 5.4 million people. Finland has been one of Ethiopia's key partners in rural water supply and sanitation issues in particular, and Finland has also chaired the Water Sector Working Group of donors on multiple occasions.

Finnish enterprises have significant competence in developing new technology solutions for, for example, the management of water-related risks and floods, modernisation of water utilities, prevention of water pollution, and safe recycling of water and nutrients. They operate actively in regions suffering from water-related problems.

It is estimated that half of the water consumption of the people in Finland is generated outside the Finnish borders due to international production, trade and imports. The Water Stewardship Commitment established as part of Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development encourages enterprises to cooperate in issues including water stewardship and supports the identification of water risks in value chains.

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 ensured universal access to energy, with the entire population covered by the power grid.

7.2: The use of fossil fuels and peat decreased further by 10% in 2023. The share of renewable energy of total energy consumption in turn remained at the 2022 level at 42%, regardless of a major increase in wind power.

7.3: Finland has reached the energy efficiency target of the EU.

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

- The Government aims for Finland to become a leader in clean energy and climate handprint that will create clean economic growth at home and replace pollution-generating solutions around the world through technology exports.
- The Government will ensure the fair treatment of electricity users in the event of electricity scarcity.
- The Government will promote the development and launch of biogas production and the diverse use of biogas.
- Finland will strengthen its competitiveness and attractiveness as an investment target for renewable industries by doubling its production of clean electricity.
- The share of renewable energy in energy production will be increased, and action will be taken towards phasing out the use of fossil fuels in heat and electricity production by the 2030s at the latest.

The Government will prepare a new national climate and energy strategy and a new medium-term climate change policy plan under the Climate Act, aiming not only to achieve emissions reductions meeting Finland's climate targets and obligations but also to accelerate the clean energy transition and green investments of industry. Finland will ensure the versatility and regional coverage of electricity production as part of comprehensive security. The Government is prepared to impose temporary regulation on retail electricity prices during the exceptional price crisis facing the electricity market. The Government will also strengthen the ability of households, businesses and farms to build their own electricity grids and connect small-scale electricity production to these, and to conduct pilots with energy communities. Finland will improve the functioning and adequacy of the electricity transmission network as the basis for the energy transition and as a key competitive advantage. In addition, permitting procedures for electricity network investments will be sped up and resources will be allocated to the processing of permit applications (SDG target 7.1).

Legislation concerning the distribution obligation of renewable fuels will be amended so that the distribution obligation will remain at 13.5% in 2024. In 2025–2027, the distribution obligation will be moderately increased gradually so that it will be 22.5% in 2027. The impact of the increase in the distribution obligation on fuel prices will be compensated for in ways including by introducing a flexibility mechanism aimed at fuel sellers subject to the distribution obligation, including transport electricity in the distribution obligation and lowering the taxes on fuels. Efforts will be made to focus any easing of the tax on the taxation of the renewable fraction (SDG target 7.1).

The Government will promote action towards phasing out the use of fossil fuels in heat and electricity production by the 2030s at the latest and to increase the share of renewable energy in energy production. Grants to phase out oil heating oil will be awarded for another 9,000 detached or semi-detached houses (situation on 15 March 2024). In conjunction with updating the Water Act, the Government will ensure that it will still be possible to implement hydropower projects that are important for the national economy and the public interest. Any construction of additional hydropower will be located at waters that are already used for electricity production (SDG target 7.2).

The Government will develop the conditions for wind power in a way that reconciles the social acceptability of wind power and a favourable investment environment. The Government will set an ambitious target for offshore wind capacity in 2035 and create a competitive advantage for Finland in relation to other countries in the Baltic Sea region. This will ensure that large offshore wind projects can generate energy for Finnish industry and households. The Government will

work to ensure a predictable and encouraging operating environment, along with smooth project development and construction both in the exclusive economic zone and in territorial waters. The rules for offshore wind power will be clarified and incentives for building offshore wind farms in locations that are favourable to other uses of marine areas, such as shipping and fishing, will be created. The acceptability of wind power and a favourable investment environment will be promoted by the Ministry of the Environment by means of legislative reforms, reports and guides as well as wind power grants.

The Government will promote solar energy investments on sites suitable in terms of land use, such as the built environment, areas released from peat production and wastelands. The Ministry of the Environment has appointed a steering group to prepare a guide to statutory land use planning and permit procedures for solar power stations. The aim is to harmonise the land use planning and construction practices concerning large solar power stations by examining and compiling the most significant environmental impacts of solar power plants particularly from the land use planning and building permits perspectives, by providing a view on the land use planning and permit procedures to be applied and by ensuring interaction with key actors and stakeholders. The steering group may also make proposals concerning the development of the legislation concerning the construction of solar power stations and to promote solar energy. A background report on the current situation in land use planning and permit procedures concerning solar power stations was completed in January 2024, and the compilation of the material for the guide is currently underway (SDG target 7.2).

The Government will maintain, through national decision-making and by being active in influencing EU policies, a stable and predictable operating environment for bioenergy produced using various waste products, residues and by-products. The sustainable use of biofuels will not be restricted through taxation and legislation, for example. The Government will promote the production and use of biogas and biomethane. The Government will promote the hydrogen economy and aims for Finland to account for 10% of the EU's clean hydrogen production and for at least the same percentage of hydrogen use (SDG target 7.2).

The Government will allocate resources to research, development and innovations that promote the sustainability transition, increase energy and resource efficiency and reduce the need for energy. Energy consumption will be reduced and the energy efficiency of buildings improved through cost-effective measures. At the same time, Finland will make efforts to ensure that the implementation of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will not impose obligations on residents and property owners that are regarded as unreasonable. The capacity of households to respond to potential new obligations will be supported if such obligations arise (SDG target 7.3).

At the EU level, Finland will actively participate in the formulation of policies and targets to increase the production of renewable energy and continue reducing emissions in the EU. The Government will be active in influencing EU regulation to promote the sectors of the clean hydrogen economy that are important to Finland. Finland will promote the use of EU funding for clean transition projects by supporting the launch of projects including LIFE projects dedicated to the environment, nature conservation and climate action (SDG target 7.a).

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

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

Finland supports activity including the Energy and Environment Partnership Trust Fund (EEP Africa) operating in 17 countries across Eastern and Southern Africa and promoting both access to clean energy and use of renewable energy in production. EEP Africa also promotes job creation in Africa, mobilises private financing for renewable energy projects and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. EEP Africa has helped many companies to grow and reach a level where they have been able to gain access to other, later-stage financing instruments. Thanks to the good outcomes, other countries have also joined as finance providers for the programme.

Finland's development policy investments have enabled several development banks (IFC, IDB Invest and EBRD) to increase their financing for large industrial projects such as solar and hydropower plants and for investments improving energy efficiency and also to attract other financing for these investments. For example, the investments of a fund that was established with IFC and the active investment period of which ended in 2023 are estimated to reduce an annual total of 8 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Finland also supports the development of new and innovative technologies by providing venture capital finance through the ADB Ventures fund for high-growth companies operating in the emerging Asian markets.

Renewable energy is one of the priorities of Finland's national development finance institution Finnfund. Its renewable energy investment portfolio amounts to more than EUR 160 million and contains investments in wind, solar and small hydro projects as well as biogas, storage and development of energy efficiency. Projects vary in size and make use of different technologies and finance solutions. The renewable energy investees generated 5,300 GWh of energy in 2022.

Fossil fuel subsidies are one of the biggest economic obstacles to a switch to renewable energy sources, as they distort markets and weaken the competitiveness of cleaner energy forms replacing fossil energy. Finland belongs to Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFFSR), a group of countries established by New Zealand in 2010 to promote the phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Critical minerals are required for the needs of the clean energy transition, especially to increase the use of renewable energy sources. Finland cooperates with third countries in the sustainable use of critical minerals and promotion of the circular economy in contexts including the international Minerals Security Partnership. This is a field where Finnish enterprises and research organisations have expertise. Finland also supports raw materials partnerships between the EU and third countries.

In Ukraine, Finland's development cooperation supports modern energy-efficient and climate-friendly energy solutions through funds including energy-efficiency funds of the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) and the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

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 gross domestic product (GDP) contracted in 2020 and 2023. Overall, economic growth has been moderate and uncertain in recent years.

8.2: Productivity development has been weak in Finland over the long term but at the level of many reference countries since 2015.

8.3: Finland promotes entrepreneurship and sustainable business growth in many ways.

8.4 Finland seeks to improve its resource efficiency. In EU comparison, Finland has a lot of catching up to do in making use of the circular economy. Finland is a global front runner in sustainable and resource-efficient bioeconomy.

8.5: The Finnish employment rate trend has been favourable in recent years (except for the dip caused by the COVID-19 pandemic).

8.6: The number of youth not in employment, education or training decreased in Finland in 1995–2020, but efforts to reduce their number even further should continue.

8.7: Finland is committed to international agreements to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking and to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour throughout the world.

8.8: Finland implements the provisions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in its employment legislation, which applies equally to all workers.

8.9: Finland has taken major development steps in promoting sustainable tourism.

8.10: In international comparison, there is good access for all to the services of Finnish financial institutions.

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

- The general government debt-to-GDP ratio will be balanced and reversed downwards over the long term.
- People's purchasing power will be safeguarded and everyday costs will remain reasonable.
- Promoting the energy transition and clean technologies are an opportunity for sustainable economic growth.

The Finnish economy has experienced many external shocks in recent years. In particular the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis and rapid inflation caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine have impeded economic development. The

most recent Economic Survey of the Ministry of Finance⁵⁵ shows a bleaker picture of Finland's economic development in recent years. Finland is in a recession that has been longer and deeper than previously estimated. GDP at market prices was -1.0% in 2023. Zero GDP growth is projected for 2024. GDP growth in 2025 and 2026 is forecast to be 1.6% and 1.5% respectively (SDG target 8.1).

The Government aims to put the Finnish economy on a sustainable growth path. Economic growth will be boosted by improving fair competition, making significant investments in RDI, boosting knowledge and competence, and developing the labour market. The Government also aims to enhance Finland's competitiveness and the conditions for entrepreneurship.

Finland's productivity growth has been weak when examined over the long term. Since 2015, however, the pace of growth has again been abreast of reference countries and the rate of total factor productivity has even been faster than the OECD average.⁵⁶ This, however, has not been enough to close the long-term productivity gap with reference countries. The weak longer-term trend largely stems from productivity problems in the private service sector (SDG target 8.2). Restoring productivity growth to a faster growth trajectory requires innovation policy measures that promote the creation of innovations that benefit society more broadly and the dissemination of knowledge in the economy.⁵⁷

Factors underlying Finland's weak productivity growth include low investment in intellectual capital. Finland's investments in, for example, R&D are insufficient, and the educational level of young people has remained lower than in other developed industrialised countries. The Government is committed to the national target of increasing Finland's R&D expenditure to 4% of GDP by 2030. This target contributes towards generating long-term growth and transformational capacity. Central government R&D funding will be allocated in a way that will achieve positive effects on competence, productivity and competitiveness as well as on long-term economic growth, which will strengthen the financial base of the welfare society.

In Finland, development-oriented and radical innovative practices would be a good tool for enterprises to develop into high-productivity enterprises (SDG target 8.3). The Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland supports the promotion of

55 <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/165710>

56 https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=PDB_GR

57 <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/165002> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

development-oriented practices. The aim is a more diverse business structure, stronger exports and better enterprise opportunities for change and the generation of well-functioning innovation ecosystems serving as new economic drivers.

As regards the circular economy, Finland is still far behind the EU average in terms of materials consumption or circular material use (CMU) rate (SDG target 8.4). In international comparison, Finland has an ambitious Strategic Programme for Circular Economy, the objectives of which are that the consumption of primary raw materials in Finland in 2035 will not exceed what it was in 2015, that the productivity of resources will double by 2035 from what it was in 2015, and that the CMU rate will double by 2035.

The Finnish employment rate has been rising in recent years. Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey shows that the employment rate trend among persons aged 20–64 was 72.1% at the beginning of 2014, from which it rose to the peak level of 78.6% in November 2022⁵⁸. Economic uncertainties are, however, reflected in the employment situation all the time, and the favourable long-term trend in the employment rate is not reflected in the similar way in hours actually worked.

Working life and the labour market are undergoing a large and global structural change caused by digitalisation, increased immigration, demographic change and environmental challenges. The significance of competence and skills relevant in the labour market as well as the continuous learning of the labour force are emphasised in this context. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has created new labour market challenges, as production has to be adapted due to reasons including the sanctions imposed against Russia and to support the employment of Ukrainian refugees.

The Government seeks to boost employment development by means of many different policy measures. Efforts will be made to develop employment services so that they will provide opportunities to eliminate labour market mismatches. The staggering of the level of earnings-related unemployment security also has an incentive effect for rapid re-employment. The social security reform is based on the principle of it being worthwhile to accept employment.

There is still a clear employment gap between the mainstream population and persons with impaired capacity for work or with disabilities. According to Eurostat statistics, this disability employment gap in Finland was around 19 percentage

58 <https://stat.fi/en/publication/cl89xplrstmes0avyn7w0nmwz>

points in 2023⁵⁹. The Government will take measures to improve the employment, competence and skills, and inclusion in working life of persons with impaired capacity for work or with disabilities.

The number of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs) decreased in relative terms between 2009 and 2023 (SDG target 8.6). However, they still account for a fairly high proportion of persons aged 15–24, with 7.3% of 15–24-year-olds having been NEETs in 2023. This means that around 45,000 young people were without a job or study place⁶⁰.

The Government's aim is for the number of NEETs to decrease further by 2027. The multisectoral joint service promoting the employment of young people (One-Stop Guidance Centres) was made a permanent service under the Act on Multisectoral Promotion of Employment. The Government will strengthen the multisectorality of the One-Stop Guidance Centres by increasing the competence resources in the health and social services as well as education and training sectors. Discretionary government grants totalling EUR 6.5 million have been allocated to this activity for 2021–2026 under the Sustainable Growth Programme for Finland.

Finland is strongly committed to international agreements, commitments and actions to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking and to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour fully throughout the world. Abuses regarding those coming to Finland for work will be eliminated by requiring the permits intended for work from those entering the country. The status of foreign seasonal workers working independently will be protected by legislation. Finland has supported the European Commission proposal concerning the regulation prohibiting products made with forced labour on the EU market submitted by the Commission in 2022. The regulation is currently due to enter into force in 2027 (SDG target 8.7).

One of the key objectives of the Government Programme is to strengthen Finland's labour market. Labour immigration is highly important for Finland's economic growth and securing of services, and international recruitment to Finland will be promoted in a targeted manner in order to achieve this goal. At the same time, however, it is necessary to address any abuses in the labour market proactively and actively. Labour immigration can only be developed in a sustainable manner if the exploitation of foreign labour is effectively prevented.

59 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/hlth_dlm200/default/table?lang=en&category=dsb.dsb_lab

60 <https://stat.fi/en/statistics/tyti>

The Action Plan against Labour Exploitation⁶¹ was approved by the Ministerial Working Group on Employment and Entrepreneurship in February 2024. The Action Plan has five main objectives, which are promoted with a total of 33 measures. Many of the measures seek to increase the efficiency of cooperation between the authorities and to improve the exchange of information. The operating environment for the authorities involved in combating the shadow economy, economic crime and exploitation will be secured and inter-authority cooperation will be improved. Different means will be used to better identify and detect exploitation and trafficking in human beings and to prevent the recurrence of such abuses. Work-based residence permits will be better monitored both before and after their issuance so that discrepancies in pay, for example, can be detected more effectively. The line between entrepreneurship and employment relationship will be clarified and the position of victims will be improved.

The share of persons in precarious employment – most commonly fixed-term or part-time employment – of all employed persons in Finland is slightly below the EU average. The share of those in fixed-term employment has not changed much in Finland over the long term (16–17% of all employed persons). Their share of all employed persons decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic, as employment prospects were poor in many sectors favouring fixed-term employment (such as restaurants and tourism). The share of fixed-term employment has now returned to the pre-pandemic level. Part-time work has been increasing steadily in Finland since the early 1990s. Today, around 19% of employment relationships are part time.⁶²

The biggest problem with fixed-term and part-time employment relationships is that they are highly gendered in Finland. Women work clearly more often in fixed-term or part-time roles⁶³. Although some precarious employment is based on a voluntary choice (where the person does not want to work continuously or full time), involuntary precarious employment (where the person would work continuously or full time if there was work available) contributes towards lower gender equality.

The Government will address the challenges in rights in working life by continuing the implementation of the national Development Programme for Work and Wellbeing at Work (WORK2030)⁶⁴ (SDG target 8.8). The programme will step up

61 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-327-790-8>

62 <https://guides.stat.fi/tyoelama-tilastoina/tyosuhteet-ja-tyonteon-tavat> (in Finnish)

63 Ibid.

64 <https://hyvatyo.ttl.fi/tyo2030/work2030>

the renewal of practices in the world of work to respond to the transition of work and to promote a safe and healthy work environment. The Government will also examine how occupational healthcare services can be made more accessible by and wellbeing at work can be promoted among persons in remote, platform, short-term and temporary agency work.

Finland is committed to promoting sustainable tourism (SDG target 8.9). Finland's National Tourism Strategy⁶⁵ (2022–2028) aims for Finland to be the most sustainably growing tourist destination. In practice all of Finland's tourism areas are committed to sustainable operations. The national measurement, follow-up and review of responsibility in tourism has been developed systematically with particular regard to the 2030 Agenda Goals and targets. The Government will support the conditions for growth in the tourism sector. In line with the Government Programme, activity such as the provision of small-scale accommodation services will be made easier.

Access to banking, insurance and financial services is ensured well in Finland (SDG target 8.10). On the one hand, the digitalisation of services improves access to services, but it may also increase inequality if the availability of the digital devices or the skills of users are not at the sufficient level. The Government wants to ensure through its measures that the stability, predictability and competitiveness of the financial markets – including services of financial institutions – will be secured going forward, too.

To enable sustainable economic growth, the Government Programme promotes opportunities to increase the value added of industry based on domestic renewable raw material. When it comes to the use of wood, the aim is to achieve the highest value added possible. The use of wood in construction will be increased both by offering incentives and by reducing the amount of regulation related to it.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Finland supports together with several finance providers (five EU Member States, the European Commission, Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Gates Foundation) TradeMark Africa (TMA), an organisation that promotes the development of regional trade in Africa. TMA supports cross-border trade within Africa through logistics corridors. The activities have resulted in the development of the business environment of various countries and reduced transport times.

65 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-327-772-4> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

Women's cross-border trade has also increased. By increasing trade volumes as well as sustainability and inclusion in trade, TMA has contributed to job creation and economic growth.

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a global partnership of least developed countries (LDC), 24 donor countries (including Finland) and eight international partner agencies aiming to assist LDCs in using trade as an engine for sustainable economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. Thanks to EIF, operations of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) have developed, trade development is part of national development strategies, foreign trade has grown and the economy diversified, enterprises have created jobs and people have accessed livelihoods.

Finland has cooperated with funds of regional development banks supporting innovative start-ups and high-growth enterprises, such as the IDB Lab of the Inter-American Development Bank Group. Through cooperation, Finland has increased awareness with the Finnish enterprise sector to create partnerships and strengthen sustainable development and economic growth.

Promoting women's economic participation is one of Finland's priorities. Finland works in close cooperation with private sector actors. For example, Finnfund invests within the 2X Challenge in enterprises that promote women's financial independence, entrepreneurship and leadership and their role in the labour market.

Finland supports opportunities for people to earn a living in its humanitarian activities, too. Humanitarian partners supported by Finland also implement business support to beneficiaries as part of their programmes. In particular, core funding provided by Finland for the World Food Programme (WFP) enables its flexible use also for business support particularly during post-crisis recovery.

In 2024, Finland will carry out a study on the cumulative effects of EU sustainability regulation on Finnish enterprises and enterprises operating in third countries. The purpose of the study is to support the achievement of the objectives of EU sustainability regulation. Finland will also launch the Business and Human Rights online course, which will be open to everyone.

Finland works through the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote decent work. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda contributes towards the achievements of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. It is increasingly important for sustainable development to ensure no-one is excluded from the labour market.

Finland finances the Trade and Decent Work joint project with the ILO and the European Commission. Finland's finance is allocated to five African countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Madagascar and Côte d'Ivoire).

In actions by the ILO, key challenges include combating increasing societal inequalities and ensuring sufficient social security. These emphasise the ILO's role in the multilateral system and in promoting policy coherence. ILO activity in advocating the basic human rights of workers is also increasingly important, as democracy development and the rights-based approach are declining in many countries. Finland finances the work of the ILO's Global Coalition for Social Justice, which promotes decent work and social rights.

In 2022, the International Labour Conference of the ILO included a safe and healthy working environment as the fifth fundamental principle and right at work alongside freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of forced or compulsory labour; the abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. The decision is likely to influence the contents of documents including future trade agreements and other cooperation agreements if the parties decide to require compliance with the ILO's fundamental principles and rights in the sustainability clauses of agreements concluded.

Important issues emphasised by Finland in the EU, the UN system and other multilateral cooperation have included in particular inequality, decent work, workers' fundamental rights and an inclusive labour market, especially in employment, development and trade policy.

Finland promotes the Economy of Wellbeing nationally and in international forums. The Economy of Wellbeing is based on stable and sustainable economic policy. The Economy of Wellbeing is an approach based on cross-sectoral collaboration between different policy areas and underlines the mutually reinforcing nature of wellbeing and economic policy. It aims for a balance between economic, ecological and social sustainability linking the Economy of Wellbeing with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Finland also promotes a globally sustainable bioeconomy in contexts including the work of the G20 forum of the world's largest economies.

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

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

9.1: Maintaining the extensive central government transport infrastructure calls for long-term financial contributions.

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

9.4: Finland aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035.

9.1 and 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.

9.5: Following a long downward trend, Finland's R&D funding has been on an upward trajectory. The public sector as a whole accounts for around one third and the private sector for around two thirds of Finland's R&D expenditure.

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

- The Government will make significant investments in transport infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of the economy and improving the smooth mobility of people. The Government will also develop public transport in cooperation with municipalities and wellbeing services counties.

- The Government will implement a consistent business, entrepreneurship and industrial policy that gives companies an outlook for a competitive operating environment and confidence to invest.
- The Government will implement the proposals of the parliamentary RDI working group on how Finland's funding of R&D activities will be raised to 4% of GDP by 2030. The Government will draw up a multi-annual plan for the use of central government R&D funding.

The Government aims to make Finland one of the world's most successful countries in creating prosperity through technology and digitalisation. Finland will have an ever greater global handprint by exporting emissions-free solutions to the world. The data economy and digitalisation will boost Finland's competitiveness even further. The Government will implement Finland's Digital Compass, which provides a roadmap for Finland's digitalisation. The Digital Compass sets the objectives for the digital transformation and digital economy for 2030.

The Government will implement an extensive transport investment programme of nearly EUR 3 billion. A total of around EUR 1.6 billion will be targeted at developing the transport network and reversing the increase in maintenance backlog. Rail transport will be made competitive with separate investments amounting to almost EUR 1.4 billion, which will be used to build new rail connections and develop the current rail network. The implementation of the transport investment programme has begun, and financial resources have been allocated in the 2024 Budget to some rail and main road development projects. In addition, the Government promotes new rail projects based on the project company model. The Government will also ensure operating conditions of highway ferries, cable ferries and commuter ferries to ensure the functioning of the archipelago transport system (SDG target 9.1).

In addition, the Government has begun updating the 12-year transport system plan. The Transport 12 plan outlines how the entire transport system (transport networks, transport services, information) will be developed over the next 12 years. The update has set functionality, safety and sustainability as the objectives of the plan. Finland will promote the coordination of Nordic transport systems in order to streamline cross-border traffic (SDG target 9.1).

At the beginning of the parliamentary term, the Government will prepare an industrial policy strategy that will include sets of policies essential for the export industry, such as logistics. Through the strategy, the Government seeks to increase

the number of growth-oriented and export-oriented companies that provide employment and to keep industrial jobs in Finland. The provision of education and training will be reformed to better meet the needs of working life and business and industry, taking into account the needs of regions with export businesses and industries (SDG target 9.2).

The Government's climate policy has a focus on the development of solutions that reduce emissions and capture carbon in industry and energy production. One of the priorities of the climate and energy strategy will be for Finland to utilise the opportunities for faster emissions reductions in industry and energy production than anticipated and to take advantage of its potential to capture and further utilise wood-based carbon dioxide, which is among the most significant in Europe. When promoting clean solutions, the impacts of activities on biodiversity and the environment more broadly will be taken into account alongside climate emissions (SDG target 9.4).

The Government's target is to increase R&D funding to 4% of GDP by 2030. In line with the national target and the current Act on Research and Development Funding, the Government will raise central government funding for R&D activities to 1.2% of GDP by 2030, provided that private sector investments increase to 2.8%. The Government has prepared a multiannual plan for the use of central government R&D funding and the development of the RDI system⁶⁶. The plan was prepared by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, broadly engaging research and business actors in the preparation process. The preparation of the plan was led by the Research and Innovation Council chaired by the Prime Minister (SDG target 9.5).

Alongside larger R&D and other investments, the Government will also take other policy measures to develop a research and innovation friendly operating environment. The changed geopolitical situation and competition for talent, critical technology and raw materials increase uncertainty in the international market and RDI operating environment. Science, technology, the economy, trade, development and security will be increasingly closely interlinked. The aim is for policy sectors to operate in a manner where they better support each other. Alongside the multiannual plan for the use of central government R&D funding, the Government will, among other things, draw up an industrial policy strategy. In accordance with the multiannual plan for the use of central government R&D funding, the Research and Innovation Council will launch a process to identify strategic choices.

66 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-858-1> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

This creates the conditions for proactive, long-term and goal-oriented measures at the national level. When identifying choices, attention is paid to opportunities for growth and business, technological development and its link to safety and security, societal challenges and significant sustainability transitions as well as high competence and related clusters.

The Government will support the opportunities of industry and other businesses for sustainable transformation and for improving their climate impacts. Central government investments in R&D will be targeted in accordance with the objectives and requirements set by the R&D Funding Act and the multiannual plan for R&D funding. The Government has made some of the decisions concerning additional central government R&D funding. By funding to both enterprises as well as those public research organisations that collaborate with them, enterprises are encouraged to increase their R&D investments over the long term. R&D funding will primarily be allocated based on competitive processes through, for example, Business Finland and the Research Council of Finland.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Finland supports sustainable and inclusive industrial development and the creation of resilient infrastructure through the EU's multilateral organisations as well as private and public sector investments. For example, the Public Sector Investment Facility (PIF) for developing countries is used to support infrastructure in line with the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries.

Finland supports the sustainable industrialisation, high-quality infrastructure and sustainable digital transition of developing countries through the EU's Global Gateway flagship projects. In the implementation of the Global Gateway, Finland focuses particularly on digitalisation, the clean transition, education and training and also participates actively in European cooperation in the digitalisation sector (the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub operating model). Finland participates in the planning and implementation of Global Gateway flagship projects in Africa, Southeast and Central Asia as well as Latin America and supports Finnish enterprise access to project implementation. For example, the regional Data Governance in Africa is a EUR 60 million action co-funded by five EU Member States and the Commission that supports the regional harmonisation of data policies, data-based innovations and secure, more climate-sustainable data infrastructure in

Sub-Saharan Africa. The development finance company Finnfund makes use of guarantees from the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFDF+) in the field of digital infrastructure and services in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The development banks in which Finland is a member operate in all fields of development, including sustainable infrastructure. Finland emphasises projects enabling a clean transition as well as support for Ukraine in its needs (including energy).

Finland funds circular economy, forest and natural resources sector projects of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Finland also promotes innovation work in cooperation with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Supporting learning through scalable digital learning solutions is one of the priorities of UNICEF. Finland supports the UNICEF Innovation Fund and the Global Learning Innovation Hub and Global Innovative Finance Hub established in Helsinki in 2021. The UN innovation activities in Finland tap into Finnish competence in contexts including identifying and scaling up innovation solutions for the needs of the UN and developing countries alike.

In its development finance, the Government will prioritise development policy investments that promote the allocation of capital to business activities (SDG target 9.b).

Through innovation programmes and finance, Finland promotes the international scaling of sustainable development solutions of enterprises in developing markets, too. For example, the Developing Markets Platform of Business Finland helps Finnish enterprises and their partners to promote sustainable business and make use of global development finance.

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 development among the bottom 40% has kept abreast with the rest of the population. In recent years, the level of basic social security has generally improved in relation to both the price and the income level.

10.2: Finland's welfare society functions well in promoting social, economic and political inclusion.

10.3: Legislation is developing continuously in a direction that emphasises equality and prevents discrimination

10.4: Equality promotion is a key objective of Finnish welfare society – including fiscal policy, pay settlements and social security development efforts.

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

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

10.7: Finland supports a rules-based and responsible migration policy.

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

- The Government's objective is a sustainable economy that is the foundation for prosperity.
- The Government's objective is respect for and promotion of human rights both in Finland and globally.
- Everyone must have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and competence, find work, live on their pay or pension, and live in safety.

The latest evaluation report on the adequacy of basic social security, which is provided for each government term, found that the level of basic social security has generally improved in Finland. However, for many population groups living on basic social security (the unemployed, ill and persons on parental leave) the security is not sufficient to cover a minimum consumption level for the household's genuine inclusion in society.⁶⁷

The bottom 40% of the Finnish population have not experienced major changes in their income development compared with the national average (SDG target 10.1). In 2022, the median income available to the bottom 40% was around EUR 8,300 per year, whereas the national median was around EUR 15,100 per year.⁶⁸ Temporal changes in income development have remained more or less the same since 2010. In international comparison, the Finnish social security system and taxation are relatively effective at preventing growth in income differentials. This was also observed during the COVID-19 pandemic, with research showing no growth in gaps between household disposable income in 2020.⁶⁹

The Government aims to promote the income of the bottom 40% of the population with an employment policy that aims to provide incentives for accepting work. Accepting work must be profitable and work must be rewarding. The aim is for more and more people to earn wages or salaries they can live on instead of receiving current transfers. The reception capacity of working life will be strengthened to improve the employment of people with impaired capacity to work, immigrants, older people and those engaged in tasks requiring a low level of education.

In international comparison, people's right to participate in societal activity irrespective of their background is realised well in Finland (SDG target 10.2). Early intervention concerning problems increasing social, economic or political inequality and improved opportunities to identify risks of social exclusion play a key role in promoting people's access to their constitutional rights.

The Government has ensured the sufficiency of income remaining at the disposal of debtors by maintaining the protected portion in debt enforcement at the current level until decisions on further measures have been made. The Government will implement an assessment of the functioning of debt assessment for private

67 <https://www.julkari.fi/handle/10024/146182> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

68 <https://stat.fi/en/publication/cl8lyr6zpsv3y0duk4wc191rl>

69 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-436-1> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

individuals as part of the overall review of indebtedness as a phenomenon carried out in line with the Government Programme. The National Strategy for Financial Literacy will implement the objectives of the Government Programme to combat over-indebtedness (SDG target 10.2).

The Government will prepare and implement a national programme to promote democracy and participation and prepare a strategy on civil society organisations (SDG target 10.2). A particular objective is to increase voter turnout and to strengthen the participation of children and young people. The Government will promote the development of good practices in democracy education and human rights education. There has traditionally been a good culture of discussion and exchange of opinions in Finnish society, supported from an early age while safeguarding the constitutional freedom of expression and opinion.

The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme 2024–2027⁷⁰ also contains actions to promote the inclusion of young people, such as better integrating the consultation of young people into the preparatory work of the ministries, including legislative work and the preparation of strategies and action programmes.

The Government will also promote linguistic rights by continuing to implement the measures defined in the Strategy for the National Languages of Finland and in the Language Policy Programme⁷¹ (SDG target 10.2).

The Government will respect and promote the realisation of the linguistic and cultural rights of all Sami people and Sami groups in a way that takes the relevant international conventions into account. The government proposal concerning the new Act on the Sami Parliament has been drafted in cooperation with the Sami Parliament of Finland. The work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will also be continued and the resources of the Sami Climate Council ensured (SDG target 10.2).

The Government will also seek to strengthen the status of indigenous minority languages, especially the Sami languages, the Karelian language, the Romani language and the national sign languages. The Government will examine ways to reinforce the status of children using sign languages in early childhood education and care and in primary and lower secondary education (SDG target 10.2).

70 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-263-950-9>

71 <https://oikeusministerio.fi/kansalliskielistrategia-ja-kielipoliittinen-ohjelma> (in Finnish)

In international comparison, equal opportunity is realised well in Finnish society (SDG target 10.3). Promoting equality is, however, a continuous process, as treatment maintaining discrimination and inequality still occurs for many different reasons.

At the very beginning of the Government term, the Government issued a statement to Parliament on promoting equality, gender equality and non-discrimination in Finnish society. The statement contains several measures for the promotion of which the Government launched an action plan called An Equal Finland.

The Government will also draw up a cross-administrative action plan for gender equality. Based on the policies to be outlined in the action plan, the Government will update and promote the joint objectives determined in the Government Report on Gender Equality Policy to eliminate gender-based discrimination and promote equality between women and men. The action plan for gender equality will contribute towards the achievement of the objective by means of, for example, taking the promotion of equality into consideration in the budget process and in key reforms and projects. The Government will also commission a long-term economic impact analysis to examine the effects of equal pay programmes, legislative amendments, economic cycles, structural changes in the labour market and labour market measures on changes concerning the difference in average earnings between women and men.

In addition, the Government will strengthen the functioning of the rule of law by preparing and implementing Finland's fourth National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. The action plan will further strengthen the monitoring of the realisation of fundamental and human rights in Finland.

The Government's long-term objective is for Finland to reach Nordic levels of economic growth and debt-to-GDP ratio. This helps to safeguard the functioning of the welfare society and ensure intergenerational fairness (SDG target 10.4).

As regards the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions, Finland's national provisions are mostly based on EU regulation, which is harmonised to a large extent (SDG target 10.5).

In line with the Government Programme, Finland aims to promote a rules-based world order (SDG target 10.6). Committing the Global South to a rules-based order, democracy and the promotion of human rights is a focus of Finland's foreign and security policy.

Fair migration policy is an element in the efforts to curb global inequalities. (SDG target 10.7). The Government's asylum policy will be based on helping the most vulnerable people, on international cooperation, on guaranteeing security and on defending Western values, such as democracy and equality. Particular attention will be paid to the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.

The Government will reform the Aliens Act to make it a clear package. The residence permit system under the Aliens Act will be reformed and clarified during the Government term. The provisions on international protection and entry bans will also be reformed in the same first phase of the overhaul of the Aliens Act.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

A reliable, efficient and equitable tax system, combined with a functioning tax administration, is a prerequisite for developing and financing the activities of developing countries' societies. In addition to constituting the largest source of revenue for governments, taxes also serve as a means of redistributing income.

Finland has determined its operating practices in the Taxation for Development action programme⁷², the purpose of which is to support developing countries in their efforts to strengthen their own tax systems and to make their voices heard in the global tax policy negotiations, too. Finland also supports efforts to increase transparency in revenue collection.

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.

72 https://um.fi/documents/35732/0/Finland_Tax4D_Action_program_050620.pdf/cf6f8dae-434c-96e5-be1c-b9e79e0dc102?t=1591620474451

Finland will actively promote efforts to improve the status of persons with disabilities in humanitarian aid through advocacy and financing alike. Finland will seek in particular to improve the way in which persons with disabilities are taken into account in the coordination system of humanitarian aid in order to create sustainable impacts.

Finland will support the realisation and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in civil society action in a cross-cutting and targeted manner. The starting point for this action is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The targeted action aims to support improvements in the rights and living conditions of vulnerable persons with disabilities and to promote the realisation of disability inclusion at the various levels, including through advocacy. Finland grants project funding for disability organisations and groups formed by persons with disabilities based on the needs and initiatives identified by them. There is a strong focus on supporting the civil society and disability organisations, as they contribute towards a strong disability movement and the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Disability inclusion in trade policy and in development cooperation supporting trade is a new approach. Finland commissioned the report *Inclusive Trade and Persons with Disabilities*⁷³ on the topic, which has advanced the addressing of the theme by international trade organisations.

Finland supports participation of developing countries in multilateral trade. The support is channelled to technical assistance programmes of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that build the human and institutional capacity of developing countries to participate equally in the rules-based multilateral trade system.

Finland supports the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), which is tasked with providing developing countries with legal advice and support concerning WTO law so that they are able to defend their interests in WTO dispute settlement on equal terms with industrialised countries.

73 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-281-375-6>

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: The number of homeless persons decreased by around 80% in 2008–2023 and the number of long-term homeless persons by around 70% over the same period.⁷⁴

11.2: In 2022, 90% of the population had convenient access to public transport services.

11.3: The Land Use and Building Act supports the planning of sustainable cities and communities and ensures everyone's right to participate in land use planning.

11.4: Adopted to protect cultural and natural heritage, the Government Resolution for the Cultural Heritage Strategy 2023–2030 examines Finnish cultural heritage comprehensively for the first time.

11.5: Disasters and their adverse economic and health impacts rarely occur in Finland.

11.6: The adverse per capita environmental impact of cities is at a low level, and efforts are made to reduce them further.

11.7.2: There is an abundance of public outdoor and green spaces open for all, and these are safe and easily accessible.

11.a: National and regional development planning supporting positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas is extensively in use.

11.b: Disaster risk reduction strategies as well as preparedness and adaptation plans are implemented by cities and municipalities.

74 <https://www.ara.fi/en/media/101>

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

- The Government will make sure that opportunities for housing and mobility exist throughout Finland: in the greater Helsinki area, large urban regions, regional centres and their neighbouring municipalities, in regional cities, and in rural and sparsely populated Finland.
- The Government aims to ensure a well-functioning, healthy and safe living environment for everyone.
- The Government will promote the vitality of rural areas and security of supply and prevent inequalities between different parts of Finland.

The Government will promote high-quality and reasonably priced housing through non-subsidised housing construction. The Government will direct social rental housing more efficiently to people on low incomes or with little wealth and specific groups that find it difficult to rent a home through the private rental market. The Government will implement a comprehensive reform of housing allowance to better channel the allowance to those who need it, for example by reinstating asset limits. The amount of social housing production by the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (Ara) will be reduced in a controlled manner. The Government will secure the possibility for people to acquire their first home by developing the ASP savings and loan scheme (SDG target 11.1).

The Government's objective is to eradicate long-term homelessness by 2027. To achieve this objective, the Government will allocate social support and measures to securing homes for the most vulnerable people in Finland and to eradicating homelessness of young people in particular. The establishment of supported housing units for young people will be promoted. The Government will prevent homelessness by ensuring the availability of housing, financial and debt counselling as well as substance abuse and mental health services, and investments will be made to boost employment among people who have experienced homelessness (SDG target 11.1). As regards housing policy, a national programme to eradicate long-term homelessness⁷⁵ has been launched in line with the Government Programme together with key ministries, urban regions, wellbeing services counties and civil society organisations. The programme will enhance collaboration between central government, wellbeing services counties and cities in the eradication of long-term homelessness.

75 https://ym.fi/-/uusi-ohjelma-pyrkii-poistamaan-pitkaaikaisasunnottomuuden?languageId=en_US

The Government will foster an urban policy that is based on a fair partnership between the central government and cities. Major cities, regional centres, regional cities and the central government will act as partners to promote sustainable growth and access to international markets. The Government will launch a strategic alliance with the six largest cities, develop the relationship between the central government and the regions with agreements on particular themes, and strengthen the implementation of the innovation ecosystem agreements concluded with university cities, university consortium cities and cities in the Greater Helsinki area. In addition, the Government will implement the Regional Cities Programme and update the implementation plan of the programme.

The Government will continue the procedure of agreeing on land use, housing and transport matters with the largest urban regions (MAL agreements), where the focus is on ensuring the conditions for growth and accessibility in urban regions through investments in infrastructure and housing production. The central government has entered into 12-year MAL agreements valid until 2031 with the cities of Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Oulu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio and Lahti. The purpose of the MAL agreements is to strengthen cooperation between municipalities of urban regions and between urban regions and the central government. The MAL agreements promote a sustainable community structure and transport system as well as statutory land use planning for and production of housing, which are conditions for the growth of urban regions. The agreements also aim to support the digitalisation of the transport system, promote traffic safety and encourage urban regions to increase the density of the urban form, promote public transport, cycling and walking, and prevent segregation.

The Government will improve mobility regardless of the mode of transport, recognising Finland's regional differences and trusting in people's freedom to make choices around living and mobility that are most appropriate for them. Major investments will be made in the construction and repair of transport infrastructure and the development of public transport. The 12-year National Transport System Plan (Transport 12) is being updated. The plan takes account of the special features of the different regions. Finance for publicly subsidised public transport consists of central government and municipal financing. Direct central government funding for public transport amounts to around EUR 100 million in 2024 (SDG target 11.2).

The accessibility of services is also taken into account in the development of public transport and other transport services. Published in autumn 2023, the Accessibility Vision for Transport⁷⁶ seeks to ensure smooth, safe and independent journeys for everyone regardless of any personal limitations. Transport services for persons with disabilities are organised in a user-friendly manner, observing any special needs. Road traffic safety will be improved so that there will be zero road traffic fatalities in Finland in 2050. The target will be implemented with the Traffic Safety Strategy for 2022–2026 (SDG target 11.2).

The Government will safeguard the usability and preservation of cultural heritage by means of digitisation and take account of the ecological sustainability of this activity by, for example, annually monitoring the carbon footprint of digital long-term storage (SDG target 11.4). The protection of cultural heritage and cultural environments against the impacts of climate change is also taken into account in Finland's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The preservation of cultural and natural heritage is contributed towards by Finland's Architectural Policy Programme 2022–2035, which promotes the ecological, social, economic and cultural sustainability of the built environment.

The Government will draw up a Land Use Act that will promote appropriate land use, a good living environment, uncomplicated planning, growth of towns and municipalities, adequate levels of housing production, regional vitality, competitiveness of businesses, and Finland's attractiveness as an investment location. A working group for a term extending to the end of September 2024 has been appointed for the reform of the Land Use Act. The aim is for the government proposal for the new Land Use Act to be submitted to Parliament during the 2025 spring session.

The Government will set up a cross-ministry working group to solve the housing challenges posed by regional segregation throughout Finland. As regards regional segregation, the Ministry of the Environment is preparing, as part of official duties during 2024, a report on regional segregation, which will be utilised in the preparation of the Limited Liability Housing Companies Act.

76 https://api.hankeikkuna.fi/asiakirjat/e802f07f-b9aa-47b7-a702-b0302a3b6739/79c5dbca-99ce-4dfa-b2c7-66e2e0a23a12/LIITE_20240227125441.PDF
(in Finnish)

Building regulations will be eased to curb the increase in construction and housing costs. The Government will launch a building control reform to ensure that building control services have sufficient competence and service levels throughout Finland and that they interpret the regulations as uniformly as possible. Indoor air problems will be prevented and addressed using evidence-based data and good practices (SDG target 11.6).

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office, the Government has launched the preparation of programmes for northern and eastern Finland and appointed advisory boards to support the programmes. Proposals for the programmes and related actions will be completed by the end of 2024. Western Finland and southern Finland are important for Finland's economic vigour and growth in many ways. The Government will work to make it possible to develop all regions systematically (SDG target 11.a).

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

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).

In line with the comprehensive development policy of the Government Programme, Finland guides the sustainable urban development work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Under project support by the Ministry of the Environment, Finland will continue its partnership concerning the local implementation of SDGs with UN-Habitat, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, and African cities.

Finland also promotes sustainable urban development in the Nordic countries and at the EU level. Finland participates in urban policy cooperation under the Nordic Council of Ministers between the Nordic countries and Nordic cities. At the EU level, Finland promotes sustainable urban development in particular by participating actively in cooperation in the context of the Urban Agenda for the EU with EU cities, Member States and institutions.

Finland also promotes the achievement of ambitious climate targets relating to sustainable urban development by supporting the work of the six pioneering cities selected for the EU Mission of the Horizon Europe programme to deliver 100 climate neutral and smart cities by 2030, and by also sharing the experiences and best practices gained by them more broadly in Finland and around the world.

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 Strategic Programme for Circular Economy and a Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy. Targets relating to the circular material use (CMU) rate and the use of natural resources and materials have been set for circular economy, and the Bioeconomy Strategy aims to double the value added of the bioeconomy and create innovative bioeconomy solutions for global problems and replace the use of fossil raw materials.

12.2: The consumption of raw materials in Finland clearly exceeds the EU average. The Finnish economy is materials intensive, and resource efficiency and the CMU rate are low. The CMU rate has, however, been growing slightly.

12.3: A national monitoring system for food loss has been developed for Finland. The actors in the food system have formulated a joint roadmap with key ways to reduce food loss and waste throughout the food chain.

12.4: Finland is a party to all multilateral environmental agreements concerning chemicals and an active participant in the Global Framework on Chemicals. Finland has a National Programme on Hazardous Chemicals.

12.5: The per-capita amount of municipal waste is growing in Finland and was around a fifth above the EU average in 2021.

12.6: The implementation of the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which entered into force in 2024, enhances corporate sustainability reporting and further increases transparency.

12.7: Sustainable public procurement is promoted in Finland through multi-actor cooperation, at the various levels of administration, and by means of guides for various contracting authorities.

12.8: Sustainable development is mainstreamed into all levels of education. An open online course in sustainable development has been produced for public officials.

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

- The Government's aim is that Finland will create clean economic growth at home and replace pollution-generating solutions around the world through technology exports. Finland will increase its share of investments, jobs and value added related to the clean economy.
- Finland will use its natural resources sustainably to improve its self-sufficiency.

The Government will strengthen Finland's international leader position in the circular economy and its potential to create new work and business. Finland will also promote a circular economy in the single market of the EU and the creation of a European market for secondary raw materials, taking the national interest into account.

The Government will promote opportunities to increase the value added of industry based on domestic renewable raw material. When it comes to the use of wood, the aim is to achieve the highest value added possible.

The use of wood in construction will be increased both by offering incentives and by reducing the amount of regulation related to it. RDI funding will be channelled to wood construction, and education in the sector will be promoted. The use of forests will be based on active and multipurpose forest management in line with the National Forest Strategy 2035⁷⁷. This will ensure the operating conditions for forest and bioproducts industry, including the supply of raw materials.

77 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-366-748-8>

The Government will improve Finland's self-sufficiency through more efficient circulation of materials and nutrients. Well-functioning markets will be created for recycled materials for different uses and the percentage of recycled materials in these will be increased. A switch to the life-cycle approach where a competitive advantage is created by the circular economy will be supported in production and the economy (SDG target 12.2).

Finland participated actively in the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and co-led the One Planet Programme on Sustainable Buildings and Construction with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Australian RMIT University (SDG target 12.1). The UN General Assembly has now extended the mandate of the 10YFP, so the implementation will continue until 2030.

Finland has adopted the following concrete objectives concerning the use of natural resources in the Government Resolution on the Strategic Programme for the Circular Economy⁷⁸:

1. The consumption of non-renewable natural resources will decrease, and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources may increase to the extent that the total consumption of primary raw materials in Finland in 2035 will not exceed what it was in 2015. Natural resources used to manufacture products for exports are not covered by the objective.
2. The productivity of resources will double by 2035 from what it was in 2015.
3. The circular material use (CMU) rate will double by 2035.

The achievement of the objectives will be promoted by means including the strategic Circular Economy Green Deal commitment and the development of the Waste Act towards a circular economy act (SDG target 12.2).

The Government will develop waste, product and chemicals regulation so that these constitute clear and unambiguous packages and environmental regulation is clear. Efforts will be made to eliminate overlapping obligations and instruments (SDG target 12.4).

The Government will amend the waste legislation to increase the use of recycled materials in a way that is market driven. Renewable, bio-based and recycled materials will replace fossil economy solutions, reduce the amount of waste

78 <https://ym.fi/en/strategic-programme-to-promote-a-circular-economy>

produced and the use of non-renewable raw materials, strengthen domestic value chains and the value added of the products, and create growth opportunities for Finland.

The conditions for a circular economy will be enabled by promoting the separate collection and further utilisation of bio-based and biodegradable materials and increasing the reuse of textile waste, machines and equipment and vehicle parts, among others (SDG target 12.5).

In line with the Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government, corporate social responsibility regulation will be developed at the EU and OECD level. Finland has participated actively in the negotiations on the proposal of the European Commission for the Union-wide Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), which will take effect for the first largest enterprises in 2027. Within the OECD, Finland's National Contact Point (NCP) for Responsible Business Conduct will undergo a peer review in 2024, and the activities of the NCP will be developed through the implementation of the recommendations made following the peer review (SDG target 12.6).

Public procurement amounts to around EUR 47 billion each year in Finland⁷⁹. The Government Programme contains many societal reform targets in the implementation of which the significant purchasing power of the public sector can be utilised. These include the health and social services reform and the introduction of new technologies and solutions in the promotion of the clean transition and the circular economy. The Government aims to improve procurement competence and promote the use of innovative procurement. By acquiring new solutions, the public sector can make a difference towards and accelerate the societal change required. At the same time, enterprise incentives for innovation will be increased, scaling of new solutions will be accelerated, and the circular economy can be boosted.

Procurement Finland⁸⁰ (2024–2027) is a joint programme by the Ministry of Finance, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the Confederation of Finnish Industries, Suomen Yrittäjät and Hyvinvointialueyhtiö Hyvil Oy aiming to promote the sustainability of general government finances and the societal effectiveness of public procurement (SDG target 12.7).

79 <https://vm.fi/documents/10623/15348578/Hankinta-Suomi+tiivistelm%C3%A4+20210701.pdf/68f9611b-14b0-9d26-7426-9f4899293eff/Hankinta-Suomi+tiivistelm%C3%A4+20210701.pdf?t=1645435901702> (in Finnish)

80 <https://vm.fi/hankinta-suomi> (in Finnish)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will continue the work to develop public food and food service procurement in order to promote a sustainable and just food system and to ensure food security and security of supply (SDG target 12.7).

A key focus will be placed on environmental education (and in particular the opportunities for children and young people to enjoy nature). In addition, the inclusion of children and young people as well as impact assessments concerning them will be ensured in climate and nature policy. As part of the measure, the activities of the 2030 Agenda Youth Group and the Youth Climate and Nature Group operating under it will be made permanent (SDG target 12.8).

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Finland participates in a cross-administrative manner (Ministry of the Environment/Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment/Ministry for Foreign Affairs) in the implementation of the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) led by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. Finland supports in particular the participation of African actors in the forum. WCEF provides information, networks and partners for the global implementation of the circular economy.

Finland finances the Switch programme of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which supports access of enterprises in developing countries to sustainable value chains in various sectors, such as the circular economy in textiles, plastic and ICT.

In the World Trade Organization (WTO), Finland promotes the circular economy actively by providing examples and best practices concerning new business models, services and reverse value chains. Finland cooperates with developing partner countries, such as Costa Rica, Vietnam and Chile.

Finland will continue active participation in the implementation of the 10YFP as a member and co-chair of the 10YFP Board. In addition, Finland will continue the promotion of sustainable construction as part of the 10YFP Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).

Finland participates in the work of the G20 to promote the bioeconomy globally.

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: Finland updated the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2022 and carries out international cooperation to promote climate change adaptation in various contexts, including as part of the Climate Club of Heads of Government chaired by Chile and Germany.

13.2: The climate policy planning system defined in the Climate Act ensures a coherent, long-term approach to climate policy.

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

13.a: Finland is committed to the international climate finance target under the Paris Agreement.

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' hydrometeorological services.

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

- The Government will update the climate policy plans under the Climate Act and other key strategies guiding climate policy to bring them in line with Finland's EU obligations and the climate-neutrality target of the Climate Act. Promoting clean technologies and investments is part of the Government's RDI policy, energy policy and industrial policy.

- Climate measures will be implemented in a manner that is economically, ecologically, socially and regionally sustainable and just.
- Along with actions to reduce emissions, the Government will promote measures that improve the ability of society to adapt to climate change. In addition, cooperation with other Nordic countries will also be made closer.

Climate targets set for Finland at the EU level as well as the targets under Finland's national Climate Act and Finland's national climate plans have been based on the idea that the carbon sink generated by managed forest land would remain high at all times. The forest carbon sink has, however, declined in recent years and, at the net level, the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector has even turned into a source of emissions in recent years.

Finland's greenhouse gas emissions have decreased significantly since 2005 especially in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) sector, that is, in industry and energy production. Progress in the effort sharing sector, which includes transport, housing and agriculture, has been slower but in the right direction. As regards the LULUCF sector, Finland has significant challenges in reaching its targets since the net sink has decreased and turned into a net source of emissions due to increased forest harvesting, slower forest growth and increased soil emissions from peatland forests⁸¹. A modification of the calculation method is a factor underlying the increase in soil emissions. Due to the net sink reduction, Finland's net emissions have not decreased significantly since 2005. According to the most recent figures, Finland's LULUCF sector was a net source of emissions, that is, the sector's emissions exceeded its removals, for the first time in 2018. In addition to this, the LULUCF sector was a net source of emissions in 2021 and 2022. The situation in the LULUCF sector makes it difficult to comply with the commitments set by the EU for Finland under the LULUCF Regulation. If Finland fails to meet the targets set for it, it must buy LULUCF and effort sharing sector credits from other EU Member States to comply with its commitments. There is also the significant risk that the commitment is multiplied by a penalty factor and transferred to the effort sharing sector, which would have major economic impacts.

The key pillar of Finland's climate policy is the national Climate Act, which, in addition to the carbon neutrality target, lays down emissions reduction targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050. These targets are 60% by 2030, 80% by 2040 and 90% 2050, but aiming at 95% by 2050, compared to the levels in 1990.

81 [Maankäyttösektorin ilmastosuunnitelman skenaariotarkastelun päivitys \(luke.fi\)](#) (in Finnish)

The Long-term Climate Plan adopted under the Climate Act must, for example, present scenarios concerning the trends in emissions and removals that cover at least the 30 years following the adoption of the plan and in which consideration is given to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening of sinks and climate change adaptation. The plan is prepared at least once every ten years, and the preparation is coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The Long-term Climate Plan under the new Climate Act has not been prepared yet. According to the Act, the first Long-term Climate Plan must be adopted in 2025 at the latest.

Finland will promote emissions reduction measures in the effort sharing sector by preparing a Medium-term Climate Plan at the beginning of 2025. Under the Climate Act, the plan must assess justice aspects. As part of support to the implementation of the Medium-term Climate Plan, the Accelerating Climate Efforts and Investments⁸² (ACE) project will be implemented in 2024–2030. The Government will update the energy and climate strategy and prepare a programme to pay off Finland’s emission debt as well as an industrial policy strategy to reach the targets of Finland’s Climate Act and emissions reductions in accordance with the EU commitments. Additional measures will be planned for the LULUCF sector to increase the carbon sink and reduce emissions. The actual Land Use Sector Climate Plan will not be updated until the next Government term (SDG target 13.2).

In addition, the industry-specific low-carbon roadmaps will be updated in cooperation between the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the industries during 2024⁸³. The Government will also promote the creation of a model for the calculation of the climate handprint in cooperation with businesses and research institutions. To increase the climate and environmental handprint, investments will be made in research, development and placing on the market of new solutions. The handprint impacts of Finnish actors do not compensate for Finland’s own climate and environmental actions (SDG target 13.2).

The Government will continue to implement measures to reduce emissions from transport that will not increase everyday costs for citizens, such as facilitating changes in the propulsion system especially in heavy-duty transport. Applications for purchase subsidies have also been enabled for hydrogen-powered vehicles

82 https://www.syke.fi/fi-FI/Tutkimus__kehittaminen/Tutkimus_ja_kehittamishankkeet/Hankkeet/Ilmastoratkaisujen_vauhdittaja_ACE (in Finnish)

83 <https://tem.fi/en/updating-the-low-carbon-roadmaps> (some of the updated roadmaps already published in May–June 2024)

alongside gas and electric ones. In addition, a programme will be prepared on distribution infrastructure for alternative fuels replacing fossil fuels, which will contain the objectives concerning the infrastructure and the vehicle stock and the measures required to reach them (SDG target 13.2).

Cities and municipalities are key actors in climate change mitigation at the local level. Municipal climate plans supporting local implementation include targets and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, data on municipal emissions trends and monitoring data concerning the realisation of the plan. According to information available to the Ministry of the Environment in January 2024, 89 municipalities in Mainland Finland had prepared a plan focusing either fully or in part on climate issues. At the beginning of 2024, 77 municipalities were preparing a new or updating an existing climate plan, and 11 municipalities were involved in regional climate plans. Following economic decisions made in the Government Programme, the obligation of municipalities to draw up climate plans will be cancelled by an amendment to the Climate Act.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Finland's funding and the expertise of the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) are helping the hydrometeorological institutes of several developing countries to develop their weather and climate services and early warning systems. The Finnish Red Cross is implementing community-level early warning systems in cooperation with local organisations in areas including East Africa and Nepal.

In 2024, there are eight Institutional Cooperation Instrument (ICI) projects underway, where FMI experts are training personnel of hydrometeorological institutes of in a regional project in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda and in bilateral projects in Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. The projects increase the capacity of the personnel to use weather observation instruments, provide weather and climate services and improve warning systems.

Also underway is Finland's first project funded by the Public Sector Investment Facility (PIF) for developing countries: the modernisation of Ethiopia's weather observation and forecasting systems, with the project's technological solutions and weather forecast and early-warning service production system as well as meteorological training provided by the Finnish partners. The weather and climate

services and early-warning systems improved as a result of the above-mentioned ICI projects (excluding Ukraine) and the PIF project indirectly benefit more than 700 million people.

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. Finland will draw international attention to climate, environmental and circular economy solutions. Finland had an enterprise pavilion of its own for the first time at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai in 2023.

In both the EU and the UN, Finland is one of the countries advocating ambitious climate diplomacy. Through its climate diplomacy, Finland encourages the biggest emitters in particular to intensify their emissions reduction measures. In conjunction with COP28, Finland joined the Climate Club initiated by countries including Germany and the other G7 countries that aims to accelerate climate measures.

Finland will promote the stronger inclusion of climate change, biodiversity loss and water issues in European and international security policy. Russia's aggression against Ukraine has underlined the significance of the clean transition also as a security issue in Europe. In addition, Finland will underline fairness in the global clean transition.

Climate actions are one of the development policy priorities in the Government Programme. Finland will support developing countries in climate change mitigation and adaptation and in halting biodiversity loss. Finland emphasises a human rights-based and inclusive approach in all climate work. The position of women and girls, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, and their opportunities to exert influence must be taken into account.

Finland's public international climate finance is part of the obligations of the UN's climate frameworks. Finland provides development cooperation funding to support funds including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the new fund for responding to loss and damage from climate change.

Disaster risk prevention and proactive funding are important elements of Finland's development cooperation and policy. Finland provides finance for initiatives such as Climate Risks and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) for Least Developed Countries

(LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) strengthening the global weather observations and monitoring network. The initiatives support the Early Warnings for All initiative of UN Secretary-General António Guterres to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early-warning systems by 2027.

Forest projects supported by Finland in countries such as Tanzania promote climate change adaptation. The projects have expanded the area of natural forests managed by communities, balanced the water cycle and improved people's livelihoods. Investments by development finance company Finnfund curb climate change by producing new FSC certified plantation forests (promoting biodiversity, economic sustainability and landscape and cultural values) in Tanzania, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Finland promotes the internationalisation and exports of clean and low-carbon solutions. This can promote a positive handprint outside Finland. Emissions reductions in maritime transport and aviation should primarily be promoted through sufficiently determined international measures. In the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Finland promotes effective global measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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 Finland's pollution of the Baltic Sea are declining, Finland has been unable to significantly reduce marine pollution in the last few years.

14.2: In 2018, out of 42 assessed marine underwater habitats 5 were assessed as Endangered (EN) and 5 as Vulnerable (VU). Since 2008, 24% of habitat types have declined.

14.4: The Fisheries Act of Finland is based on sustainable use of resources in line with the best scientific information available. The common fisheries policy (CFP) of the EU is based on the maximum sustainable yield objective. The Baltic herring (*Clupea harengus membras*) and European sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) stocks of the Baltic Sea have declined in recent years. This is why tighter regulation of fishing has been introduced. The status of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) stocks of the Baltic Sea is poor due to the degradation of the marine environment, and their fishing is banned to a large extent.

14.5: In 2018, Finland achieved the 2030 Agenda target of 10% 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: Under Finnish legislation, small-scale artisanal fisheries have access to marine resources and markets.

14.c: Finland participates actively in negotiations for a new treaty to prevent marine plastic pollution.

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

- The Government will ensure the preservation of natural capital as part of a responsible economic policy and will aim to halt the loss of biodiversity.
- The Government will continue to implement the programme to improve the efficiency of water protection and launch a programme on voluntary protection of marine nature.
- The Government will promote the better ecological status of inland waters and marine areas.

Finland is committed to the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the target of increasing the coverage of protected areas globally to 30% of terrestrial, inland water and marine areas, and to the sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry.

The Government will protect Finland's waters and especially the vulnerable Archipelago Sea. The Government will continue the Archipelago Sea Programme⁸⁴. The programme focuses on measures of a significant scale to improve nutrient cycles, such as circulation of nutrients of animal origin, improved retention capacity of soil, and removal of nutrients from waters. The Government will strengthen the overall coordination of administrative branches and research (SDG target 14.1).

The discharge of sulphur scrubber water and greywater from vessels into the sea will be banned in Finland's territorial waters, and the discharge limit concerning treated sewage effluent will be made more specific. Finland will strengthen cooperation in international forums (such as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)) together with other Baltic Sea countries, especially the neighbouring countries. The Government will ensure adequate oil spill response preparedness in response to national commitments and the needs arising from changes in the operating environment (SDG target 14.1).

84 <https://www.ely-keskus.fi/web/saaristomeri/saaristomeri-ohjelma> (in Finnish)

The Government will launch a programme on voluntary protection of marine nature and map out other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) as part of solution-oriented activities (SDG target 14.2).

The Government will improve opportunities for recreational fishing and the operating conditions of commercial fishers to promote the domestic consumption and exports of fish (SDG target 14.b).

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

Finland is in favour of the stricter limits for air emissions and discharges into water from shipping and targets and actions improving the management of ship-generated waste being negotiated in the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Finland supported an outcome that is as ambitious as possible concerning the protection of the marine environment in the negotiations on the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The BBNJ Agreement responds to target 14.c and, among other things, enables the establishment of marine protection areas (MPAs) in international marine areas. Finland signed the agreement in September 2023.

In negotiations conducted in the International Seabed Authority (ISA), Finland belongs to the group of countries calling for the ISA to not allow the exploitation of seabed mineral resources until the finalisation of the Mining Code supplementing the UNCLOS provisions. Prior to allowing this, sufficient research data on seabed ecosystems and the impacts of exploitation will also be required to inform decision-making.

Finland participates actively in the negotiations underway between UN Member States on a treaty to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Finland aims for an agreement on the contents of the treaty to be reached during 2024, so that the treaty can be adopted during 2025. Finland also belongs to the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution aiming towards the treaty on plastic pollution by supporting negotiations between UN Member States.

Finland allocates core funding to marine protection and administrative development through multilateral funding channels such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its International Waters (IW) focal area. Through GEF, funding is channelled to developing countries for purposes including support for the ratification of the BBNJ Agreement and early action activities under the Agreement to protect marine areas.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) fund the IMO GreenVoyage2050 project, which builds the capacities of administrations and ports of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) and to speed up legislation supporting shipping's energy transition.

Finland supports the Commission's efforts in the WTO negotiations of fisheries subsidies, which are a contribution of the WTO to the achievement of the SDGs (SDG target 14.6).

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 the objectives.

15.2: The National Forest Strategy 2035 promotes the sustainable management and use of forests, for example through Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management. The Deforestation Regulation is being implemented.

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: Action is being taken within the framework of national, EU and international law, for example 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 is implemented and, in compliance with these, five national management plans to prevent invasive alien species have been prepared.

15.9: The economic values of different species have been introduced into planning processes, but the work is still ongoing. An eight-year Biodiversity LIFE project is underway in Finland, providing all ministries and agencies in their administrative branches with support and training in biodiversity impact assessment and in monitoring the targeting of funding.

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 will ensure the preservation of natural capital as part of a responsible economic policy and will aim to halt the loss of biodiversity.
- The Government will continue and develop the METSO Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland, the Helmi Habitats Programme and the NOUSU Migratory Fish Programme.

- Finland's ability to adapt to climate change will be supported by strengthening biodiversity, including by intensifying the control of invasive alien species and promoting active nature management in commercial forests.
- The Government will protect the remaining state-owned old-growth forests that are in their natural state and meet the national criteria.

Finland is committed to the implementation of the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁸⁵. Finland will submit its national commitments for the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to the European Commission during 2024. A process to prepare a new National Biodiversity Strategy and an action plan to 2035 related to this is currently underway. Finland is actively engaged in the development of the Kunming-Montreal monitoring framework and related indicators, so that full use will be made of the sustainable development indicators.

In addition to preparing the National Biodiversity Strategy, the Government will continue and develop the METSO Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland⁸⁶ and the Helmi Habitats Programme to strengthen biodiversity in Finland and to safeguard the vital ecosystem services provided by nature⁸⁷ (SDG target 15.1). The METSO Programme enables private forest owners to protect biodiversity in their forests. Through the programme, a forest owner can protect their forest either for a fixed term or permanently, or they can carry out nature management work. The Helmi Habitats Programme in turn strengthens biodiversity in Finland and ensures the vital ecosystem services provided by nature as well as nature values. Under the programme, mires are protected and restored, aquatic bird habitats and wetlands are restored, invasive alien small carnivores are controlled, and seminatural grasslands and wooded pastures are managed. Voluntary action is a key nature conservation principle for the Government, and these programmes are an important component of Finland's compliance with EU and international obligations. In addition, private-sector measures and biodiversity roadmaps are of primary importance for halting biodiversity loss.

85 <https://ym.fi/en/eu-biodiversity-strategy>

86 <https://mmm.fi/en/forests/biodiversity-and-protection/metso-programme>

87 <https://ym.fi/en/helmi-habitats-programme>

The Government is strongly committed to measures promoting biodiversity in Finland's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan 2023–2027. Finland's CAP Strategic Plan contains a broad range of measures promoting biodiversity. Some of the measures are mandatory for all farmers and are the condition for the payment of all aid to farmers, whereas some of the measures are voluntary.

The Government promotes, through measures under the National Forest Strategy 2035,⁸⁸ the active, sustainable and diverse use of forests and stronger vitality, biodiversity and adaptability of forests. Through its policy, the Government will promote measures that improve the health and growth of forests and will strengthen the performance of timely and proportionate thinning operations, while also taking care of the backlog in the management of seedling stands and in first thinnings. The monitoring, anticipation and prevention of forest damage will be developed. Measures to improve biodiversity will be implemented as part of sustainable forestry, including by promoting active nature management in commercial forests. In addition, the Government will explore making use of environmental competitive tendering (SDG target 15.2).

Finland will start the preparation of the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Law during 2024.

The preconditions for the Saimaa ringed seal (*Pusa hispida saimensis*) population to grow will be ensured (SDG target 15.5). The Government considers it important to intensify the prevention of invasive alien species and seeks to enable the hunting and utilisation of species that have strong enough populations and that cause damage to nature and people (SDG target 15.8).

The Government will enable the introduction of voluntary visitors' fees to strengthen the finances of national parks and explore the opportunities to make use of fees collected from partner companies.

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

In developing countries, the Government will promote Finnish expertise and safeguarding of biodiversity as well as sustainable forestry and afforestation projects and other projects relating to natural resources that improve local living conditions and increase the global carbon sink.

88 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-366-748-8>

Finland will actively engage in international cooperation concerning biodiversity. Finland will participate and negotiate as part of the EU in Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The next one (CBD COP16) will convene in Colombia in October 2024. Finland will promote the implementation and monitoring of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources and the rights of indigenous peoples.

The majority of Finland's international biodiversity funding for developing countries is channelled through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Finland exerts active influence in their decision-making bodies.

In developing countries, the Government will promote sustainable forestry and afforestation projects utilising Finnish expertise as well as other projects that improve local living conditions and increase the global carbon sink.

Finland will support its biggest development cooperation partner, Ukraine, in assessing the environmental damage caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, planning restoration measures and developing Ukrainian environmental administration. The support will be allocated to work carried out by UNEP in Ukraine. The support will complement work already carried out by Finland as a co-chair of the working group on environmental safety of Ukraine's Peace Formula.

Finland supports the mapping of the world's forests as well as the collection and reporting of forest data with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN. This provides partner countries with more detailed information about their forests and enables them to establish long-term programmes for forest use and conservation. The data also enables countries to report on progress made towards the SDGs and the goals and targets of UN climate and biodiversity conventions. Free software for forest measurement, forest data calculation and reporting launched with Finland's support has been used by more than 200,000 individuals in 196 countries. The Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and Finnish consultants have been involved in creating this software.

Finland supports projects including administration, conservation and commercial utilisation of forests, forest-sector job creation and training, and timber and honey value chains in Tanzania. In a project launched in 2024, Finnish forest-sector enterprise actors and experts can offer solutions in fields including the development of farmer organisations and institutions, technologies, equipment, education and training.

Under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Finland promotes gender equality and the improved status and land rights of women and girls. Ensuring land management rights for women, small-scale farmers and vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, strengthens agricultural productivity, household wellbeing, and food security. Secured land management encourages farmers to invest their work and limited resources. A Junior Professional Officer (JPO) financed by Finland strengthens equality and land management work in the UNCCD secretariat. Finland carries out advocacy with EU Member States and at UNCCD Conferences of the Parties.

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:

16.1, 16.2: There has mainly been a downward trend in the total number of all offences since 1990. The number of some types of offence has, however, increased.

16.3: International comparative studies show that the rule of law has a solid foundation in Finland. The 2023 Rule of Law Index published by the World Justice Project ranked Finland third after Denmark and Norway. Lengthy legal processes and high legal costs still remain the most significant challenges in terms of legal protection in Finland.

16.4: There are around 90–100 criminal organisations identified in Finland, involving around 1,000 individuals. The majority of these are groups that wear special insignia, such as motorcycle gangs, their local sub-branches and support groups.

16.5: Finland is ranked as one of the least corrupt countries in the world in international comparisons.

16.6, 16.7: The 2023 Legatum Prosperity Index⁸⁹ ranks Finland's governance as the most effective in the world, with people's political and social rights being effectively realised in Finland. The Governance pillar of the 2023 Legatum Prosperity Index measures the extent to which there are checks and restraints on power and whether governments operate effectively and without corruption.

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

- The Government will promote the implementation of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.
- A society built on trust and good relations between population groups arises from the fact that everyone in Finland can trust that their rights and the principles of gender equality, equality before the law and non-discrimination will be respected and that they will be able to improve their own lives.
- Everyone has the right to be happy and safe in Finland.

There has been a downward trend in the total number of all offences in Finland. In 1990, there were 1,150 offences per 10,000 population, whereas the corresponding figure in 2022 was 855.⁹⁰ In 2023, a total of 511,200 offences against the Criminal Code were recorded by the authorities, up 7.4% year on year. In 2023, a total of 57 offences against life were recorded, which is fewer than at any time since 1980⁹¹.

Violence against children and young people has, however, increased in recent years. In addition, the share of children and young people among all suspected offenders is on the increase. The number of reported cases relating to sexual abuse of a child has increased manyfold since 1980. The increase in the number of

89 <https://prosperity.com/rankings>

90 Beuker, A, 2023 Rikollisuustilanne 2022: rikollisuuskehitys tilastojen ja tutkimusten valossa [Crime trends in the light of statistics and research], available at <https://helda.helsinki.fi/server/api/core/bitstreams/4880dad7-bf96-4840-be46-233bb02e8454/content>

91 More information: Statistics Finland, <https://stat.fi/en/publication/cln328ikz5bck0bvzrnax22se>

offences included in the statistics does not, however, unambiguously indicate an increase in sexual abuse of children as a phenomenon. Instead, there are factors including increased efficiency of control by the authorities and a higher risk of getting caught underlying the increase. This is indicated by research findings from surveys concerning sexual abuse of children. The amount of human trafficking recorded by the authorities has increased manyfold over the past ten years, but the phenomenon is also identified better. In Finland, this abuse has mainly entailed forced labour. There has been a major increase in the number of identified criminal groups over the past twenty years.

The judicial system, civil society, participatory democracy and the use of public power lay the foundation for a society built on trust and a safe everyday life. The fight against crime and other societal problems will focus on prevention, identification of root causes and enforcement of criminal liability.

Finland will contribute to the promotion of human security and prevent the growth of inequality in security. In addition to rights, the Government will emphasise the obligations and responsibilities of individuals.

The Government will employ a variety of measures to reduce all violence in society. The rise in youth and gang crime has been identified as a serious problem, and the Government is committed to taking the necessary measures to combat and reduce youth and gang crime. In April 2024, the Government adopted a Government Resolution on the Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Youth and Gang Crime⁹². Violence against women as well as domestic and intimate partner violence will be combated by strengthening the ability of public authorities, municipal actors and wellbeing services counties to prevent and identify them. The prerequisites for identifying and intervening in violence against boys and men will also be improved, and measures will be taken to identify and combat honour-based violence. The Government will promote occupational safety and the prevention of violence in working life. Among other things, the Government will improve the legal protection of care and rescue personnel in work-related situations involving violence to correspond with the legal protection of public officials. (SDG target 16.1).

Victims' awareness of their opportunities to receive protection will be improved. The Government will work to improve access to services provided by shelters and rape crisis centres. As a rule, mediation in cases involving domestic or intimate

92 <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/paatokset/paatokset?decisionId=1265> (in Finnish)

partner violence will be discontinued. The EU funding opportunities of civil society organisations engaged in the prevention of violence and crime will be expanded. The Government will draw up an action plan for victim policy aimed at securing the funding of support services for crime victims and improving the position of victims in criminal proceedings (SDG target 16.1).

The Government will continue the work to ensure non-violent childhoods. The Government will take measures to ensure that in cases of sexual violence against a child, the criminal investigation is in the best interests of the child and that multi-professional support is provided through cooperation between different authorities. Common plans and approaches will be introduced to prevent school violence and intervene in violent situations, making use of existing schemes, such as the South Karelian one. The Government will reinforce the powers of the Regional State Administrative Agencies to carry out oversight of legality regarding schools. The Government will tighten the legislation concerning child abuse material (CAM) in order to protect children who are victims of serious offences. Possession of a depiction of violence will be criminalised and provisions on an aggravated form of possession of an image depicting a child in a sexual manner will be added to the Criminal Code (SDG target 16.2).

The Government will ensure the operating conditions for the administration of justice. In 2023, appropriations for the administration of justice were increased in the General Government Fiscal Plan, with the appropriation level increasing gradually from 2024 onwards so that the permanent appropriation increase will be EUR 75 million from 2027 onwards. The Government Report on Administration of Justice is due for submission to Parliament by the end of September 2026. The Government will reform the civil procedure, the criminal procedure and the procedure for considering petitionary matters. The aim is to speed up and streamline judicial proceedings while securing the legal protection and fundamental rights of parties. The Government will also assess the possibilities to transfer certain suitable matters, such as applications for debt adjustment and summary debt collection cases, from district courts to other authorities. Finland will also introduce a civil procedure for minor disputes in disputes concerning eviction or apartment rent. Court mediation will be developed, and the use of alternative dispute resolution methods will be increased.

The Government will also create conditions for the prompt resolution of appeals concerning international protection. The Government will examine the need to reform the Arbitration Act and prepare the legislative amendments needed to

promote the competitiveness of Finnish arbitration activities. The Arbitration Act will be modernised in technical respects to correspond to the best international practices. Better support will be provided to companies facing difficulties. The Government will take measures to promote the realisation of criminal liability and liability for damages in bankruptcy cases. The Act on the Supervision of the Administration of Bankruptcy Estates will be updated to meet today's needs on the basis of needs for further specification and additions observed in practical supervision work by, for example, increasing access to accounting records. In addition, the Government will explore the possibilities to establish a register for estate administrators. The aim is to improve the quality of insolvency proceedings and the targeting of supervision work (SDG target 16.3).

The Government will simplify the procedure for the attachment of income and examine the allocation of funds and any needs for changes to enforcement proceedings. The Government will explore ways to intervene more effectively in situations where enforcement proceedings are being evaded. The aim is to step up the fight against the grey economy and economic crime in enforcement proceedings.

The Government will improve the conditions for providing more consistent and high-quality legal aid, public guardianship and financial and debt counselling services by establishing a national legal services authority. Access to legal aid will be improved and the use of legal aid in mediation will be promoted (SDG target 16.3).

Exit activities carried out by the National Bureau of Investigation will be expanded to cover not only organised crime and violent extremism but also members of street gangs. The Government will make the exchange of information between the authorities smoother. Cooperation with the third sector will continue in prevention and exit activities concerning organised crime and violent extremism. The Government will update the national action plan for the prevention and combating of violent radicalisation and extremism. The Government will enable the use of more extensive covert coercive measures for persons active in criminal gangs. The Government will update the strategy for combating organised crime and prepare the necessary legislative proposals. The confiscation of proceeds of crime will also be eased (SDG target 16.4).

Finland promotes the rule of law and the fight against corruption in the EU (SDG target 16.5).

The Government will develop the monitoring and ex post evaluation of legislation. Knowledge of the functioning of regulation currently in force and any need for amendments plays a key role in forming the knowledge base for legislative drafting and for the achievement of the objectives of regulation. In addition, monitoring and ex post evaluation promote the openness, accountability and acceptability of decision-making. Efforts will also be made to further improve the clarity and comprehensibility of communication by authorities. The Government will promote linguistic rights by continuing to implement the measures defined in the Strategy for the National Languages of Finland and in the Language Policy Programme. (SDG target 16.6).

The Act on the Agency for the Special Authorities within Judicial Administration will enter into force at the beginning of 2025. The Agency for the Special Authorities within Judicial Administration will consist of 11 authorities that are autonomous and independent in their duties. The agency will also have a joint administrative services unit. The purposes of this change include to bolster independence and improve the special authorities' opportunities to focus their resources on working on substance (SDG target 16.6).

The Government will launch a reform of the prison network to ensure the safe and cost-effective enforcement of sentences. The rehabilitation of prisoners will also be developed. The Government will also explore ways to improve the attractiveness of the Prison and Probation Service as an employer. The Government will also remove obstacles to the exchange of information in the combating of crime (SDG target 16.6).

The Government will prepare and implement a national programme to promote democracy and participation and prepare a strategy for civil society organisations. The Government Resolution on the Civil Society Organisations Strategy⁹³ was adopted in June 2024. A particular objective of the democracy programme is to increase voter turnout and to strengthen the participation of children and young people. Parliament will discuss issues related to the development of the citizens' initiative system and other initiative and consultation systems. The Government will develop practices relating to elections and voting. The Government will carry out cross-administrative work to explore scenarios for conducting elections during

93 <https://oikeusministerio.fi/kansalaisjarjestostrategia> (in Finnish)

various crisis and emergency situations. The Government will also improve the proportionality of the electoral system by launching a parliamentary process to prepare a new electoral regions model for electoral districts where the hidden vote threshold is particularly high. The broader introduction of good practices in democracy education and human rights education will also be promoted. A culture of good discussion and exchange of opinions will also be strengthened in society in Finland, starting at an early age, while safeguarding the constitutional freedom of expression and opinion (SDG target 16.7).

The Government will strengthen the rule of law by preparing and implementing Finland's fourth National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. In addition, the Government will ensure the availability of court services in Swedish in bilingual areas and will overhaul national data protection legislation. The Government will overhaul the Emergency Powers Act. The aim is to bring the Emergency Powers Act in line with the modern concept for comprehensive security and factors threatening it as well as the identification of various threats and incidents with serious impacts (SDG target 16.10).

Finland's actions to promote the SDG internationally

A well-functioning democracy, the rule of law, human rights and a vibrant civil society are prerequisites for sustainable social development, which the Government will support. Finland particularly invests in the promotion of the rights of vulnerable persons and anti-discrimination activities.

Finland supports the development of the rule of law and democratic decision-making and improves public administration. Finland strengthens legal systems and supports multiparty dialogue.

Finland supports independent and pluralistic civil societies, the realisation of human rights and the participation of women and persons with disabilities in decision-making. Finland strengthens independent media and supports human rights-based digital governance.

Finland has made determined efforts to build its profile in the peacebuilding sector and is seeking membership of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for 2027–2028, which also supports Finland's campaign for a seat on the UN Security Council for 2029–2030.

Finland supports the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, which provides finance for peacebuilding projects in countries suffering from conflicts. Finland has sought to promote the financing of the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas. It is also important for Finland to steer funding to local civil society organisations and, in particular, organisations led by women and young people.

In line with the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and on Youth, Peace and Security, Finland promotes the participation of women and young people in peace talks and in societal decision-making and debate concerning peace and security through the implementation of national action plans (16.1). Finland supports the preparation of national youth-inclusive Youth, Peace and Security action plans in fragile and developing countries with a view to strengthening their stability and democracy development.

Finland will strengthen its peace mediation expertise and capacity also by means of the Centre for Peace Mediation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The centre coordinates the broad cooperation required in peace mediation and promotes the participation of Finns in international peace mediation and dialogue processes.

The focus areas in Finland's arms control policy are to combat illegal arms trading and improve 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 (16.4).

Finland supports the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine, which strengthens human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Ukraine to align them with European standards. The Action Plan also supports the reconstruction process and economic recovery in Ukraine, strengthens the resilience of Ukrainian public institutions as well as the decentralisation process. The Action Plan focuses in particular on strengthening the rights of the most vulnerable groups and the population affected by war (including minorities, displaced people, persons with disabilities, women, girls and children).

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

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

17.1: Finland supports the strengthening of the domestic revenue base and tax systems of developing countries.

17.2–17.5: Historically, Finland has been committed to allocating 0.7% of its GNI to development funding in accordance with the UN recommendation, even though this target has not been reached. Due to the weak state of general government finances, Finland is making extensive adjustments in different administrative branches, and cuts also have to be targeted at international development cooperation. The savings are implemented gradually, taking account of commitments made. When examining the levels of development cooperation appropriations, it should be noted that only a small part of the finance required for sustainable development can be covered by public development cooperation funds in the first place. In order to build a successful development policy, both grant-based assistance and funding in the form of loans and investments will be needed. Greater synergies will be created by using different forms and instruments of financing in a complementary manner. Sustainable development needs call, above all, for private finance and the strengthening of developing countries' own domestic revenue base. Finland seeks to use its development cooperation funds increasingly as incentives for private investments and, in addition, to support developing countries in efforts including developing their own tax systems.

17.6–17.8: Finland has strengthened its support to UN innovation and technology activities and currently hosts offices of the UNICEF Office of Innovation and of the UN Global Pulse programme, which strengthens UN innovation capacity by means of methods including making use of technology and foresight. Finland also supports the development and increase of geographical diversity of the production capacity of

prioritised epidemic and pandemic vaccines through international cooperation by, for example, financing the work of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

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

17.10–17.12: Finland exerts influence through the EU on multilateral trade negotiations in a way that promotes the integration of developing countries into the international trade system and takes into account the special needs of the poorest countries.

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

17.18–17.19: Production of statistics and disaggregated data by multilateral organisations carrying out development cooperation is promoted as part of development cooperation. In addition, funding is provided through core funding of CSO core functions to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), the purpose of which is to provide all actors with tools for development finance and outcome reporting for open use as knowledge capital.

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

Finland will support measures to increase the private sector's participation in development cooperation and finance, as only a small share of the funding needed to implement the SDGs can be covered by public funding.

In its development finance, the Government will prioritise development policy investments that promote the allocation of capital to business activities. A development policy investment strategy supporting this objective will be formulated for the Government term. So far, Finland's investments can be estimated as having leveraged more than EUR 2 billion in other finance. In 2023, the Ministry

for Foreign Affairs joined the Investment Mobilisation Collaboration Alliance (IMCA) of the Nordic countries and the USA, which aims catalyse private capital more efficiently for investment projects in developing countries.

To increase the efficiency of development finance, Finland also aims to strengthen developing countries' own domestic revenue base, particularly through the development of their tax systems.

Finland has an established operating model for broad-scale cooperation with CSOs in the various sectors of development cooperation and development policy. Finland will continue its long-term support to partnerships based on civil society actors' own strengths and CSO multi-actor cooperation with the private and public sectors. Finland also acts in the OECD to support civil society actors in development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

EU trade policy can contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs. Finland supports the conclusion of EU trade agreements with developing countries. As regards the revision of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), Finland's stance is that the GSP should remain as open as possible to developing countries. Finland also exerts influence in contexts such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In spring 2024, the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference adopted a declaration on the best practices concerning the implementation of special and differential treatment provisions of agreements on technical barriers to trade and on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Finland supported the decision (17.10, 17.11, 17.12).

Finland's support for innovation and digitalisation work can be seen strongly in advocacy and measures within the UN system. Finland finances the Finnish office of UN Global Pulse and the UN Futures Lab operating under it. UN Global Pulse develops capacity across the UN system to make use of new technology and innovations as part of UN activities. UN Futures Lab in turn develops strategic foresight tools for the UN system to use.

Finland supports the UN Secretary-General's digital and AI agenda by means including financing the work of the Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence in 2023–2024. Finland participates in and actively influences the formulation of EU positions in the UN's global processes on digital administration, such as the Global Digital Compact process.

3 Finland's sustainable development implementation system and actors

Government

The Government addresses its objectives concerning the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as part of the implementation of the Government Programme through its leadership system. The Government holds regular joint negotiations and evening sessions to update the Government's shared situational picture concerning the Government Programme as a whole as well as the various themes and to outline means of implementing the objectives of the Government Programme towards the goal of the Government Programme – a strong and committed Finland.

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 seven thematic ministerial working groups have been appointed by the Government: on a sustainable welfare society, on employment and entrepreneurship, on clean energy, the environment and security of supply, on internal security and administration of justice, on children, youth and families, on physically active lifestyles and functional capacity, and on social transformation. The ministerial working groups seek to achieve a strong cross-administrative approach and coherence in the preparation and implementation of policy measures and legislation.

Central government

The central government implements the sustainable development goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda within the framework provided by the objectives and measures set out by the Government Programme and the General Government Fiscal Plan. This report brings together the Government's measures to implement the 2030 Agenda and provides an overall picture of the Government's measures.

Several ministries have adopted the 2030 Agenda and sustainability as a key element of the ministry's strategy and other key 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 coordination networks for sustainability and responsibility action.

Cross-administrative coordination and ensuring of policy coherence takes place in many forums of public officials, with the key ones for this report being the meeting of permanent secretaries, the Sustainable Development Coordination Network and the advisory staff network. All ministries are represented in these networks.

Participation of society as a whole

The Government carries on Finland's long-running tradition of participation of society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. 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 major stages of 2030 Agenda implementation where the broad-based involvement of society is vital. The Strategy of the National Commission on Sustainable Development⁹⁴ seeks to accelerate the national implementation of the SDGs.

The work of the National Commission on Sustainable Development is spurred on by the Finnish Agenda 2030 Youth Group and the Youth Climate and Nature Group established as its sub-group in spring 2023. Efforts are also made to include young people's expert groups more broadly in policy processes playing a key role in the realisation of sustainability and intergenerational justice. In its work, the Commission is also supported by an independent Expert Panel on Sustainable Development. The Development Policy Committee was made a permanent parliamentarily and societally representative advisory body by a Government Decree issued in 2019. The mandate of the Committee includes the global responsibility and strengthening of development policy effectiveness that are a part of sustainable development.

94 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-084-4>

Assessment of the implementation system

An independent assessment of Finland's implementation as well as guidance and direction system of the 2030 Agenda was published in February 2023⁹⁵. The scope of the assessment covered central government measures and guidance and direction systems in 2019–2022. The assessment was conducted as part of the implementation of the Government Plan for Analysis, Assessment and Research. The assessment made use of document analysis, interviews, a survey, reference country analyses and workshops.

According to the assessment, target-setting in Finland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda is clearer than before and there is a stronger systematic approach in implementation. The goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda are reflected the most clearly in the strategies and performance guidance of the various administrative branches, but there is major variation between the administrative branches in practices. The goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda are not, however, taken sufficiently into account in the drafting of provisions and budgeting.

A key strength of the Finnish guidance and direction framework identified by the assessment is the extensive and long-term commitment to promoting sustainable development. Weaknesses include complexity and fragmentation. The current model provides inadequate support for cross-administrative guidance and direction and concurrent attention to the various dimensions of sustainability. Although Finland is strongly represented in international forums, global responsibility should be reflected more strongly in the activities of all administrative branches.

95 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-381-4> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

4 Follow-up of national 2030 Agenda implementation

The Government leads the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland. Parliament supervises and reviews the activities of the Government and the administration, thereby ensuring full accountability. In addition, the participation of Parliament in the discussion of sustainable development issues and in the follow-up of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is important to ensuring policy coherence. This report enables the broad-based consideration of the outlook for and recent development in the promotion of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the descriptions of the ministries' performance appended to the Government's annual report submitted to Parliament describe the implementation of the SDGs in each administrative branch.

The national implementation of the 2030 Agenda is also followed up in the form of the national progress reports submitted to the UN, with the next one to be presented in July 2025. Alongside central government, a broad group of stakeholders also take part in the preparation of the national progress reports. Key partners in this process include the Expert Panel of Sustainable Development, the 2030 Agenda Youth Group and the members of the National Commission on Sustainable Development.

Other key forums for the follow-up and review of the 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 actions to promote a sustainability transition. One of the Commission's duties is to assess the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland. The Development Policy Committee in turn 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 assessing the implementation of Finland's international development policy commitments and development policy. In addition, the Committee issues recommendations on the planning and implementation of development policy and also more broadly on the policy-coherent promotion of sustainable development.

The indicator-based monitoring of sustainable development in Finland takes place through a public database⁹⁶ based on global sustainable development indicators, which is created and maintained by Statistics Finland. In addition, the general framework for sustainability reporting within the central government is based on the UN 2030 Agenda. In their sustainability reports, the organisations examine their activities in the light of SDGs defined in the 2030 Agenda. The State Treasury is responsible for developing sustainability reporting within the central government.

The Prime Minister's Office has begun conducting an annual societal sustainability assessment to strengthen the overall picture of the current state of sustainability challenges facing Finnish society, outline development prospects extending across parliamentary terms and identify the interdependencies between these. The sustainability assessments, which examine society extensively as a whole, are able to identify significant cross-administrative and multi-sectoral leverage factors. The first discussion paper of the sustainability assessment was published in May 2024⁹⁷. The assessments make it possible to prioritise actions promoting sustainability, strengthen positive developments in society, and avoid and mitigate solutions that, in responding to a certain challenge, may create significant unwanted side effects in other areas at the same time. This means that the assessments seek to contribute towards stronger policy coherence in sustainable development and a stronger knowledge base in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The assessments examine the five sustainability perspectives: ecological sustainability, human and cultural sustainability, social and health sustainability, economic sustainability, and the sustainability of security, the rule of law and democracy. In addition to the ministries, the preparation involves participation by key actors and stakeholders in society.

Currently comprising 14 researchers, the independent Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development operates in conjunction with the Prime Minister's Office and provides science-based support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The panel provides a research-based understanding to support decision-making and social debate affecting sustainable development in Finland. Its work aims to promote the reconciliation of complex environmental, economic and social issues. The special task of the panel is to support the work of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. The panel provides statements and produces independent policy recommendations and other starting points for debate to support decision-making.

96 https://stat.fi/tup/kestavan-kehityksen-yk-indikaattorit-agenda2030_en.html

97 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-380-7> (in Finnish, abstract in English)

Appendix: Sustainable Development Goals and targets

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 USD 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
- 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.

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”.

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.

16. Promote peaceful societies and provide access to justice for all; build effective and accountable 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.

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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