The Finnish Government’s approach to sustainable development and SDGs.

Annika Lindblom, Secretary General
National Commission on Sustainable Development
According to Special Eurobarometer Finnish citizens seem to know SDGs pretty well.
Multi-stakeholder Prime Minister led National Commission on Sustainable Development in operation since 1993

**MISSION:** to root sustainable development into Finnish policies, measures, budgets and action
Has been working **since 1993** without interruption

- **Membership:** 50 member + 30 substitutes
- **Chair:** Prime Minister, Mr. Juha Sipilä
  **Vice-Chair:** Minister of Housing, Energy and the Environment, Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen
- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Network** preparing the work and supporting the Prime Minister’s Office
- **Coordination Desk:** Prime Minister’s Office

**Expert Panel:** 8 professors from different disciplines, facilitated by Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA

**Agenda2030 Youth Group:** 20 young people, coordinated by Finnish Youth Cooperation - Allianssi
New **universal**, **transformative** and **integrated** 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development challenged also Finland’s policies and measures.
Gap-analysis revealed our strengths and weaknesses

AGENDA 2030 GOALS AND STARTING LEVEL OF FINLAND

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

Source: Sachs et al. 2016. Preliminary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – Finland

Starting level – Finland: EXCELLENT MODERATE POOR
Government Implementation Plan for 2030 Agenda
Adopted in February 2017

FOCUS AREAS

Sustainable economy
Carbon-neutral and resource-wise Finland
Non-discriminating, equal and competent Finland

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Long-term action and transformation
Policy coherence and global partnership
Ownership and Participation

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW
Finnish societal innovation to promote sustainable development and implement the 2030 Agenda

- Provides long-term sustainable development policy framework (a vision, principles and objectives) for the public administration, civil society and other stakeholders up until 2050

- Provides an implementation tool for companies, organizations, schools, municipalities, citizens – anyone – to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with concrete action
Vision: A prosperous Finland with global responsibility for sustainability and the carrying capacity of nature

- Equal prospects for well-being
- Carbon-neutral society
- Participatory society for all
- A Resource-wise economy
- Work in a sustainable way
- Lifestyles respectful of the carrying capacity of nature
- Sustainable society and local communities
- Decision-making respectful of nature
Objectives of the Society’s Commitment:

1. Equal prospects for well-being
2. A participatory society for all
3. Work in a sustainable way
4. Sustainable society and local communities
5. A carbon-neutral society
6. A resource-wise economy
7. Lifestyles respectful of the carrying capacity of nature
8. Decision-making respectful of nature

SDGs - the 2030 Agenda:
Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development

EVERY ACTION COUNTS!

At the moment around 800 operational commitments

Vision: A prosperous Finland with global responsibility for sustainability and the carrying capacity of nature

Companies | The public sector | NGOs

Concrete actions

Clusters

NOW 2020 2030 2040 2050
Results 2014–

COMMITMENT’S VISION
A prosperous Finland with global responsibility for sustainability and the carrying capacity of nature

INDUSTRIES ARE COMMITTED
THE FEDERATION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THEIR PARTNERS, THE FOREST INDUSTRIES FEDERATION, COMMERCE FEDERATIONS, THE FINNISH ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

FINLAND’S COMMITMENT MODEL ATTRACTS GROWING INTEREST GLOBALLY

800
COMMITMENTS

CLOSE TO
100%

Of Commitment makers see it as a functioning tool for promoting sustainable development and can recommend the Commitment for others

REACHED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN EVENTS AND IN SOCIAL MEDIA

The Commitment process has been well received and it has progressed better than expected. This said, the work has just began and we need to attract lots of more Commitments.
The Professors of the Sustainable Development Expert Panel Eeva Furman and Janne Hukkinen

Almost

800
COMMITMENTS

"
Society’s Commitment creates an alternative tool to fulfill environmental obligations – replacing legislation

For example, as a response to the EU directive on packaging waste, Finland’s Ministry of the Environment made a Green Deal agreement with the Federation of Finnish Commerce.

The purpose of the Green Deal is to ensure with voluntary measures that the retail sector reaches the EU objectives on reduction of the use of plastic bags in Finland.

At the same time, Green Deal is contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
Clusters are being established - Example on food waste

Systemic changes towards sustainable society

Operational Commitments

Nyt  2020  2030  2040  2050
Core messages from Finland

• Invest in long-term work
  > policy coherence
• Process is as important as the product
  > societal learning
• Demystify concepts by concretizing them
  > ownership & action
• Ensure high-level leadership but don’t politicize sustainable development
  > whole-of-government approach
• Partner in an open dialogue with the civil society and other stakeholders; they play watchdogs and lobbyists but also top experts in their fields
  > whole-of-society approach
• Invest in communication, visualization and operationalization
  > common understanding, tools for action
Thank you for your attention!

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