

# Finland and the 2030 Agenda

A follow-up report by CSOs

2019





#### PUBLISHER

Fingo ry

#### SERIES OF REPORTS NO. 129

#### PUBLISHED IN

July 2019

#### ISBN (PAPER BACK)

978-952-200-261-7

#### ISBN (PDF)

978-952-200-260-0

#### ISSN 1236-4797

#### AUTHORS

Central Organisation of Finnish

Trade Unions SAK

Committee of 100 in Finland

Finn Church Aid

Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

Finnish Development NGOs Fingo

National Union of University Students

in Finland

Peace Union of Finland

Plan International Finland

SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social

Affairs and Health

UN Association of Finland

#### LAYOUT

Nici Lönnberg

#### EDITORS

Outi Hakkarainen

Mirka Kartano

Anni Piironen

#### TRANSLATION FROM FINNISH

Mark Waller

#### FINGO

Elimäenkatu 25-27

00510 Helsinki, Finland

+358 50 317 6690

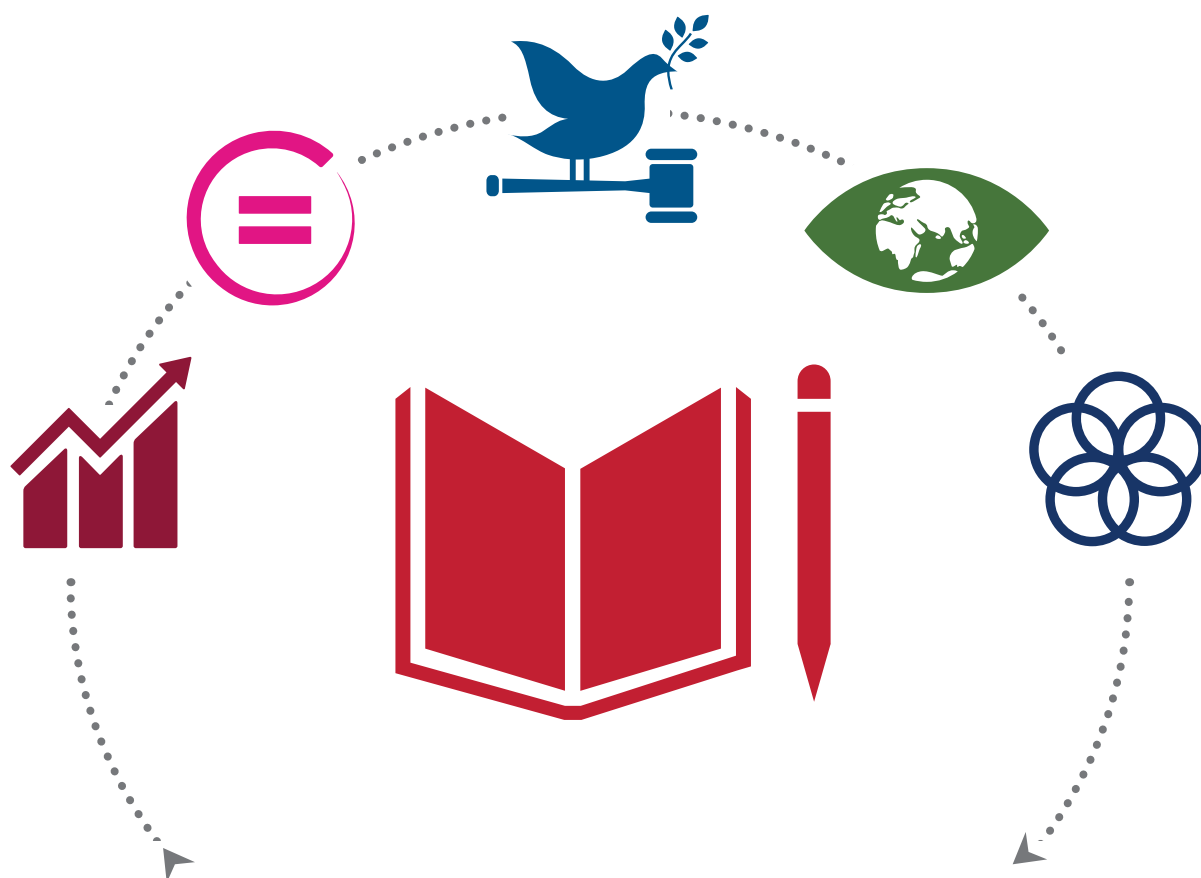
[www.fingo.fi](http://www.fingo.fi)

[info@fingo.fi](mailto:info@fingo.fi)

*With support from Finland's  
development cooperation.*

## Content

<b>Sustainable development as a starting point for decision-making</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Goal 4: Quality education</b>	<b>4</b>
Global – Finn Church Aid	
National and local – National Union of University Students in Finland	
<b>Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth</b>	<b>8</b>
Global, national and local – Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK	
<b>Goal 10: Reduced inequalities</b>	<b>12</b>
Global – UN Association of Finland	
National and local – SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health	
<b>Goal 13: Climate action</b>	<b>16</b>
Global – Plan International Finland	
National and local – Finnish Association for Nature Conservation	
<b>Goal 16: Peace and Justice</b>	<b>19</b>
Global, national and local – Committee of 100 in Finland and Peace Union of Finland	
<b>Goal 17: Partnership and cooperation</b>	<b>22</b>
Global, national and local – Finnish Development NGOs Fingo	



## Sustainable development as a starting point for decision-making

**THE NEW GOVERNMENT** has a historic opportunity to establish in a new way how resolutely Finland responds to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and to the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement. Its programme is the first government programme since these crucial international commitments were made in 2015. Civil society actors had high expectations for the programme, when it was known that the government would be formed by the Social Democratic Party, Centre, Greens, Left Alliance, and Swedish People's Party.

Finland has actively taken up the 2030 Agenda. It made a Voluntary National Review (VNR)<sup>1</sup> at the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in 2016 and drew up a national implementation plan<sup>2</sup> in 2017. Finland

has set up an indicator and monitoring system, scrutinised the state budget from the sustainable development perspective, and has openly involved different actors. The government has thus a strong basis from which to promote the SDGs and, promisingly, its programme has a comprehensive approach of sustainable development.<sup>3</sup> However, there are also shortcomings, as we discuss below.

The national implementation plan was based on participatory preparation, but many of those involved felt that the programme's specific objectives were modest, replicating the 2015 government programme. But it was great that the plan was published as a government report, which meant it received extensive scrutiny by parliamentary committees, and that its basic principles are sound. Sustainable devel-

<sup>1</sup> Prime Minister's Office, PMO (2016). *National report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Finland*. PMO, Helsinki.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Minister's Office, PMO (2017). *Government Report on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development in Finland – Long-term, Coherent and Inclusive Action*. PMO, Helsinki.

<sup>3</sup> Finnish Government (2019). *Programme of Prime Minister Antti Rinne's Government 6 June 2019. Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society*. Finnish Government, Helsinki.

opment activities of Finland will be long-term and transformational, consistent and that they will highlight global partnership, ownership, and participation.

The comprehensive monitoring system is laudable. It includes an external four-yearly evaluation. The first was the PATH 2030 study<sup>4</sup> published in March 2019. It provides useful elements for strengthening sustainable development policy, the main ones of which are to clarify national targets and to draw up a roadmap to achieve them.

CS actors have argued the importance to update the implementation plan so that it sets out both long-term goals and clear steps for the government term. More work is needed to reach this task, as updating the plan is not mentioned in the government programme. However, a road map and a schedule to achieve the SDGs will be produced.

“ *The new government programme has a comprehensive approach of sustainable development.* ”

Finland is monitoring the realisation of the SDGs in two ways. Under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office, the national monitoring network identified 10 monitoring baskets and for each of them 4–5 indicators for which data is already collected. Statistics Finland reports the results according to the nearly 250 indicators defined in the UN's 2030 Agenda, insofar as they are relevant to Finland and are available.

The starting point for the own indicator work has sought indicators that challenge Finland to pursue ambitious goals. Proper monitoring requires clarity on the needed information. If the information is not available, it must be obtained. New types of information gathering require resources, but Finland has designated regrettably little for indicator work.

CS actors have stressed<sup>5</sup> that the national indicators should be used as the government's strategic indicators. The government has not responded to this but has some welcome ideas on indicators in its programme. For example, indicators that describe economic, ecological and social wellbeing will be used as an aid to decision-making and indicators will be adopted for a circular economy programme.

In 2018, the Ministry of Finance took the progressive decision to incorporate sustainable development into the state budget. However, the 2019 draft budget was mainly scrutinised only in relation to the one of the national sustainable development priorities: a carbon neutral and resource wise

Finland. The government programme states that development budgeting will be fostered. Hopefully, it will extend the review to the second priority area: a non-discriminating, equal, and competent Finland.

It is recognised that the expertise of all social actors should be used. This can be seen in the sustainable development related government committees, where CS actors have broad representation. Openness is also evident in the creation of a youth 2030 Agenda group and the citizens' panel to collect information from the public. Some 500 volunteers participated in the first panel in early 2019.

The PATH 2030 report praises such broad participation but notes that young people in particular should be more involved, and that municipalities and cities need more support. The government emphasizes in its programme the importance of different sectors and is eager to increase cooperation with civil society. This is a welcome approach, but clarity is needed on what involvement in different contexts is desired and what scope exists for CS to influence decision-making.

Sustainable development requires coherent policy and the new government expresses good intentions on coherence and global responsibility in its programme, e.g. preparations for a law on mandatory human rights due diligence on based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, but the global dimension of sustainable development is not systemically expressed. There are still many steps to take to gain full policy coherence, assess the impact of all our actions on developing countries, and to base all our foreign policy on global responsibility.

Greater coherence is needed to ensure that funding for sustainable development is in line with how Finland talks about global responsibility. Finland should meet its commitments and increase development cooperation funding to the level of 0,7% of GNI. The government programme acknowledges this target but doesn't indicate when will reach it and makes only a modest funding increase for its term in office.

## Towards sustainable development through decisive climate action and protecting biodiversity

**CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION** and adaptation are key sustainable development activities. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>6</sup>, published in autumn 2018, is encouraging but solemn. It is possible for humankind to keep earth viable for future generations, but only with rapid, fundamental changes. We need structural chang-

4 Berg, Annukka et al. (2019). *PATH2030 – An evaluation of Finland's sustainable development policy*. Prime Minister's Office, Helsinki.

5 Finnish Development NGOs Fingo published in March 2019 a leaflet on the elements for a government programme based on sustainable development, its content was formulated in cooperation with the national 2030 Agenda CS network. Available in Finnish: <https://www.fingo.fi/ajankohtaista/julkaisut/kestavan-kehityksen-hallitusohjelma> (26.6.2019)

6 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC (2018). *Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report*. IPCC, Geneva.

es to solve many difficult and fraught issues. How do we safeguard people's basic needs and promote prosperity without drawing on the limited resources of our planet unsustainably? How do we secure enough decent jobs for people?

Climate action is a global undertaking. The only acceptable goal of climate policy in Finland is to curb the global increase in temperature to 1,5 degrees. The new government expresses a commitment to this aim. However, exact targets are partly lacking, and more ambitious goals are needed in the reduction of emissions and use of peat and in increasing the carbon sinks. The government shows international vanguardism by aiming to reach carbon neutral welfare society by 2035, although it should be done by 2030.

Climate change is strongly linked to the loss of biodiversity and the collapse of ecosystems. The conclusions of the study by the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)<sup>7</sup> in May 2019 are grim. Up to one million species may be pushed to extinction, most of them in the next few decades. Indigenous peoples and the world's poorest, in particular, are also at risk unless urgent action is taken to especially protect the species we need for food production, pollination, clean water and climate stability.

**“** *How do we safeguard people's basic needs and promote prosperity without drawing on the limited resources of our planet unsustainably?*

The efforts by countries to protect and restore habitats are inadequate. The IPBES report does nevertheless offer hope for the possibility of change. However, simply protecting individual species or regions does not repair the damage caused by humans. Attention needs to be paid to the systems at the source of change, such as consumption, trade, and economy. Both global warming and loss of biodiversity can be countered by so-called natural solutions, e.g. restoring habitats, but they must be done with due care. Increasing the use of bioenergy, the afforestation of other habitats, and tree plantations may also increase loss of biodiversity.

At the end of 2020, world leaders will meet in China to decide on 20-year targets to protect biodiversity. Finland must be internationally active to halt species extinction globally and to determine its commitments.

## Education, work, equality, climate action, peace, and cooperation

**THE UN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)** in July 2019 in New York will end the first four-year period of the 2030 Agenda monitoring forums. It was decided in 2016 that in 2017–2019 all the goals would be addressed, highlighting SDG 17, on cooperation and partnership, plus 5–6 other goals each year.

The follow-up reports by Finnish CS follow the same pattern. The 2017 and 2018 reports focused on the SDGs discussed at the New York forums in those years. In addition to SDG 17, the 2019 report includes Good Education (4), Decent Work and Economic Growth (8), Reducing Inequality (10), Climate Action (13) and Peace and Justice (16). The report was published in Finnish in May, and the new government programme in June. For this English version the introduction was updated to include observations on the new government programme but other sections are as they were in May.

Each report has been made by a group of organisations working on the themes for that year. Ten organisations have been responsible for the 2019 report, but other ones have contributed to the content. The report deals with each SDG from a global, national, and local perspective so that reviews of the current situation, visions for tomorrow, and concrete recommendations for decision-makers are presented.

<sup>7</sup> Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES (2019). *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES, Bonn.



## Goal 4: Quality education

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

Finn Church Aid<sup>1</sup>

### Global level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** There are some 263 million children and youth around the world who are out of school<sup>2</sup>. One in three of these children live in countries affected by conflicts or disasters<sup>3</sup>. Girls and the most vulnerable are mostly excluded from education.

There is a massive need in the world to improve the quality of teaching. Up to 330 million children and youth do not even learn basic skills.<sup>4</sup> Disruption of the learning path and a lack of basic skills undermine the chances of completing basic education and of acquiring the knowledge and skills needed for employment.

“ Up to 330 million children and youth do not even learn basic skills.

A 2017 World Bank report<sup>5</sup> refers to a learning crisis which affects the poorest children and youth the most, leading to ever deepening inequality. Some receive high quality education that gives them versatile skills, while others receive such poor quality education that they do not even learn at primary school to read and count.

There is an acute shortage of trained teachers. According to UNESCO, the biggest shortage of teachers is in sub-Saharan Africa. UNESCO estimates that about 69 million new teachers would be needed to meet the needs of quality education by 2030.<sup>6</sup> Teachers also need better resources and appreciation for their work. In many unstable countries, teachers are subject to threats and assaults because of their work, and sometimes their lives are at risk.

Although Finnish educational competence and the education system are widely acknowledged internationally, Finland does not take part in international cooperation networks in the field of education<sup>7</sup>. In addition, the share of Finnish development financing earmarked for education has remained modest<sup>8</sup>.

There is strong support among Finns for the role of education in development policy. Most respondents to the Foreign Ministry's annual survey on development cooperation thought that priority should be given in Finland's development policy to promoting education.<sup>9</sup>

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finnish decision-makers will see the need to invest in quality education, because not one of SDGs can be achieved without it. It is a basic prerequisite for poverty reduction, job creation, a sustainable economy, equality, stable democracies, and combating climate change. Education is a human right.

Finland will work actively to realise the goal of quality education by 2030. Its participation and expert contribution in international education networks will be widely appreciated.

Within Finland it will be appreciated that learning lies at the heart of education and that in responding to the learning crisis attention must be given to all levels of education, from early childhood education to higher education, not forgetting informal learning and the principle of lifelong learning. It will also be understood that education is an important building block for the future during disasters and conflicts.

Finland will allocate a significant share of its development cooperation resources to developing and supporting education in least developed countries, especially those affected by conflicts and disasters.

The expertise of Finnish educational professionals and the good learning outcomes produced by the Finnish education system will be utilised globally, including in development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

1 Other contributors: Save the Children Finland, the Finnish Refugee Council, Trade Union of Education in Finland, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions, Teachers Without Borders, UN Association of Finland, National Union of University Students in Finland.

2 House of Commons International Development Committee (2017). *DFID's work on education: Leaving no one behind?* November 2017. House of Commons, London.

3 UNICEF (2018). *A Future Stolen: Young and out of school*. UNICEF, New York.

4 House of Commons International Development Committee (2017). *DFID's work on education: Leaving no one behind?* November 2017. House of Commons, London.

5 World Bank (2018). *Learning to Realize Education's Promise*. World Development Report 2018. World Bank, Washington, D.C.

6 UNESCO (2016). *The World Needs Almost 69 Million New Teachers to Reach the 2030 Education Goals*.

7 Networks include Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Education Cannot Wait (ECW), Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and UN agencies such as UNESCO and UNICEF.

8 Between 2006 and 2016, funding for education was 5%-9%, €30 and €55 million a year.

9 Since 2009, Finns have considered education to be the most important field of development cooperation, except in 2015, when the Millennium Development Goals were highlighted.

---

### Finland must:

- ✓ Make quality education a development policy priority.
  - ✓ Plan an action programme for fostering the development policy role of education and coordinate cooperation among various actors.
  - ✓ Devote at least €100 million annually from the development cooperation budget to education.
  - ✓ Engage actively in international cooperation networks in the field of education and contribute to increasing attention and resources on the quality of education, including in multilateral cooperation and at EU level.
  - ✓ Highlight the safety and development of teachers' working conditions as a priority of development co-operation in the education sector.
  - ✓ Ensure the right to education in disaster and conflict situations in humanitarian aid resourcing.
  - ✓ Support and develop forms of cooperation by which the expertise of Finnish education professionals are better utilised in development cooperation and policy concerning education.
- 







## Goal 4: Quality education

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

National Union of University Students in Finland<sup>1</sup>

### National level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The principle of the Finnish education system is that everyone has the opportunity to be educated to university level. A publicly funded and clearly regulated system guarantees everyone the constitutional right to education. Equal and attainable education is one of the cornerstones of the welfare state and Finland's prosperity.

But Finland's skills level is declining. Since the late 1970s, the level of higher education for young adults has dropped and more recently the level of education of young people

**“ Equal and attainable education is one of the cornerstones of Finland's prosperity.**

has declined.<sup>2</sup> The employment situation of those with basic education is worsening; even secondary education is no longer a guarantee of thriving on the labour market.<sup>3</sup>

There are increasingly more people in Finland who have low basic education and poor opportunities to cope with changes in working life. About 600 000 Finns of working age have weak basic skills.<sup>4</sup>

The Finnish education system has been fairly flexible in terms of educational choices, the completion of studies and interweaving studies and work. However, graduate students are continually required to perform more quickly and more efficiently, making it difficult to maintain the capacity to study and progress with studies. Often, students enter working life with a hefty study debt burden, pressure to set up a family, consolidate their position on the labour market, and look after their own welfare.

The younger generation's outlook is characterised by uncertainty and mounting pressure. Levels of pay are not in-

creasing at the pace of those of previous generations, and the transformation of working life blurs the outlook for the future. The weakening dependency ratio puts pressure on economic capacity; a shrinking number of people will have to shoulder the subsistence and care costs of an ever-expanding group of people.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Thanks to the increasing level of education, there will be sufficient skills for both the needs of working life and the development of the welfare state. Everyone will be guaranteed the prerequisites and opportunity to participate in society. Adequate public funding and regulation will provide a solid foundation for everyone's education, no one's skills development will be an insurmountable financial burden.

It will be easy for citizens to structure their own learning. The knowledge people need will be easily sourced from one place. The various organisers of education, the public sector, business and working life and other actors in society will seamlessly cooperate to maintain an operational proficiency system. Education providers will have a new role in skills recognition, enabling the recognition of skills acquired at school, at work and at home, in addition to performance in formal education.

### Finland must:

- ✓ Invest in education, helping to maintain and develop society.
- ✓ Enable everyone to update their skills flexibly and obtain the necessary guidance for this.
- ✓ Enable extensive learner-centred collaboration between educational institutions.
- ✓ Ensure the skills development of people with low basic skills.
- ✓ Base the development of the education system on continuous learning, safeguard skills development for everybody.
- ✓ Make a 2030 Agenda policy for education and culture to ensure required knowledge on sustainable development.

1 Other contributors: Trade Union of Education in Finland, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions.

2 Kalenius, Aleksi & Hannu Karhunen (2018). *Miksi nuorten koulutustaso laskee?* Yhteiskuntapolitiikka 83 (2018): 5–6, 562–572.

3 Kalenius, Aleksi (2014). *Koulutus, työllisyys ja työttömyys*. Ministry of Education and Culture, Helsinki.

4 Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions, SAK (2017). *Katoavat työpaikat – Työllisten määrän ja rakenteen kehitys Suomessa 1987–2015*. SAK:n julkaisusarja 3/2017. Toukokuu 2017. SAK, Helsinki.

5 OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2013). *OECD Skills Outlook 2013: First Results from the Survey of Adult Skills*. OECD Publishing, Paris.





## Goal 4: Quality education

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

National Union of University Students in Finland<sup>1</sup>

### Local level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The development of education is going in the wrong direction. A strong education and training sector is a key factor in addressing societal challenges and further developing society.

The shining success of recent years reflected in the OECD's programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests and the hype generated in the 2000s have created an image of the superiority of Finnish education. In relation to available resources, the municipalities are doing a good job. But recently the educational level among youth has gone into a worrying decline.

Learning outcomes are also increasingly differentiated by gender, residential area, and teaching content priorities, leading in part to detrimental distinctions that become compounded later on in life.

“ *The educational level among youth has gone into a worrying decline.* ”

There are many expectations and demands placed on the education sector. The ongoing debate often calls for greater efficiency and productivity, the customary performance indicators in different sectors. But owing to the nature of education, it is difficult for municipalities to meet such requirements: automation and digitalisation do not add value as easily and straightforwardly as they do in many other sectors.

Participation in early childhood education is alarmingly low in Finland compared to other Nordic countries. Due to the transformation of working life, the career path of those remaining with basic level education does not appear to have improved at all, and the acquisition and updating of the basic skills of all citizens looks uncertain for both the young and older age groups.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** The overall level of education will have started to increase; everyone's basic skills will be in order. The municipalities will ensure that everybody can participate in taking care of common issues.

All children will have the subjective right to free, high quality early childhood education. Every young person will attain a secondary education qualification and will be sufficiently educated to go on to higher education if desired. Higher education is free, regionally accessible to all, and provides the high-quality skills needed for a successful career.

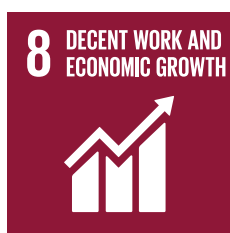
There will be enough funding for education and the value of investing in education will be understood in municipal decision-making. Social inclusion will be promoted, among other things, by funding for special interventions. Funding for guidance and other anti-exclusion services will ensure that no one will come unstuck between the levels of education or during training. A solid and good-quality training path will improve Finns' ability to work and prolong their working life.

---

### Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Increase the focus on education as the expectations and requirements related to it increase.
  - ✓ Ensure at least a secondary educational qualification for everyone. By developing guidance, secondary education and its completion can have a significant impact on sustaining careers and precluding exclusion.
  - ✓ Provide preparatory training and support for the study path at the transition phase, so that all those interested can have access to higher education.
  - ✓ Ensure equal access to quality early childhood education, basic education, plus library and cultural services for all.
  - ✓ Identify problems of participating in and accessing education.
- 

<sup>1</sup> Other contributors: Trade Union of Education in Finland, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions.



## Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

**- A sustainable economy is the foundation of people's livelihoods and wellbeing. Youth employment is one of the prerequisites for sustainable development everywhere in the world.**

Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK<sup>1</sup>

### Global level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** In terms of decent work and the way workers are treated, the world is roughly split into two groups: countries that operate on legal principles and other countries where trade union activity is banned or where workers who exercise their rights are oppressed.

By the end of the 2010s, over 40 per cent of workers in the world were without labour rights, a minimum wage or social security. Up to 40 million people work in conditions akin to slavery. Many of those who are in formal employment and their families live in poverty. Over 150 million children have to perform work that harms their health or development, and which hinders their school attendance. Half of these children work in dangerous conditions.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the human repercussions of the impacts of climate change, including wars and environmental disasters, the numbers of migrants in the world have increased. They often face an insecure position on the labour market, also in Western countries.

The position of workers further deteriorated since 2018. The majority of them worldwide do not enjoy the right to negotiate on pay and conditions collectively or to strike. Work-

abroad. Although more companies are voluntarily complying with the UN's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) it is not enough that some innovative companies act alone. Human rights violations continue to occur in global subcontracting chains, whose logic on earnings is based on cheap prices. The final link in the chain is often in the poorest corner of the world or region.

EU trade agreements are building the global rules on trade. Over the last few years basic labour rights and environmental protection conditions have been negotiated for them. But in the absence of sanctions for non-compliance, adherence to such conditions is often of secondary importance.

### Clothing from Bangladesh

Almost half of exports from Bangladesh are bound for the EU area. Those of the garment and footwear industry alone are worth nearly EUR16-billion a year.

Bangladesh is part of the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences), which assists developing countries, allowing all other products except arms to be brought into the EU free of tariffs and quotas. However, it is a condition that Bangladesh respects human and labour rights, as agreed in the 2013 EU-Bangladesh Sustainability Compact.

Nevertheless, the human rights situation in the country has worsened in recent years. Trade union activists and unionised workers have faced threats, been segregated, beaten up and arrested. The EU has repeatedly called on Bangladesh to improve labour laws, but there has been no progress.

A number of civil society organisations and trade union federations worldwide have called on the EU to launch a formal investigation into whether Bangladesh is still entitled to GSP preferences.

References: Clean Clothes Campaign (2017). *The European Union and the Bangladesh garment industry: the failure of the Sustainability Compact*. Clean Clothes Campaign, Amsterdam; ITUC International Trade Union Confederation (2018). *Bangladesh: Complaint to the European Ombudsman*.

**“ The majority of workers worldwide do not enjoy the right to negotiate on pay and conditions collectively or to strike.**

ers were also faced with serious threats from the state: arbitrary arrests, threats, physical assault, and even threats to their lives. The situation is particularly difficult for workers in China, Iran, Belarus and Algeria.

Finnish companies also violate workers' rights in the world. Finland has national regulations protecting labour rights, but companies do not have to comply with them

1 Other contributors: Fairtrade Finland, Finnish Committee for UNICEF, Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK, Pro Ethical Trade Finland, Trade union confederation of affiliates for highly educated people Akava, Trade Union of Education in Finland OAJ, Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland SASK.

2 ITUC International Trade Union Confederation (2018). Global Rights Index 2018. *The World's Worst Countries for Workers*. ITUC, Brussels.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will have been actively involved in influencing matters so that fundamental employment rights are better realised globally, and therefore poverty and inequality will have decreased worldwide. Workers will have decent work and wages will be enough to live on. Children will not have to work, and so will not be prevented from attending school, because their parents income will be adequate.

The International Labour Organisation's fundamental principles and rights at work (freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, and the abolition of compulsory labour, child labour, and discrimination in respect of employment and occupation) will be realised throughout the world, and the EU will highlight workers' rights in its activities.

The realisation of employees' rights in Finland and globally will be part of a successful policy coherence between national legislation, development policy and trade policy. In Finland, there will be national legislation that focuses on corporate responsibility for human rights, which complies with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Its cornerstone will be the principle of due diligence on human rights, which will be mandatory for businesses.

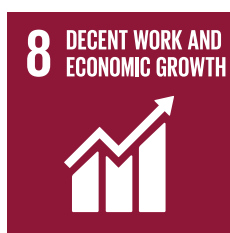
Finnish law will be exemplary with respect to corresponding EU legislation. Finland and the EU will be at the forefront of promoting a binding agreement on international companies and human rights.

In all its policies, Finland will emphasise the importance of fundamental labour rights and creating the circumstances for decent working terms and conditions. The realisation of fundamental labour rights will be ensured in all projects that receive public funding, including private enterprise activity. Finland has been involved in influencing that global trade rules will preclude cost competition based on human rights violations. International investment protection will ensure that states have the scope to protect workers' rights.

---

### Finland must:

- ✓ Enact national legislation on businesses' human rights responsibilities.
  - ✓ Promote human rights legislation binding on businesses at EU and UN levels.
  - ✓ Be policy-consistent and stress the fundamental rights of working life in all policies, including development policy.
  - ✓ Introduce criteria on freedom of association and collective bargaining in development policy.
  - ✓ Apply economic sanctions on businesses for non-compliance with the labour requirements of EU trade agreements.
-



## Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

- A sustainable economy is the foundation of people's livelihoods and wellbeing. Youth employment is one of the prerequisites for sustainable development everywhere in the world.

Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK<sup>1</sup>

### National level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The growing economy has meant improvements in employment but a polarisation based on labour market skills has deepened and the importance of education in accessing and keeping a job has increased. The one-sided emphasis on policy focusing on the supply of labour has resulted in the deterioration of workers' status and security concerning jobs and unemployment. For example the "activation model" for unemployment insurance has reduced unemployment benefit.

Employment services' resourcing is far less than in other Nordic countries. Seeking services and registering as unemployed are now done on digital platforms. Personal services have been reduced. Coaching and training services have been outsourced to private firms.

Youth employment, especially of undergraduates, is poor. Some nine per cent of 15–24-year-olds are not in work, training, or military service.<sup>2</sup> Low-threshold service points have been created for youth to help them access work or studies.

The usual form of work is regular salaried employment. About a fifth of the labour force works in diverse ways: as wage earners, entrepreneurs, self-employed, freelancers, or a combination of these. It is increasingly common to work under zero-hour contracts.

The social security system is not best suited to safeguarding the livelihoods of the self-employed or others doing gig work. The diversification of work offers new earning opportunities for some, but is also a problem from the viewpoint of the terms and conditions of employment.

For example in platform work the worker is usually defined as an entrepreneur, and is therefore without the rights to salaried employees' earnings-related unemployment security, support for updating skills, or occupational health and safety. Such workers have to pay taxes and social security contributions themselves.

**“** *Employment services' resourcing is far less in Finland than in other Nordic countries.*

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** There will be hardly any polarisation of the labour market based on skills. All citizens will have at least a secondary education, the majority of the workforce will have a tertiary education and the skills of those in work will be developed and updated by a flexible adult education system of work and learning.

Unemployment benefit and employment services will constitute an interdependent entity. The income of unemployed people will be safeguarded and all people who are unemployed will be assisted with appropriate services. There will be a budget for investing in labour policy where-by a personalised high-quality service is ensured.

There will be no youth unemployment, as practically all 15–25-year-olds will either be in education or employment. Personalised services for youth will have been developed to deal specifically with the problems they face.

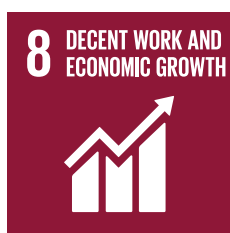
The prevailing form of work will be jobs that take account of occupational and individual needs. The definition of an employment relationship will cover people working in a position similar to that of a salaried employee. Legislation will presume there is an employee status if certain features of the employment relationship are met. This will also have clarified the responsibilities, obligations and rights of the various parties in the online platform economy.

### Finland must:

- ✓ Invest in labour market services, youth training and adult education during working life.
- ✓ Ensure wide-ranging, high-quality personalised services for the unemployed in line with their needs.
- ✓ Develop network-based service models for young people.
- ✓ Extend the definition of an employment relationship to workers in a position similar to that of a salaried employee, and develop a social security system.

<sup>1</sup> Other contributors: Fairtrade Finland, Finnish Committee for UNICEF, Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK, Pro Ethical Trade Finland, Trade union confederation of affiliates for highly educated people Akava, Trade Union of Education in Finland OAJ, Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland SASK.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Finland (2018). Labour force survey, 2017 (12.4.2018).



## Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

- A sustainable economy is the foundation of people's livelihoods and wellbeing. Youth employment is one of the prerequisites for sustainable development everywhere in the world.

Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK<sup>1</sup>

### Local level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Finland is strongly differentiated regionally. The labour markets of growing cities are diversifying and offer plenty of jobs, especially in the service sector. Remote areas are in a difficult position because with the shift of jobs to growth areas a large portion of the working-age population is also moving away. Labour services are scarce in remote areas.

In addition to regional Public Employment and Business Services (15 offices nationwide), municipalities organise employment services. These collaborate on such things as multi-professional and labour services (known as TYP) and the One-Stop Guidance Centres for young people. Social and health services are supposed to complement services if the

**“ Most public procurement is done on the basis of price and not quality.**

unemployed have problems with working and functional capacity. Cooperation between authorities does not always work. Educational institutions are able to target their training provisions according to local needs.

Regulations make it possible for public procurements to take account of overall responsibility and the local employment impact of procurement. However, most public procurement is done on the basis of price and not quality, meaning that the lowest bidder wins.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** It will be possible to have decent work in the different regions or to work as you choose in self-employment in new sectors that generate sustainable development. The use of digital connections will be commonplace for everyone, and there will be individual instruction and training in their use.

Employment services will be high quality, effective, and comparable throughout the country. Cooperation between the authorities will be seamless. There will be smooth, tai-

lored services for people who are unemployed and want to develop careers.

The chief criteria in public procurements are procurement responsibility, the impact on regional development and society, and the realisation of human rights.

### Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Educate future professionals in new areas for sustainable development and ensure opportunities for lifelong learning for everyone.
- ✓ Safeguard high quality and tailored employment services.
- ✓ Require authorities to engage in cross-sectoral cooperation in services for people who are hard to employ.
- ✓ Make public procurements competitive in such a way that the chief criteria involve social goals such as responsibility, realising human rights, and the impact on regional development.



<sup>1</sup> Other contributors: Fairtrade Finland, Finnish Committee for UNICEF, Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK, Pro Ethical Trade Finland, Trade union confederation of affiliates for highly educated people Akava, Trade Union of Education in Finland OAJ, Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland SASK.





# Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

– Increasing inequalities and discrimination are some of the greatest challenges of our time.

UN Association of Finland<sup>1</sup>

## Global level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** While the world on the whole has become more prosperous in recent years, inequality has increased both within and between countries. In 2018, one per cent of the population owned more than all the rest.<sup>2</sup> More than 75 per cent of the world's population lived in societies where income was more unevenly distributed than in 1990.<sup>3</sup>

The unequal distribution of economic benefits and poor social security maintain an unfair situation. In 2017, over 700 million people worked but still lived in poverty.<sup>4</sup> About four billion people live without any social security.<sup>5</sup>

“ In 2018, one per cent of the population owned more than all the rest.

About a fifth of people living in extreme poverty have disabilities; 80 per cent of the world's one billion people with disabilities live in developing countries.<sup>6</sup> Reducing inequalities among people with disabilities requires that discriminatory laws, structures, and attitudes be addressed. Both individuals and society would benefit from the change: discrimination against people with disabilities is estimated to diminish 3–7 per cent of developing countries' GDP.<sup>7</sup>

The guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda is “Leave No-one Behind”. The main goals of Finland's development policy are eradication of poverty and inequality and the promotion of sustainable development.<sup>8</sup>

Ensuring the rights and empowering women and girls are essential for these goals. It is also one of Finland's priori-

ty areas for development cooperation, but the objectives and practices have been somewhat contradictory.<sup>9</sup> Prime Minister Sipilä's government cut funding for all UN organisations, including UN Women, whose funding has decreased by 40 per cent between 2014–2017, while support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) fell by 55 per cent in the same period.<sup>10</sup>

Funding for Civil Society Organisations was also significantly cut in 2015, even though their work reaches the most vulnerable people, and they are best placed to work in remote settings.

There is scope for Finland to make improvements in mainstreaming the impact assessment of human rights and inequality linked to the standpoint of “Leave No-one behind”. For example, insufficient attention has been given to assessing the social impact of green technology business projects.<sup>11</sup>

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will take a strong international role in reducing inequality, which will be reflected in bold rhetoric defending the most vulnerable and in significant practical efforts. Finland will be an international example of social justice and political coherence. It will have adopted sustainable development as a guiding principle for all sectors of administration, including trade and foreign policy.

Finland will actively support the work of the International Labour Organisation. Throughout the world, social security structures will have been developed in line with ILO standards, and the minimum wage will be introduced, so people have a minimum guaranteed income. People will have faith in a future where there are new jobs that are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable.

Companies will be committed to respecting human rights and workers' rights, and take into account environmental issues across the entire production chain. Environ-

1 Other contributors: Fingo, Disability Partnership Finland, Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities, National Institute for Health and Welfare, and the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions.

2 Oxfam (2019). *Public Good or Private Wealth?* Oxfam Briefing Paper – January 2019.

3 Ministry for Foreign Affairs (2018). *Development Policy Results Report 2018*. MFA, Helsinki.

4 Workers and Trade Unions Major Group (2019). *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*. Submission to UN HLPF, April 2019.

5 United Nations (2018). *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018*. UN, New York.

6 World Health Organisation (2011). *World report on disability 2011*. WHO, Geneva.

7 International Labour Organisation (2010). The price of excluding people with disabilities from the workplace. 1.12.2010, [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org).

8 Ministry for Foreign Affairs (2016). *Finland's Development Policy. One world, common future – towards sustainable development*. Government report 4.2.2016. MFA, Helsinki.

9 See e.g. Jäppinen, Sanna (2018). *Tasa-arvon harha vaivaa Suomen kehityspolitiikkaa*. 14.9.2018, [www.fingo.fi](http://www.fingo.fi).

10 UN Association of Finland (2019). *YK-liiton hallitusohjelmataavoitteet. Liite: 'YK-järjestöjen rahoituskehitys 2014–2017'*. [www.ykliitto.fi](http://www.ykliitto.fi).

11 Ylönen, Matti & Anna Salmivaara (2019). Appendix 14: The 2030 Agenda, foreign policy and human rights (separate document in Finnish). In: Annukka Berg et al. *PATH2030 – An Evaluation of Finland's Sustainable Development Policy*. 13.5.2019. Prime Minister's Office, Helsinki.

mental and social sustainability of products will be the most important criterion in public procurement. Tax avoidance will have been curbed, and former developing countries will have created tax administrations, social security systems, and health services, including with Finnish support. Basic social security will support all those who need it.

People will feel that their future is in their hands. They will have meaningful ways of participating in the development of their local communities, societies and the international community. Economic inequalities will have diminished, human rights will be honoured, and the rule of law complied with, which will have increased the citizens' security. This will have weakened extremist movements that draw their strength from development paths that bolster exclusion.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> See e.g. UN Development Programme (2017). *Journey to Extremism in Africa. Drivers, Incentives and the Tipping Point for Recruitment*. UNDP, New York.

---

### Finland must:

- ✓ Take an active role in reducing inequality by strengthening and building economic and social protection systems through development cooperation and other international operations.
  - ✓ Take 2030 Agenda and a human rights-based approach as the bases for foreign policy and strengthen fair multilateral systems in trade, tax and development policies.
  - ✓ Promote the rights of the most vulnerable people in development policy in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda's "Leave No-one Behind" principle. In particular, the needs and rights of people with disabilities and of indigenous peoples must be taken into account.
  - ✓ Act to ensure the dignity refugees and migrants and ensure sufficient resources for this within the EU's next multiannual financial framework.
- 

## Equal opportunities require special support for the most vulnerable groups

Poverty and discrimination are the biggest scourges for people with disabilities living in developing countries. They are usually among the poorest people in these countries. All measures that reduce their poverty also reduce inequality.

Access to education is crucial. Many children with disabilities cannot go to school at all. Integrating access to education in the community is one of the most important individual goals of the development cooperation projects of Disability Partnership Finland and the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities.

Development cooperation also supports the employment of people with disabilities, either as employees or as self-employed. This is the best way to improve their chances for a decent life.

Women with disabilities are often the most vulnerable, discriminated against on the basis of their gender. Through training, employment, and attitude

education, they can attain a more equal position in their communities.

A barrier-free environment and having proper assistive devices will help achieve the desired results. Urban planning is a good example of how taking the rights of disabled people into account and integration into the community helps to build safer, more accessible and more comfortable living environments for all groups.

The implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires international cooperation and development co-financing, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the signatory and ratifying countries. Disability Partnership Finland and the Finnish disability organisations operating within it support disability organisations in developing countries to better influence their communities and countries for carrying out the UN Convention and passing legislation to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities.





## Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

– Increasing inequalities and discrimination are some of the greatest challenges of our time.

SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

### National level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** It appears that Finland is not on the way to achieving the 2030 Agenda goal of halving poverty. The situation of people on low-incomes, especially families with children, the unemployed and students, is more difficult than before, and the basic income of the long-term unemployed, sick and disabled is in jeopardy.<sup>1</sup>

The low level of basic social security and weaker purchasing power of social security benefits are the main reasons for the increase in inequality. In the 2015–2019 government term, the indices increasing benefits were frozen, social and health care customer fees were increased, and unemployment benefit was weakened. Planning work did not estimate the impact of decisions on the livelihood of different groups.

The socio-economic wellbeing and health gaps are wide. In health services people are unequal: access to free occupational health care is swift, while in the public sector there are queues and service fees. Illness is expensive in Finland compared to many other countries. Due to the increase in customer payments and cut-off benefits, many people are in debt, unable to get treatment or buy medicines.

Discrimination increases inequality. Youth placed away from home, those with different disabilities, immigrants, and LGBTIQ youth experience bullying and discrimination more

is the accumulation of things burdening children and families, such as financial, mental and substance abuse problems. This increases the risk of being excluded from the overall wellbeing development.

The situation of children seeking asylum is a particular concern. A child seeking international protection is seen as an asylum seeker rather than a child.

The increase in the class numbers in primary and nursery schools as well as limiting the subjective right to early childhood education has widened inequality among children. Family background increasingly influences school performance.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will have taken up the problems decisively, turned the direction of inequality trends and reduced poverty.

Everyone will be ensured sufficient livelihood as well as functional social, health and other services. Discrimination will be tackled without delay, and all children will be guaranteed a reasonable starting point in life.

“ *In health services people are unequal.* ”

often than others. In a 2017 membership survey by the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities, 40 per cent of respondents had experienced inequality, discrimination, or ill treatment.<sup>2</sup> Old age is also a cause of discrimination.

Finland's Trans Act (Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals) requires that transgender people have to be sterilised before they can have their new gender legally and must be of legal age. This violates the basic and human rights of sexual minorities, physical integrity and autonomy.

Child inequality is especially worrying. The main cause

### Finland must:

- ✓ Increase basic security to cover essential goods and services.
- ✓ Reduce the cost of illness, such as by providing free health centre services and combine health care payment ceilings at a reasonable level.
- ✓ Conduct the reform of social and health care services to ensure equality in the service system, the realisation of basic rights, and a sustainable cost level. Social and health care services must be organised within much larger areas than at present.
- ✓ Prepare a long-term child and family policy based on the rights of the child, provide free secondary education materials, and restore the subjective right to full-time early childhood education.
- ✓ Implement the reform of the law on autonomy and bring services for people with disabilities in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the reform of the act on services for persons with disabilities.

1 Honkanen, Pertti (2018). *Esimerkki- ja simulointilaskelmia sosiaaliturvan muutoksista 2012–2019*. SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki.

2 Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities (2017). *Jäsenkysely sosiaalisesta ja taloudellisesta yhdenvertaisuudesta*. Kyselyaineisto 2017. Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities, Helsinki.



# Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

- Increasing inequalities and discrimination are some of the greatest challenges of our time.

SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

## Local level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** People in Finland are in an unequal position according to where they live. There are disparities in health and wellbeing in different parts of the country and in different areas within municipalities.

In sparsely populated areas, long distances, lack of infrastructure, and the concentration of public and commercial services in municipal centers affect wellbeing and security.

This compounds people's feelings of isolation and insecurity. People with disabilities experience more often than others that inconvenient journeys and opening hours make accessing services harder.<sup>1</sup>

Older people and those in need of assistance, the long-term unemployed, adults granted asylum, and young adults who are not in work or education experience a particularly poor quality of life at home. Loneliness has become a central factor in the quality of life among these groups.<sup>2</sup>

Services in Sámi are not available in all three Sámi languages. There is a shortage of resources and Sámi-speaking professionals. Many bilingual municipalities have shortcomings in the availability of Swedish-language services.

Increasing the equality of services was one of the aims of the reform of health, social services and regional government. According to 56 per cent of the social affairs and health managers who responded to the 2018 Social Barometer, the reform will undermine equality.<sup>3</sup>

Sixty-three per cent of representatives of social affairs and health organisations who were respondents for the 2018 NGO Barometer<sup>4</sup> were of the same opinion.

The digitisation of services was one of the top projects of the Sipilä government. But over half of Finns find that online services are in practice a hindrance due to their lack of know-how, deficiencies in equipment and connections, and income problems.

Exclusion due to lack of digital skills impacts older people, the working-age population, and the young. Vulnerable groups also include immigrants and people facing language and cognitive difficulties.

“Loneliness has become a central factor in the quality of life among certain groups.”

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** All means will be made use of in order that people are able to live good lives, including in remote areas. In addition to the development of electronic and mobile services, it will also be considered important that there are service points near the home.

Organisations will support people in their everyday lives and promote the wellbeing and health of the population in their area. A wide-ranging third sector, including social and health organisations and village associations, will have safeguarded the preconditions for supporting people and providing opportunities throughout the country for participation.

---

## Municipalities must:

- ✓ In all their activities promote the wellbeing of residents. This also applies to residents living outside municipal centres. High-quality community planning, cultural and sports activities, and early education and training are important.
  - ✓ Bring services to people's neighbourhoods and homes.
  - ✓ Ensure that there is advice and support for using digital services.
  - ✓ Ensure that organisations have the necessary prerequisites, such as funding and premises, to enable them to promote people's wellbeing and health.
- 

---

1 National Institute for Health and Welfare, THL (2019). *Suomalaisten hyvinvointi 2018*. THL, Helsinki.

2 Tiilikainen, Elisa (2016). *Yksinäisyys ja elämäntilanne – Laadullinen seuranta-tutkimus ikääntyvien yksinäisyydestä*. University of Helsinki, Helsinki.

3 Näättä, Ari-Matti & Pia Londén (2018). *Sosiaalibarometri 2018*. SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki.

4 Peltosalmi, Juha et al. (2018). *Järjestöbarometri 2018*. SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki.



## Goal 13: Climate action

- The fight against climate change requires coherent and immediate action in all policy areas.

Plan International Finland

### Global level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Climate change impacts are felt everywhere, but the harmful consequences are most severe for those who have done the least to cause it – and who have the worst scope for adapting to them.

Climate change is already undermining the development outcomes so far attained and is making it harder to reach new ones. The World Bank estimates that 100 million people will fall back into poverty by 2030 if climate change is not countered.<sup>1</sup> Children, especially girls, women and indigenous peoples living in developing countries are especially vulnerable, and global warming is further undermining their position and livelihoods.

Historically, wealthy countries like Finland are responsible for climate change. Their support to developing countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation is vital for vulnerable regions and groups. Finland's disbursements for support are far from constituting a fair share. The climate finance has been based on diverting development co-operation funds. In 2017 more than half of the "climate finance" was in the form of investments instead of grants, and so the funds and potential yield on them will return to Finland.

Finland's climate policy is inconsistent. It urges the elimination of fossil energy subsidies internationally, but subsidised the use of fossil fuels domestically by some €1 billion in 2018.<sup>2</sup> Finland also ended its good practice of directing its emission permit auction returns to climate and development finance, and channelled them back to energy-intensive industry, contrary to the polluter pays principle. Progress has been made to bring the gender perspective into climate action, but this area also suffers from scarce climate finance resources.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will use its potential as a prosperous welfare state to mitigate climate change. It will play an active role in international climate policy and spur on other countries with ambitious emissions reductions and by strengthening natural carbon sinks. Finland's climate action will be human rights based. In addition, Finland will consistently take into account work against climate change

“Climate change is already undermining the development outcomes so far attained.”

in all its activities and all flows of public funds will contribute to climate-sustainable development.

Finland will assume its global responsibility and pay its fair share of international climate finance. Such finance will be grant-based and not covered by development cooperation funding. Finland will thus not provide climate support at the expense of poverty reduction.

Finland will devote half of the climate finance funds for adaptation to climate change impacts, directing it to the most vulnerable regions and groups. Thus, funding will, for example, safeguard and promote the human rights of girls who are unduly hard hit by climate change. Finland will recognise that climate change has already had irreversible impacts and will fund compensation for losses and damages that cannot be accommodated. Finland will provide safe means for migration and in refugee situations caused by climate change and environmental factors, thus precluding human smuggling and forced labour.

---

### Finland must:

- ✓ Provide €200 million in grant-based international climate finance by 2020. Such funding must be new and additional in relation to development cooperation funding, and be directed in particular to least developed countries.
  - ✓ In international negotiations support the increasing of climate finance to a fair level after 2025.
  - ✓ Direct half of climate finance for adaptation.
  - ✓ Fund compensation for loss and damage caused by climate change.
  - ✓ Direct all public cash flows to promote climate-sustainable development.
  - ✓ Act nationally and influence internationally so that legal and effective means guarantees are in place concerning e.g. refugee situations and migration caused by climate change.
- 

<sup>1</sup> Hallegatte, Stephane et al. (2016). *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*. World Bank Group, Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup> Ministry for Foreign Affairs (2018). *Finland's Development Policy Results Report 2018*. MFA, Helsinki.



## Goal 13: Climate action

**– The fight against climate change requires coherent and immediate action in all policy areas.**

Finnish Association for Nature Conservation<sup>1</sup>

### National level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Global warming is fiercer in the northern latitudes than on average globally, and this has been evident in recent years in the state of Finnish agriculture, nature, and the Baltic Sea.

Finland has both a historical obligation and a possibility as a welfare state to act decisively in combating the climate crisis. So far, Finland does not do its part in combating the climate crises and Finland's emission reductions are completely inadequate in order to restrict global warming to less than 1.5-degrees.

While Finland's fossil-based emissions have decreased, new tensions have emerged in climate policy in recent years in this forest-rich country. The Paris Climate Agreement emphasises the protection and growth of carbon sinks and reservoirs, but Finland's carbon sinks are declining as forest harvests have increased by over 20 per cent in the last four years. Since 2018 this has seen a significant increase in net emissions into the Finnish atmosphere. The growing use of wood for bio-fuels, bioenergy and pulp production significantly reduces forest carbon sequestration.

The transition to a fossil-free welfare state is being slowed by harmful subsidies – e.g. subsidies that are harmful to the environment and the climate are still paid at an annual rate of over €3,5 billion, and such subsidies have increased in recent years<sup>2</sup>.

“ *Finland's emission reductions are completely inadequate.* ”

Emissions from products imported to Finland and emissions from international flights from and to Finland have increased significantly in recent years.

The shift to the fossil free society changes the labour markets by causing thus causing some risks and possibilities for workers. The Paris Climate Agreement requires that the livelihood and employment of vulnerable groups be taken into account in climate policy. In Finnish climate policy, the participation of wage earners, youth and civil society in the just transition has not been sufficiently secured.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will demonstrate that a sustainable climate policy can be acceptable, fair, and compatible with fighting inequality. Renewable energy, sustainable transport, energy and material-efficient housing, and a plant-based diet will be part of everyday life. All subsidies for fossil fuels will have been abandoned and Finland will invest in energy savings, emissions-free infrastructure and low-carbon competences. Finland will demonstrate that fossil fuels can be disposed of and natural carbon sinks can increase simultaneously. Finland will be a pioneer in natural climate solutions and protecting biodiversity.

Finland will invest in the creation of good quality jobs, in the continuous improvement of employees' skills, and in ensuring the livelihood of citizens in the transition to a fossil-free welfare state. Workers and civil society will be actively involved in the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of climate and energy policies. Climate policy will assess the impact of the transition on livelihoods, employment, and citizens' skills requirements throughout the country.

---

#### Finland must:

- ✓ Reduce emissions by at least 65 per cent of 1990 levels by 2030.
  - ✓ Abandon the use of peat and fossil energy and the subsidies allocated for them in the near future, and make a strategy for ending all environmentally harmful subsidies.
  - ✓ Ensure the growth of carbon sinks in the 2020s by stopping the drainage of peatlands to harvest peat, and by reducing forest harvesting from current levels.
  - ✓ Fund investments in public and light transport and enable climate-smart land use.
  - ✓ Reduce air traffic and consumption emissions by monitoring and setting ceilings for them.
  - ✓ Take account of workers' needs in climate policy, in particular concerning employment and livelihood.
  - ✓ Involve employees and civil society in the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of climate and energy policy.
- 

<sup>1</sup> Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK and Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK have contributed to this text.

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Finance, *Budget Review 2019. Review of Budget Proposal 2018*. Chapter 4 Sustainable Development.



## Goal 13: Climate action

- The fight against climate change requires coherent and immediate action in all policy areas.

Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

### Local level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The climate solutions and needs of municipalities vary widely throughout Finland. For many Finns, the use of fossil fuels for heating and running cars, as well as the use of peat, is still the basis of everyday living. With municipal public procurements, price rather than environmental friendliness is the determining factor.

Municipalities and regions play a key role in decisions concerning traffic, energy solutions, and land use. Trailblazing municipalities have signed up to the HINKU forum of carbon neutral municipalities and made their own climate

“ For many Finns, the use of fossil fuels and peat, is still the basis of everyday living.

strategies. But many regions and localities still lack a climate perspective. The role of local natural carbon sinks in climate action is still not fully recognised. Depending on their place of residence, Finns have different possibilities and starting points for taking part in building a climate-friendly society.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finnish municipalities will be pioneers of climate solutions, including in public procurements. All municipalities will have their own roadmap for ensuring climate sustainability. There will be enough support for municipalities and regions to make and implement climate change plans that take into account a fair transition.

Finns' locally implemented energy saving solutions and new heating solutions will be of global interest, and Finnish actors showing the way will be internationally renowned for their solutions.

Traffic structures will change and ownership of a car will no longer be a general necessity or norm. Good public transport services and light traffic routes will be available to almost all people in Finland. The regional structure will permit different solutions for different areas, and climate solutions will be applied in cities as well as, for example, in thriving food-producing rural areas.

The daily life of everyone in Finland will be based on using almost zero-emission services and products. Overconsumption will have been replaced by relevant know-how

and investment in quality of life and material products. The circular economy will help reduce the material consumption of the economy. Finnish carbon sinks and stocks will be growing to turn the tide regarding biodiversity, and there will be abundant hiking areas and nearby forests within everyone's reach. Landowners will be pioneers in climate work and the rights of indigenous peoples will be a starting point in all land use, when relevant.

Finns will feel that they can influence their own neighbourhoods and reduce their environmental footprint and risks. They will consider climate action worth supporting and will have a local knowledge of the direct channels for promoting a good low-emission everyday life.

---

### Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Develop a plan to reduce emissions and grow natural carbon sinks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest.
  - ✓ Draw up a timetable in municipalities for ending the use of fossil fuels and peat extraction. End the use of coal and peat by 2025 at the latest.
  - ✓ Explore the possibilities for increasing the energy efficiency of municipal properties and the potential for creating their own energy production.
  - ✓ Sustain public procurement, including by abandoning fossil-fuelled cars and favouring vegetarian foods.
  - ✓ Promote climate education and climate-friendly jobs.
  - ✓ Enable the majority of Finns to use public or light traffic.
- 







# Goal 16: Peace and justice

**– Inclusive decision-making and transparent institutions increase trust and social stability. Without peace there is no development, and vice versa.**

Committee of 100 in Finland and Peace Union of Finland<sup>1</sup>

## Global level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Under the 2030 Agenda, countries undertake to reduce violence and violent deaths and put an end to all forms of violence against children. Achieving these aims demands additional efforts.

In 2016, at least one person was killed every minute of the year. In total, this was 560,000 victims, 18 per cent of whom were killed in conflicts. The number of violent deaths under conditions of peace has increased for the first time since 2004.<sup>2</sup>

Almost one in five children lives in a conflict zone, and the number of children killed and injured is estimated to have almost tripled since 2010.<sup>3</sup>

All means should be used to prevent violent deaths. The 2030 Agenda does not include the restriction on the licit arms trade demanded by civil society actors. A significant part of the arms trade is directed at countries where there are wars, authoritarian regimes or violations of human rights. In total 1,04-million deaths were reported between 2012 and 2016 as a result of the use of firearms.<sup>4</sup>

**“ A significant part of the arms trade is directed at countries where there are wars, authoritarian regimes or violations of human rights.**

Adherence by states to the goals of sustainable development determines the numbers of lives that will be saved by 2030. Fragile states need support to attain the necessary capacity, and civil society actors funding and support for their work.<sup>5</sup>

There must be support for peace-building and decision-making. Finland and Finnish actors have supported faith-based peace work and the involvement of women and young people in peace-building and decision-making. Further efforts are also needed to achieve the goals related to le-

gal protection. The failure of numerous countries to fight corruption has led to a crisis of democracy. Democracy and good governance are also undermined by the growing power of populist movements. Over the past 13 years, the democratic institutions of 113 out of 180 countries have become weaker<sup>6</sup>.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will be an active peace promoter. It will regulate the arms trade, support violence prevention, peacework and international monitoring of SDG 16. Finland will have a peace policy programme, which will promote disarmament. Finland is working internationally to protect children living in the midst of wars and to fight crime against children.

Finland will support legislation combating corruption, freedom of the press, and means available to citizens to report transgressions. Finland will exert an influence over tax havens in the EU area, whose banking and tax laws also contribute to corruption in developing countries.

## Finland must:

- ✓ Support preventive and inclusive peacework and inclusive peacebuilding.
- ✓ Support the compilation of information and statistics on violence.
- ✓ Halt the arms trade to conflict areas and to authoritarian states and those that violate human rights and the rights of the child.
- ✓ Promote the regulation of arms trade and the development of marking and monitoring of small arms and ammunition, and ensure that no legal weapons are transferred to the illicit market.
- ✓ Increase funding for UN organisations, development cooperation and peace building, and support civil society in violence prevention.
- ✓ Support international efforts to fight corruption and promote good governance practices.

<sup>1</sup> Finn Church Aid, Save the Children Finland & Transparency International Finland have also contributed to this section.

<sup>2</sup> Evoy Mc, Claire & Gergely Hideg (2017). *Small Arms Survey*. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, GIIIDS, Geneva.

<sup>3</sup> Save the Children (2019). *Stop the War on Children. Protecting Children in 21st Century Conflict*.

<sup>4</sup> Evoy Mc, Claire & Gergely Hideg (2017). *Ibid*.

<sup>5</sup> Evoy Mc, Claire & Gergely Hideg (2017). *Ibid*.

<sup>6</sup> Transparency International (2018). *Corruption Perception Index 2018*. Transparency International, Berlin.



## Goal 16: Peace and justice

**– Inclusive decision-making and transparent institutions increase trust and social stability. Without peace there is no development, and vice versa.**

Committee of 100 in Finland and Peace Union of Finland<sup>1</sup>

### National level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Finland is a relatively peaceful country, but the level of violent crime is high compared to many other EU countries. The majority of perpetrators and victims of violence are men. Violence is declining, but it has been difficult to eradicate violence, and sexual violence against women in particular. A third of women have experienced violence in their relationships<sup>2</sup>. Violence against children and sexual offenses, sexual harassment and related bullying in digital media increase the need for multi-sectoral cooperation.

Discrimination and violence against minorities is common, 60 per cent of people of African background have experienced discrimination and 14 per cent racist violence.<sup>3</sup>

There are some 1,6 million firearms in Finland, and about one in five suicides among men involves a firearm. The EU restricts the number of particularly dangerous firearms, but Finland has negotiated an exception to the rule on the basis of national defense and reserve activities. This can make it possible to apply for a firearms permit for more powerful weapons for up to 900 000 reservists.

Changes to the law and administrative practices have undermined the legal protection of asylum seekers: asylum criteria are tighter, the appeal process is more difficult, and the number of erroneous negative decisions has increased. Child applicants and victims of trafficking are particularly vulnerable.

Finland customarily fares well in corruption ratings. But recent corruption scandals call into question the fight against corruption, the effectiveness of legislation and functioning of decision-making systems. The OECD and the Council of Europe Anti-Corruption Institute GRECO have criticised Finland for its weaknesses in tackling corruption.<sup>4</sup>

**“ Discrimination and violence against minorities is common.**

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** The murder and violent crime rate will have dropped. Non-violence will be promoted, e.g. through quality peace education and support for a culture of peace. Victims of violence will be fully provided with support services and the perpetrators of violence helped to reform.

Equality will be realised throughout society and discrimination tackled effectively. Structural corruption and ethical problems will have been prevented by e.g. a law on bribery and removing the political grounds for appointments to the boards of limited liability companies owned by public organisations.

### Finland must:

- ✓ Cut the numbers of firearms; ensure that legal firearms under permit do not end up on the black market; ban the private ownership of military grade weapons.
- ✓ More robustly tackle violence against women and intimate partner violence.
- ✓ Gradually increase the number of shelters to the level required by the Istanbul Agreement.
- ✓ Speed up reform of the Penal Code on sexual crimes, draw up a national implementation plan for the Lanzarote Convention, increase resources for prevention sexual offenses against children and helping victims.
- ✓ Reinstate the possibility of applying for asylum on humanitarian grounds; and ensure adequate services and protection, especially for children and victims of trafficking.
- ✓ Extend the Act on the Openness of Government Activities to cover the public service tasks carried out by limited companies owned by municipalities and other public entities.
- ✓ Criminalise the negligent bribery more rigorously in the Criminal Code.

<sup>1</sup> Save the Children Finland & Transparency International Finland have contributed to this section.

<sup>2</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, FRA (2014). *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey. Main results report*. FRA, Wien.

<sup>3</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, FRA (2018). *Being Black in the EU/Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey*. FRA, Wien.

<sup>4</sup> Group of States against Corruption, GRECO (2018). *Fifth evaluation round. Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies*. Evaluation Report, Finland. 27.11.2018. GRECO, Strasbourg.





# Goal 16: Peace and justice

**– Inclusive decision-making and transparent institutions increase trust and social stability. Without peace there is no development, and vice versa.**

Committee of 100 in Finland and Peace Union of Finland<sup>1</sup>

## Local level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** The realisation of human security varies in Finland. For instance, services for victims of violence, such as shelters and mental health services, are particularly insufficient in sparsely populated areas. Long distances combined with scant resources make it more difficult to prevent violence and ensure e.g. arms control in a large part of the country.

Schools and educators have a key role to play in work to tackle violence and discrimination and in reinforcing the conditions for peace. Peace education is already part of the school curriculum, but teachers lack the skills and resources to conduct peace education.

**“ Schools and educators have a key role to play in work to tackle violence and discrimination.**

The more restrictive approach to asylum nationally has seen a rise in the numbers of undocumented people. Increasingly more people do not have access to vital basic services. Access to the sphere of good quality and decent services for older people and for people with disabilities has declined. Private companies produce public services in an increasing number of municipalities, and the quality and suitability of their operations have sparked critical public debate.

People's sense of participation and involvement in decision-making varies regionally. Especially youth and people from minorities may not be able to influence local decision-making. They also often experience discrimination, e.g. in educational institutions, social and health services, and workplaces. With respect to corruption, the risks at local level are particularly related to public procurement.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Municipalities and regions will be well versed in the 2030 Agenda. They will understand their role in achieving Finland's sustainable development goals by 2030.

All municipalities and regions will have sufficient political will and resources to act decisively to curb violence,

keep a check on weapons, support the victims of violence, combat discrimination, prevent corruption and provide high-quality and appropriate basic services. Out of respect for human rights, they will also provide public services to undocumented people living in their area.

Municipalities and regions will increasingly rely on information gathered from children and families with children. In this way, they will tackle violence against children and abuse, those who are guilty will be brought to justice, victims and their families provided with support, and proactive preventive work carried out.

Municipalities and regions will have ensured that their institutions are efficient, accountable, and transparent, and that decision-making is flexible, inclusive, and representative. They will have ensured equal access to justice for all and will have significantly reduced corruption and bribery, and have prevented criminal activity and its emergence in various forms.

## Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Continue to increase and strengthen the efforts engage on school bullying and sexual harassment, equality work and peace education.
- ✓ Increase global, media and protection capacity of education in schools and at day care centers.
- ✓ Ensure teachers have sufficient education in peace-keeping and funding for bodies that provide continuing education.
- ✓ Provide comprehensive information on sexual violence and sexual abuse against children to people working with children.
- ✓ Provide parents with information and support to strengthen children's safety skills. Ensure early support, especially for families where there are risk factors for child safety.
- ✓ Agree on the application of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities to municipal and provincially-owned companies, in companies' memoranda of association or in articles of association.

<sup>1</sup> Save the Children Finland & Transparency International Finland have contributed to this section.



# Goal 17: Partnership and cooperation

- Achievement of sustainable development requires participation of all and sufficient resources.

Finnish Development NGOs Fingo

## Global level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Finland is internationally acknowledged to be one of the leading countries in sustainable development that sets an example for other countries. Finland made a national implementation plan in 2017, has initiated sustainable development budgeting, has an inclusive monitoring system and a citizens' panel, and commissioned an external evaluation of national 2030 Agenda policy, the PATH2030 report was published in March 2019<sup>1</sup>.

The report shows that Finland is not consistently committed to the human rights-based approach of the 2030 Agenda, to ensure that "no one is left behind". Agenda 2030 is widely known about in our society, but there is no consistent understanding of its interpretation and political significance. Conflicts of interest between actors lead to decisions where a short-term economic advantage eclipses long-term sustainability. According to some of the experts interviewed in the study, sustainable development is only moderately or poorly evident in Finnish foreign policy.

Finland also has a duty in respecting the limits of the earth's natural resources. We consume more than our fair share environmentally, and this has significant impacts, including beyond our borders. For example, it is estimated that almost half of our water footprint is made up of production chains that take place elsewhere.<sup>2</sup>

Finland is known for being a mediational country that seeks to strengthen the mutual equality of the international community and present a model for the involvement of civil society actors. This is reflected, for example, in the composition of delegations to international meetings in Finland, in the preparation of standpoints, and in consultation practices. However, it would be possible for Finland to do more to strengthen the position of developing countries in international interaction and to support civil societies in the developing countries.

According to the 2030 Agenda, we need good-quality, accessible, up-to-date, reliable, and group-specific information to measure progress and ensure that no one is left behind. Relevant data is the key to decision-making. The

agenda requires the development of the statistical capacity of developing countries, and development indicators supplementary to GDP.<sup>3</sup> Finland has not been prominent in the development of these indicators, though Finnish officials follow the international discussions on them.

There is a mismatch between Finland's rhetoric on global responsibility and its funding commitments. The almost 40 per cent cut in development funding in 2015 by the government of Juha Sipilä and the redirection of emissions trading to investments eroded our international credibility and demoted Finland from the Nordic reference group.

There is also a contradiction in the financing of NGO development cooperation. This was cut back even more (43%)

“ *There is no consistent understanding of the interpretation and political significance of the 2030 Agenda.* ”

than overall development cooperation (38%), even though it is precisely these organisations that are able to reach the most vulnerable and many challenging, remote and fragile regions that Finland does not otherwise reach, but which are highlighted in our development policy. External evaluations commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs show that NGOs attain the desired manifold results in a cost-effective manner.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will have a clear concept of transition to achieve the SDGs. Its consistency of approach will extend from the local level to international action and genuine global responsibility. The 2030 Agenda will be the core framework for Finland's political, research-based decision-making.

Finland will have the courage to make decisions that emphasise sustainable long-term goals. This boldness will be reflected in climate action, public procurement, respect for

1 Berg, Annukka et al. (2019). *PATH2030 - An evaluation of Finland's sustainable development policy*. Prime Minister's Office, Helsinki.

2 WWF Finland (2012). *Suomen vesijalanjälki - Globaali kuva suomalaisten vedenkulutuksesta*. WWF Finland, Helsinki.

3 UN (2015). *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

human rights in company subcontracting chains, and corporate taxation practices. As a dependable partner, Finland will consistently support developing countries through various foreign and security policy avenues, such as trade and development policy. Finland will develop more comprehensive assessment methods on the impact of its operations beyond its borders.

Finland will actively promote fair interactions between different sectors and countries in the international community, as well as the equal participation of developing countries in international decision-making. Finland will support strengthening the UN's role in international cooperation, as well as the participation and influence of Finnish, international, and developing country NGOs in international sustainable development processes.

As a part of the international community, Finland will be developing indicators that comprehensively evaluate sustainable development and prosperity alongside economic indicators. Finland will know that a single indicator is not sufficient. A set of indicators will be required to articulate what is most important in the societal development of each country. Inaccurate indicators steer erroneous action.

Finland will understand that it is important to provide resources and independence to statistics agencies to develop indicators, and that indicators of wellbeing should be used at all stages of policy processes. Finland will be familiar with the international initiatives take and know what needs to be done in order to have an overall picture of the impact of economic activity in all countries. Finland will have made social policy a priority objective of sustainable welfare in Finland and globally. Through its expertise and development cooperation, Finland will support through its development cooperation the development of a statistics gathering capacity in developing countries.

Finland will actively work to build the financing base of developing countries, such as by supporting their ability to raise taxes and making large companies pay their taxes. The proceeds of the auctioning of emission allowances will be

used for international development and climate financing. Finland will pay at least 0,7 per cent of its gross national income for development cooperation and will direct at least 0,2 per cent of GNP to the poorest countries by 2028.

Fifteen per cent of actual development funding will be channelled to NGOs. It will be recognised in Finland that development cooperation is crucially important for the poorest people in the world and is also seen as a commitment to social responsibility and international cooperation.

---

### Finland must:

- ✓ Conduct a responsible foreign policy and assess the impacts of all administrative sectors on developing countries.
  - ✓ Conduct a consistent and long-term development policy; ensure that development cooperation focuses on sustainable outcomes.
  - ✓ Develop methods for monitoring the human rights and environmental impacts outside Finland of our consumption patterns.
  - ✓ Support the involvement of civil society in international cooperation and promote transparency in decision-making and access to information.
  - ✓ Take part in the in the international development of sustainable welfare indicators parallel to GDP, and support the involvement and statistics gathering capacity of developing countries.
  - ✓ Devote 0,7 per cent of GNI to development cooperation, reach this goal by 2028; direct at least 0,2 per cent of GNI to the poorest countries, and direct 15 per cent of actual development cooperation to NGOs (development cooperation, global citizen education, communications, and advocacy).
-



# Goal 17: Partnership and cooperation

- Achievement of sustainable development requires participation of all and sufficient resources.

Finnish Development NGOs Fingo

## National level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** There is also a lot to improve in this model country of international ratings. Finland's high-level political ownership is in part in name only, its objectives modest, and policy coherence mixed<sup>1</sup>. There is a concern, among other things, about increasing inequalities and the violation of the human rights of immigrants and undocumented people. Although the national implementation plan aims to include assessment in key policy and legislative initiatives and to identify coherence between objectives, the impact assessment instrument has not progressed.<sup>2</sup>

“ *The institutions for sustainable development in Finland are well built, but resources are limited.* ”

In Finland, different sectors are openly involved in institutions and processes for sustainable development, but more attention needs to be paid to youth, as well as to municipalities and cities. Organisations have found that there is not always a shared understanding of the common task between the parties. Genuine engagement and interaction will not occur if ideas and hopes do not coincide.

The aim of the government of Jyrki Katainen (2011–2015) was to take account of sustainable development in all administrative sectors and develop indicators for it.<sup>3</sup> However, this was only partially realised. The project on developing strategic leadership instruments in government created by the government of Juha Sipilä (2015–2019), meanwhile, proposes the use of welfare indicators in many contexts, but the idea has not been advanced in practice.<sup>4</sup>

The institutions for sustainable development in Finland are well built, but resources are limited<sup>5</sup>. This is reflected in the development of monitoring and the selection of indicators. Areas that require resources include, for example, the evaluation the global footprint of Finnish consumption and public procurement processes.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Finland will have a genuine high-level commitment to sustainable development. Impact assessment will be a feature of all decision-making. Sustainable budgeting will cover all budgetary areas, and policy making will be consistent, long-term, and research-based.

Finland will promote sustainable development in an inclusive and open manner. Everyone will have a clear understanding of their own role and their ability to influence decision-making. A common optimum will be sought. The voice of emerging countries will be heard in decision-making.

The goal of economic policy will be sustainable prosperity. Indicators of sustainable prosperity will be used alongside GDP, from planning to monitoring. They will help and guide implementation and collaboration in every policy and administrative sector. Finland will also have reserved sufficient resources for its sustainable development policy.

## Finland must:

- ✓ Draw up a roadmap for attaining the SDGs by 2030.
- ✓ Deploy national sustainability indicators as strategic indicators of the government programme.
- ✓ Expand budgeting for sustainable development in all budgetary areas.
- ✓ Involve civil society and promote transparency in decision-making.
- ✓ Pass a law for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- ✓ Introduce sustainable prosperity indicators for all sectors of government, from planning to monitoring.
- ✓ Direct sufficient resources for monitoring sustainable development.

1 Berg, Annukka et al. (2019). *PATH2030 - An evaluation of Finland's sustainable development policy*. Prime Minister's Office, Helsinki.

2 Prime Minister's Office, PMO (2017). *Government Report on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development in Finland - Long-term, Coherent and Inclusive Action*. PMO, Helsinki.

3 Berg, Annukka et al. (2019). *PATH2030 - An evaluation of Finland's sustainable development policy*. Prime Minister's Office, Helsinki.

4 Prime Minister's Office, PMO (2011). *Programme of Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen's government*. PMO, Helsinki.

5 Finnish Government (2019). *Hallituksen strategisten johtamisvälineiden kehittämishankkeen suositukset*. Finnish Government, Helsinki.

6 Berg, Annukka et al. (2019). *PATH2030 - An evaluation of Finland's sustainable development policy*. Prime Minister's Office, Helsinki.



# Goal 17: Partnership and cooperation

- Achievement of sustainable development requires participation of all and sufficient resources.

Finnish Development NGOs Fingo

## Local level

**CURRENT SITUATION:** Municipalities and regions have an important role to play in sustainable development. In addition to their own programmes, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Kuntaliitto, over 100 municipalities, and some regions have signed up to the Commitment 2050 project which gives a principal national frame for sustainable development work in Finland.

Kuntaliitto's sustainable development strategy emphasises the role and mutual collaboration of officials, business, and citizens. It stipulates that it is important for municipal management to commit to realising the values of sustainable development, that solutions require a comprehensive policy of action for the future, and that the conditions for a good life for current and future residents must be safeguarded. Economic activities are to be adapted to nature's boundary conditions, and to empower residents.<sup>1</sup> This broad approach does not, however, concern the commitment and action of municipalities, which particularly focus on environmental and energy issues.

An understanding of general prosperity is communicated in Kuntaliitto's sustainable development documents, but the economic policies of local governments put the emphasis on economic growth. This is reflected, for example, in executive programme targets published by regional managers<sup>2</sup>.

**FINLAND TOMORROW:** Municipalities and regions will pay consistent attention to the SDGs, investigate the social and environmental impacts of public procurements at local and global levels, and consider municipal residents as an important resource and source of solutions.

Cooperation between different actors will be transparent and consistent. The 2030 Agenda will create awareness among every citizen that we are all part of the common world and that we can affect the state of it. Promoting a sustainable lifestyle and inclusion will be part of early

childhood education and training. Municipalities will work closely and fruitfully with local authorities in developing countries.

In their planning work, municipalities will make use of sustainable prosperity indicators and set concrete values for improving prosperity. Municipalities will make use of the opportunity to see directly the impacts of different approaches at local level.

Municipalities and regions will have adequate resources to promote sustainable development. They will have the know-how and resources to make public procurement sustainable and to invest ambitiously in training.

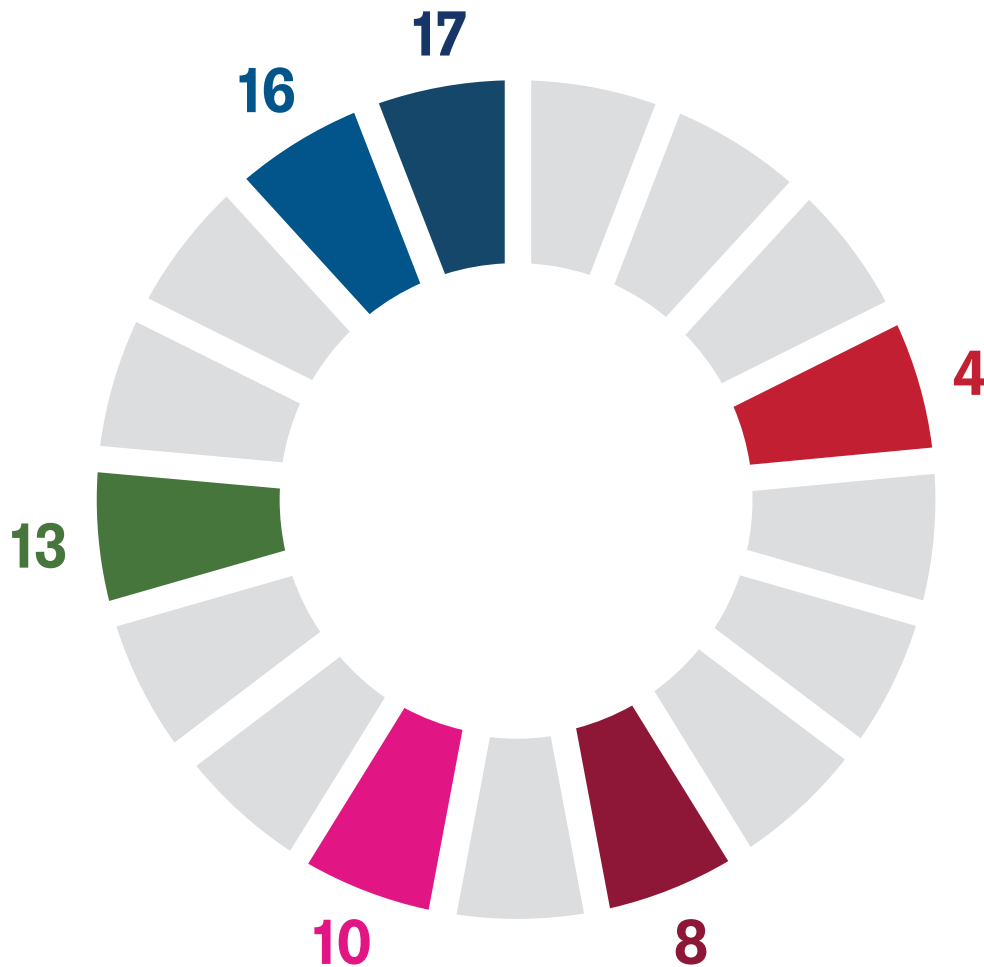
“ *It is important for municipal management to commit to realising the values of sustainable development.* ”

## Municipalities and regions must:

- ✓ Make a comprehensive and consistent policy for sustainable development, including incorporating SDGs into their budget and obtaining up-to-date information as a basis for decision-making.
- ✓ Ensure that civil society has the scope to participate and influence societal debate and decision-making, and support the activities of associations and citizens' groups by increasing their operating funding.
- ✓ Record sustainability and social responsibility instructions in procurement guidelines, and educate staff responsible for municipal procurement to make responsible purchases.

<sup>1</sup> Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (1997). *Suomen Kuntaliiton kestävä kehityksen toimintaohjelma*. [www.kuntaliitto.fi](http://www.kuntaliitto.fi).

<sup>2</sup> Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (2019). *Maakuntajohtajat päivittivät hallitusohjelmatavoitteitaan*. News item, 15.4.2019.



## The 2018 follow-up report of civil society covers the following goals:

### Goal 4: Quality education

Finn Church Aid  
National Union of University Students in Finland

### Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions SAK

### Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

UN Association of Finland  
SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

### Goal 13: Climate action

Plan International Finland  
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

### Goal 16: Peace and justice

Committee of 100 in Finland and Peace Union of Finland

### Goal 17: Partnership and cooperation

Finnish Development NGOs Fingo