

2017

CHAMPIONS TO BE?

Making the 2030 Agenda
a reality

High-Level Group
on the 2030 Agenda:

BRAZIL
COLOMBIA
GERMANY
LIBERIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SWEDEN
TANZANIA
TIMOR-LESTE
TUNISIA

CHAMPIONS TO BE?

Making the 2030 Agenda a reality

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The members of the civil society group on the High-Level Group on the 2030 Agenda have written this report and agreed on its recommendations. The 2017 report is a progress report of the original report from 2016.¹

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The common introduction and recommendations made in the report are those of the members of the Civil Society High-Level Group concerning the 2030 Agenda.

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INTRODUCTION

As representatives of civil society organisations from the nine countries constituting the High-Level Group on the 2030 Agenda, we have worked closely together on the 2030 Agenda over the last two years. We are continuing to play our role in championing the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals in our respective countries, regions and globally. In July 2016, we presented our report *Champions to be? Making the 2030 Agenda a Reality*². The report focused on and analysed the implementation of the agenda in all nine countries of the High-Level Group, as well as presented key recommendations.

We are committed to issuing follow-ups on how we see the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the nine countries that are members of the High-Level Group. This report is the review of 2016-2017.

We strongly believe that the High-Level Group has a potential role to play in addressing these challenges. This cannot be overemphasised. The High-Level Group still presents a unique opportunity for all members of the group to inspire, act and lead by example on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

As representatives of civil society organisations from the nine countries, we offer our support and collaboration to the heads of states and governments in the High-Level Group on the 2030 Agenda. We are strongly committed to the implementation and realisation of the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development, and are actively engaged in the national, regional and global processes for the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

We are strongly convinced that if we work together we can play a critical role in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON THE 2030 AGENDA – CHAMPIONS TO BE?

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 was a critical milestone for the world and our planet. The goals we committed to can only be achieved through a strong global partnership. In this spirit, our countries came together in an informal High-Level Group last year to help maintain political support at the highest level for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As a group, we are committed to leading by example and doing our part. We have already started to carry out concrete actions domestically. We are also engaged with the leaders of other countries by sharing experiences and learning from each other. We are determined to continue these activities next year and beyond.'

THE 2030 AGENDA HIGH-LEVEL GROUP LETTER TO INCOMING SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES³

² The 2016 report can be found at <http://www.concord.se/wp-content/uploads/champion-states-making-the-2030-agenda-a-reality.pdf>

³ 2030 Agenda High-Level Group letter to incoming Secretary-General Guterres, <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/UN-New-York/Current-affairs/News/2030-Agenda-High-Level-Group-letter-to-incoming-Secretary-General-Guterres-sys/>



RANK 2017	COUNTRY	SCORE 2017
1	Sweden	85,6
6	Germany	81,7
56	Brazil	69,5
65	Tunisia	68,7
88	Colombia	64,8
106	Timor-Leste	61,5
108	South Africa	61,2
131	Tanzania	52,1
154	Liberia	42,8

The 2017 Sustainable Development Goals index of the nine Champion state countries

The High-Level Group is a diverse group of nine countries from different continents with different conditions. The composition of the group makes it interesting as a leading group of champions.

Source: www.sdgindex.org

From rhetoric to action

Many of the countries in the High-Level Group (HLG) have already launched commendable initiatives at the national level. As a group, however, they have so far not come together very often. Since its creation, the HLG has issued three joint statements: on 25th September 2015⁴, on 21st April 2016⁵, and the latest letter in December 2016 to welcome the incoming Secretary-General António Guterres⁶. The statements spell out the group's ambitions and stress the need to maintain strong political momentum for the 2030 Agenda, emphasising that the true test will be not its adoption but its implementation. The HLG has also agreed to promote discussions and to exchange experiences of challenges and solutions between governments,

civil society, the private sector and international organisations, underscoring the critical importance of civil society's participation in making the 2030 Agenda a reality.

The members of the HLG have said that political leadership, partnership and responsibility at the highest level are all necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda. They have also highlighted the importance of effective policies and action at all levels, as well as a strong global partnership. Significantly, the members of the HLG have committed themselves to leading by example and playing their part in delivering on the 2030 Agenda in their respective national contexts, and to engage with other national leaders, stakeholders and civil society when doing so. Finally, the HLG members

⁴ Statement by the High-Level Group on the 2030 Agenda, <http://www.government.se/press-releases/2015/09/swedish-government-initiates-high-level-group-in-un/>, 25th September 2015

⁵ <http://www.government.se/press-releases/2016/04/joint-statement-by-high-level-group-in-support-of-implementation-of-2030-agenda/>, 21st April 2016

⁶ <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/UN-New-York/Current-affairs/News/2030-Agenda-High-Level-Group-letter-to-incoming-Secretary-General-Guterres-sys/>

have all made personal pledges to embody the required leadership and to leave no one behind. The HLG reconfirmed its commitment during the UN General Assembly in September 2016.⁷

The members of the HLG have set out ambitious commitments for themselves. With that comes the expectation that they will move from words to action.

Observations from the mapping

Collectively, the HLG has not yet been very visibly engaged in delivering on its objectives at the global level. There is no clarity at this point as to how the states are communicating or working together beyond their joint statements.

Putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into practice will not be possible unless the political commitments made by member states are translated into bold politics; updated strategies and resource allocation; and into strengthening civil society organisations and creating space for their work. The country case studies in this report give an insight into where the implementation of the 2030 Agenda stands in the countries involved. The case studies provide some good examples of this implementation, but they also reveal that the governments' efforts need to be taken even further in all nine countries involved.

The HLG is a diverse group of nine countries from different continents with different conditions, and each country faces specific challenges. *This is reflected in this report's country specific pages.*

The composition of the group makes it interesting as a leading group of champions, and each country has the possibility to lead by examples in its respective context. For example, Sweden and Germany are performing very well in the global 2017 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) index, produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung (see the table on p. 5). However, the same index points out that *"this does not mean that Sweden and other highly ranked countries have achieved all the SDGs. As made*

*clear by the SDG Dashboards all countries score "red" in at least one SDG and "orange" or "yellow" on many others. It is clear that the SDGs require further actions by all countries."*⁸

Civil society response

In November 2015, civil society organisations (CSOs) from the nine countries held their first meeting. Since then, they have worked together to collaborate with the HLG, and to exchange ideas and support one another in their work on the 2030 Agenda at the national level in each country. In January 2016, the CSO group published an open letter⁹ setting out its suggestions for what leadership should entail for the 2030 Agenda. The recommendations were followed up on in dialogues with the various national governments, a move that was a positive first step.

In July 2016, the group published the report *Champions to be? Making the 2030 Agenda a Reality* with country case studies from all nine countries¹⁰. The report was launched during the High-Level Political Forum in New York 2016, at a well-attended side event.

In January 2017, a letter was sent to the Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven proposing a joint meeting between governments, civil society organisations, private sector organisations and other stakeholders from the nine member states of the HLG. The group asked if the Government of Sweden would be willing to host a first and unique multi-stakeholder meeting during the first half of 2017. Such an initiative would further demonstrate a commitment to the collaborative spirit that must be the foundation of any implementation of the 2030 Agenda.¹¹ The Swedish Prime Minister has not yet given any official response to the letter.

The CSO group's membership has grown over time, although it remains small and cannot claim to be broadly representative of civil society. The group has agreed to continue to share best practices and experiences, and to continue the dialogue and review of the HLG and its various member countries. One of its core efforts is to continue pushing for inclusive civil society participation at all levels, hoping this will inspire others to do the same.

⁷ Joint Statement by the High-Level Group on the Agenda 2030 in support of implementation of 2030 Agenda, <http://www.government.se/press-releases/2016/04/joint-statement-by-high-level-group-in-support-of-implementation-of-2030-agenda/>, 27th June 2017.

⁸ Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017 – Global Responsibilities, International spillovers in achieving the goals*, www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/2017/2017-SDG-Index-and-Dashboards-Report-full.pdf page 32

⁹ Open Letter to the Members of the High-Level Group on Agenda 2030, <http://www.concord.se/wp-content/uploads/Open-letter-to-the-members-of-UN-HLG-Agenda-2030-21-January-2016-electronic-version.pdf>, 21 January 2016

¹⁰ 2016, *Champions to be? Making the 2030 Agenda a Reality*, <http://www.concord.se/wp-content/uploads/champion-states-making-the-2030-agenda-a-reality.pdf>

¹¹ Open Letter to Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, <http://www.concord.se/wp-content/uploads/letter-to-prime-minister-stefan-lofven-2030-agenda-hlg.pdf>, 24 January 2017

The Civil Society Group on the
HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON THE 2030 AGENDA
 is made up of the following twelve civil society
 organizations and think-tanks:



AFRICA MONITOR, South Africa



GERMAN NGO FORUM ON
 ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



PLAN INTERNATIONAL,
 TIMOR-LESTE



AFRICA PHILANTHROPIC
 FOUNDATION, Tanzania



GESTOS, Brazil



PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE
 AND PEACE, LIBERIA



CEPEI, Colombia



NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY
 COUNCIL OF LIBERIA



VENRO, Germany



CONCORD SWEDEN



PERMATIL, Timor-Leste



YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS,
 TUNISIA



BRAZIL

► THE 2030 AGENDA AND BRAZIL TO DATE: THE PATH TO REGRESSION

Civil Society participation

The government of Brazil has decided to submit a Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the High-Level Political Forum this year. In the process of preparing the report, civil society was not consulted. The report does, however, highlight “good steps” towards developing governance and modalities for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

A clear governance structure is fundamental. In October, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Commission was established with equal seats for civil society and governments representatives. However, this is not enough since it needs to be translated into meaningful participation policies.

The Civil Society Working Group for the 2030 Agenda¹² launched on the 6th of June a *Spot-light report - The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Brazil*¹³ on the 2030 Agenda implementation in Brazil 2017, and formally presented it to the government, the SDG Parliament Task Force, and the UN agencies. The CSO Spot-light report, which focuses on the seven main goals that was reviewed in the Brazilian 2017 Voluntary National Review, was written by a coalition of experts in each policy field. The report contains data and analyses on the targets and indicators. Besides presenting the challenges, it also brings specific recommendations to each goal.

Implementation

According to the CSO Spot-light report, Brazil is currently facing an accelerating process of dismantling the social protection floors and the labour legislation with the current underfunding of essential health, education, gender and environmental programs.

In terms of eradicating poverty and hunger, the basic conditional program for reducing extreme poverty, Bolsa Família, has continued without any foreseeable planning on how to overcome its necessity. Budget cuts in food security and nutrition programs compromise its stability, already showing signs of degradation in data related to SDGs 1 and 2. The report also points to the worsening lack of protection for the most vulnerable people such as indigenous people, quilombolas, and traditional communities, including unpunished attacks on environmental preservation units and increasing deforestation.

The universal public health system is under extreme threat and budgetary stress. The quality of service has decreased in many areas, despite the offer of new and improved sexual and reproductive health services, which have helped decrease mother and child mortality. However, progresses do not reflect all regions. Proven social technologies and the human-rights based approaches for prevention of several diseases, including HIV infection, have been abandoned for a more medicalized approach. In some basic indicators, the country might improve, but mainly there is a clear regression in implementing SDG 3, particularly because of a budget shortage based on austerity legislation introduced by the current government. This is a government who sees funding allocation for health, education, social protection et cetera as an expenditure, not as a necessary investment.

¹² <http://www.brasilnaagenda2030.org>

¹³ <https://igarape.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/spotlight-report-cswg-brazil-hlpf2017.pdf>

In regards to SDG 5, Brazil, despite having quite advanced laws regarding the protection of women's rights, ranks fifth overall in the number of femicides and has the fourth largest number of girls married before the age of 15. It is furthermore the country that kills most transsexual and transvestite women. Sexual and reproductive health policies have overlooked crucial points. Abortion is still criminalized except in three specific situations, in spite of the fact that there are an estimated one million clandestine abortions performed every year, making abortions the third greatest cause of maternal mortality in the big cities. Finally, in the past months the current Ministry of Education decided to eliminate *gender relations* and *sexuality education* from the basic education program in the country, compromising the few generational improvements under construction, the revenge of machismo with institutional support.

SDG 9 has seen one of the most obvious regressions in the country's sustainable development. Most of the industrial and production processes are following the business as usual approach of not integrating social and environmental aspect in its planning and execution. Moreover, the industrial capacity of the country has decreased significantly and the country is suffering from the results of competition from cheaper imports from more integrated global supply chains.

Another challenge is the way Brazil does not deal with its almost nine thousand kilometres of coastline. There is close to no regulation of its use as a sustainable development platform, but only as an extractive source or maritime thoroughfare. SDG 14 has suffered a major blow with the disaster of Mariana, where a subsidiary of Vale Company flooded the medium size river basin of Rio Doce with about 60 million cubic meters of iron waste. The toxic brown mudflows reached the Atlantic Ocean 17 days later.

With so many homegrown problems, it would be hard for Brazil to dedicate much to international partnership. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency is equipped to receive funds and triangulate connections of Brazilian institutions (companies, agricultural institutes, universities et al) with other institutions abroad, but still lacks legislation on how to donate funds. Brazilian civil society is a good consistent example of cooperation with other organizations throughout the global south, both in advocacy and in social technological cooperation. This is the current situation of trying and fulfilling SDG 17, particularly revitalizing the global partnership. But the economic prospect exercised by the country is just under the – business as usual – principle. Science and technology is undermined in public budgeting. Brazil has a low level of innovation, and close to no successful case of technological scaling up. Furthermore, its industrial capacity has decreased severely in the past five years, with export portfolio still largely composed of commodities, extractive and agricultural.

► CONCLUSIONS

Constant political crises and a decrease in institutional credibility will undermine the potential of coordination within government branches to perform any activity related to aligning their effort to sustainable development. Most of the work done by civil society organizations for the past two years has been to try and guarantee what has already been achieved, without further incurring loss caused by fiscal crises in ten of the country's twenty-seven states. The situation is critical. Brazil has regressed back to seven years ago, with further regression on the way caused by obsolete economic policies being imposed under the banner of fiscal austerity, and lead by a government that lack capacity and credibility to lead Brazil towards a sustainable development model which will leave no one behind.



COLOMBIA

Political Situation in Colombia

At the end of 2016, in a context of extreme polarisation between citizens and political leaders at the national level and after the rejection by referendum of the Peace Agreement with the FARC guerrillas (reached after more than fifty years of internal conflict), the Colombian Congress finally approved and renewed the Agreement with the biggest Colombian armed group, putting an end to the longest internal conflict in the Western Hemisphere and heralding the peacebuilding era in the country. However, the implementation of the Peace Agreement has been slowing down due to the recent decision of the Constitutional Court to invalidate the 'fast-track' mechanism to approve the necessary laws for peacebuilding.

Furthermore, at this time, one year before his time in office is due to end, President Juan Manuel Santos has very low approval rates due to scandalous cases of corruption in infrastructure contracts and the deceleration of economic growth, which is in contrast to his favourable image in the international arena. The polarisation mentioned above is clearly still defining the nomination of potential presidential candidates.

► IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE 2030 AGENDA TO DATE

Inclusive civil society participation

Several months after 2016 HLPF, the SDG Commission (Sustainable Development Goals Commission) has started to work with key non-state actors for SDG implementation to create a multi-stakeholder platform, in order to involve different actors in the day-to-day work of the Commission. It is expected that the platform will be fully functional at the end of 2017.

Political leadership and policy coherence

The SDG Commission is composed of eight government institutions, seeking to ensure a whole-of-government approach and effort. However, it seems that the institutional capacity of the technical secretariat is not sufficient.

The Goals have been aligned to the National Development Plan, the Green Growth Strategy, and the commitments undertaken by Colombia in order to become an OECD member. Although the Goals were aligned to the local development plans, there is no real awareness among local authorities about the SDGs.

Financing the 2030 Agenda

Until now, the SDG Commission has not presented any mapping of financial resources or a strategy to finance the implementation of the SDGs.

Although Colombia has already included most of the Addis Ababa's recommendations on tax evasion and illicit flows, corruption scandals have been uncovered in the last few months. To give an example, the loss for corruption in the building of the biggest oil refinery in Colombia is the same as the expected new outcomes from the recently approved tax reform in late 2016.

Strong institutional structures

Although the SDG Commission includes the three dimensions of sustainable development in its work, it is necessary to increase the frequency of the meetings (they have had only five high-level meetings in two years).

The only non-state actor taking part in the Commission meeting is the private sector, through one representative with the status of “permanent guest”. National CSOs and other stakeholders are waiting for the final framework on how to involve non-state actors in the work of the Commission.

Until now, the National Congress (Parliament) has not been involved in the SDG process despite the fact that in Colombia the Congress approves the National Development Plan and the Annual Budget.

Inclusive, transparent and comprehensive follow-up and review

The SDG Commission has not published the outcomes of their internal debates on implementing the SDGs. Therefore, it is not possible for civil society to guarantee a consistent follow-up to the actions of the Commission on SDGs.

Bearing in mind that President Santos will leave office in early August 2018, it is possible that Colombia will report again to the HLPF next year, in order to demonstrate to the international community its main successes on sustainable development. However, this is by no means certain, as the Colombian civil society was not invited to the SDG Commission’s Technical Secretariat in the last LAC Regional Dialogue for the SDGs in April 2017.



GERMANY

► STILL SOME WAY TO GO TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

In January 2017, the German government presented a new sustainability strategy. Two years ago, it had already announced its intention to designate the updated and revised version of the existing national sustainability strategy as an instrument relevant to the German implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 2002, the said purpose of the national sustainability strategy has been to serve as a guide for a comprehensive, sustainable political agenda taking responsibility for economically, ecologically and socially sound development for all generations, with a strong environmental focus (though this is not the case with the revised version). Its mere existence does not guarantee better results, however. For example, resource consumption is still on the rise in Germany and the country is a long way from achieving sustainable agriculture or sustainable mobility concepts.

The new German Sustainability Strategy (GSS) is structured along the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. It details the goals and measures to be taken in, with and through Germany. It also lists indicators for measuring the implementation of the strategy. While the strategy is to be assessed positively regarding the integration of central principles of the 2030 Agenda, policy coherence for sustainable development and civil society participation, the goals and measures are often far too vague or non-binding and thus cannot effect substantive change. Moreover, the great challenges of sustainable development such as climate change, social inequality, poverty and gender inequality are not sufficiently addressed and conflicts of interest e.g. between the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Environment remain unsolved even in the strategy itself. In a situation like this, economic interests almost always win.

► BABY STEPS – LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND, POLICY COHERENCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

The German government builds its sustainability strategy on one of the central principles of the 2030 Agenda, that is, the commitment to 'leaving no one behind'. However, the strategy still lacks concrete measures which clearly contribute to reducing social inequalities both in Germany and worldwide, and guarantee the participation of socially excluded groups such as migrants or homeless people.

Policy coherence is a major challenge when it comes to implementing the strategy and reaching sustainable development. The trade-offs between, for example, economic growth and climate protection, which have to be addressed and overcome, need systematic and continuous coordination between ministries. Therefore, the government appointed a so-called department representative for sustainable development. The government also announced its intention to have annual coherence reports issued by all departments. From a civil society perspective, these can only be the first steps towards policy coherence. The government now has to show that coordination between ministries will actually lead to more coherent policies. Therefore, the ministries' coherence reports should be structured along the SDGs and they should detail the conflicts of interest between ministries and how they can be overcome. Furthermore, the German government should present an annual overall coherence report which should be discussed in parliament and made available to civil society for their input and suggestions.

The participation of civil society has improved with the new sustainability strategy. The German government established the Sustainability Forum in which more than 70 organisations and networks from civil society are represented. It is of interest to civil society that it becomes a relevant platform for dialogue and

exchanges on sustainable development. Both measures had been recommended by civil society during the consultations about the revision of the existing strategy. The legitimacy of the forum also depends on the representativeness of its members. The German government should therefore follow the main principle of the 2030 Agenda to 'leave no one behind' and guarantee the participation of all groups of society, including persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, single parents and the homeless. It remains to be seen whether the new forum will result in more meaningful participation by civil society.

► OFF-TRACK – OVERCOMING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE-OFFS

Despite its positive tone regarding overcoming inequality, reaching policy coherence and widening civil society participation, there are major short-comings in the goals, measures and indicators with regard to reaching sustainable development. These should be addressed in future revisions of the strategy. The biggest challenge is to overcome the dominant economic growth paradigm. The German government still adheres to quantitative economic growth and its concomitant high resource consumption and the resulting negative impacts on social, ecological and economic development in Germany and abroad. It avoids moving towards greater sustainability, especially where it is most needed, such as in agriculture, mobility and land, as well as resource consumption. Reference to resource sufficiency is missing, and technical innovation and resource efficiency are emphasised instead.

The implementation of the strategy will be measured using 69 indicators, of which only ten refer to global issues. Predominately, these indicators only relate to areas of development aid, which contradicts overall policy coherence, and the external effects of German politics are not measured. Important policy areas such as poverty, nutrition and health are only measured nationally, thus the global dimension of these cannot be assessed. The selection of economic indicators runs the risk of neglecting the social and ecological aspects of development. Altogether goals and indicators are often not very ambitious or even appropriate. For example, one goal is to reduce significantly under the EU-28 level the share of people who are materially deprived. The German government correctly realises that Germany is a rich country and that in the areas of poverty and social inequality the concept of relative poverty should be used to assess poverty incidence. However, it then chooses to measure this goal through self-assessment rather than by the actual monetary situation of households. Beyond that, the goal – to get below the EU-28 level – has already been met and is thus totally devoid of ambition. Other indicators come without concrete goals and targets, as with the indicator on sustainable energy, or are incomprehensible, such as the indicator regarding the global supply chains where the number of companies which are members in the German textile alliance is supposed to indicate success and achievements in the sector.

Against this background it must be said that German carbon emissions are still rising. The dominant agricultural model is based on industrialisation worldwide, destroying small-scale farming and contributing to the contamination of groundwater by nitrogen and nitrates through over-fertilisation. Gender equality, including the commitment to equal pay for equal work, is still a long way off. More so, regarding social cohesion and inclusion of all societal groups there are major gaps between comprehensive political commitments and coherent, effective practical advances. The transportation sector is still mainly focused on an unsustainable use of roads rather than railways, which has just been emphasised by the drafting of a new Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan. The German Sustainability Strategy is a step forward but there is still a long way to go for Germany to become truly sustainable.



LIBERIA

Politically, Liberia is presently going through its electoral seasons with general elections coming up in October 2017. Having a democratic form of government with three branches of government, each with separate powers, poses challenges for coordination and cohesive action.

► IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA TO DATE

Liberia has submitted a Peace Building Plan (LPBP) to the Security Council of the United Nations. The plan is in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and features the country's development initiative Agenda for Transformation (AfT) which covers five priority areas:

- a) promoting inclusive and transparent elections in 2017
- b) peace, security and the rule of law
- c) economic transformation
- d) governance and public institutions
- e) cross-cutting issues

The plan also captures civil society commitments alongside government commitments. A civil society plan is being developed through processes that emanate from a civil society dialogue on the Liberia peace building plan and captures four areas of intervention: Awareness raising, Engagement, Advocacy and Monitoring. The process of the CSO plan continues with a costing initiative by thematic clusters of civil society to review what is presently available by CSOs to complement the LPBP, identify the gaps and make necessary requests to address the gaps.

Progress has been made in the implementation of the AfT and efforts are being made to craft a successive AfT within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063. Maintaining a peaceful transition of national security from the United Nations Mission to Liberia's (UNMIL) national security apparatus on the one hand and the political transition of power from the current government to its successor in 2018 on the other, are crucial to the advancement of these initiatives. Steps undertaken to date include:

1. Mid-Term Review of Agenda for Transformation

- The Mid-Term Review of the AfT is completed. Pillar meetings were held to validate the findings of the report and the report was presented to the Cabinet.
- The Government of Liberia has decided to address SDG domestication as part of its development of the successor national development plan.

2. Roadmap for the post-AfT Development Plan

- A roadmap has been developed for preparing the new AfT (including SDG domestication components, AfT II). The Government of Liberia aims to produce a zero draft of the report prior to the elections this year.
- Decision to domesticate and integrate the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063 into our next development plan reached.

¹ www.brasilnaagenda2030.org is a publication in Portuguese which provides detailed information about the process and actions led by the CSO Working Group on the 2030 Agenda, as well as information about the follow-up and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

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- Alignment exercise of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 to the indicators of the AfT completed.
 - Rapid Integrated Assessment Exercise on the alignment of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 with the AfT by UNDP in collaboration with the government completed.
 - Developed roadmap for the AfT II development.
 - Initial awareness raising on the domestication of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 to AfT II.
 - Joint Government and UNDAF Retreat on medium term development plan review completed.

3. Challenges faced in coordinating a new national plan

- Capacity challenge in meeting the alignment and domestication requirements of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063.
- Resource mobilisation for funding the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 development and implementation.
- Uncoordinated Donors support of parallel activities for the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 which stymied coordination efforts.

Civil society participation

Civil society has organised itself along the SDGs with coordination by the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL). In its support, a survey was conducted with the support of the United Nations Development Program under the caption *gathering community understanding about the SDGs*. A total of 25 researchers were trained by the Liberia Information Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and deployed in the fifteen counties. Findings are now being analysed for publication in the report. Additionally, civil society has been invited to various pillar meetings of the government's mid-term development plan and has contributed immensely. On behalf of civil society organisations in Liberia, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia has made a commitment to the Liberia peace building plan (LPBP) and has effectuated actions by organising a two-day dialogue in April 2017 to develop a civil society plan in support of the LPBP. Several meetings were held with delegations from the United Nations Peace Building Commission, the Swedish Ambassador to the United Nations, and other delegations, to assess the peace and stability of the Liberian state.



SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's development priorities are encapsulated in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), with their main aims being to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality and unemployment by 2030. The South African government has therefore indicated that all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are important. In the implementation process, there will not be a need for policy, legal and institutional reforms and alignment as the necessary policies and legal and institutional frameworks are in place for the implementation of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.

► IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA TO DATE

The implementation of the SDGs is considered to have begun already since most of the targets and indicators under the SDGs are aligned with South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) and its medium term implementing framework, the current Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF 2014-2019).

The Deputy Minister for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation noted in June 2017 the following: 'to ensure alignment and progress with our commitments, South Africa has commenced with the incorporation of both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs into our national development plans by developing clear linkages between our national, continental and global agendas to allow for integrated and systematic monitoring, and review processes at all levels.'

An integrated indicator framework

South Africa through Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has developed an integrated indicator framework to outline the alignment of the NDP indicators in the MTSF, Agenda 2063 (first ten years of implementation) and the SDGs. The framework will be expanded this year (2017) to include Provincial Development Plans and IDPs. The indicator framework provides a clear basis for understanding what must be addressed in the planning of as well the monitoring and evaluation of the goals contained in the post-2015 development agenda.

Monitoring

The role of Parliament is to represent the public, approve policies and laws and monitor the work of the executive and departments. Government departments report to Parliament on the implementation of development targets, including the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Departments present their strategic plans and annual performance plans, as well as quarterly and annual progress reports to parliamentary portfolio committees.

The existing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) structures and functions will also consider the goals and targets under the SDGs and Agenda 2063, as part of national implementation of development targets.

Civil society participation

A South African CSOs working group has been established which brings together sector-focused CSOs coalitions. The coalition has adopted a road map that will guide the CSOs activities on the SDGs. It is aligned with the current Government strategy of involving non-state actors through technical line departments at a national level. These departments are responsible for implementing the relevant goals and targets and have regular consultations with relevant CSOs in their fields of work to ensure proper consultation with all relevant stakeholders. Strong emphasis is put on the participation of CSOs in the domestication of the SDG indicators. A National Coordinating Committee (NCC) was established by Statistics South Africa to provide the overall policy direction on SDG progress reporting. The NCC consists of high ranking staff from data providing departments, UN agency representatives, and civil society representatives. CSOs are also represented in sectorial working groups, the technical working group and report writing groups.



SWEDEN

► IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA TO DATE

Civil society participation

There have been several official processes during the first half of 2017 regarding development and follow-up on the 2030 Agenda. Civil society was invited to attend the processes and contributed in an open and transparent way. The government appointed *an independent national committee – the Swedish Delegation for the 2030 Agenda* – which has been working in a consultative process to develop a gap analysis and an initial suggested action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Sweden. The report was handed over to the government on 1st June 2017. During 2017 the Delegation held various cross-sectoral and cross thematic consultations.

Sweden is conducting a *Voluntary National Review* this year. In the process of writing the report, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance formed an external reference group with participation from different sectors of society, including civil society, local communities and the private sector. Civil society representatives are part of the official delegation to the High-Level Political Forum.

Political leadership and policy coherence for development

The Swedish government stresses that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda needs a ‘whole of government’ approach. However, two ministers have been given specific responsibilities. The Minister of Public Administration at the Ministry of Finance is responsible for the national implementation while the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for the international aspects of the implementation.

Sweden’s Policy for Global Development (PGD), is said to be one of the key tools for achieving the 2030 Agenda. It is a policy for global development with a common objective for all policy areas, aiming to ensure policy coherence and to contribute to global development, while balancing conflicts of interest between different policy areas and the guiding principles of PGD. The policy states that three perspectives must permeate all parts of the government’s policies: a rights perspective based on international human rights conventions, the perspective of the deprived and socially vulnerable, and gender equality. The government reports biennially to the parliament with the most recent report occurring in 2016. The action plan for a *Feminist Foreign Policy* was presented in the beginning of 2017. The policy states that Sweden’s feminist government has made gender equality a key priority. It sets out an action plan for contributing to gender equality, linking it to the 2030 Agenda.

The Swedish civil society acknowledges that both the PGD and the Swedish feminist foreign policy are crucial instruments for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The PGD has been in place since 2003, and has managed to create a more ‘whole of government’ approach to sustainable development in many ways. However, Swedish civil society has been critical regarding the extent to which Sweden pursues conflicting interests. For example, Sweden continues to sell arms to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates even though both countries are carrying out airstrikes against Yemen.¹⁴

Another example is the adoption of the new temporary legislation on asylum rules, which essentially makes it impossible for persons who have received asylum in Sweden to reunite with their families. Without the possibility of family reunification, women and children are left behind in conflict areas.¹⁵ The Swedish

¹⁴ <http://www.concord.se/wp-content/uploads/hur-feministisk-ar-svensk-utr-pol-2017-web.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.concord.se/wp-content/uploads/hur-feministisk-ar-svensk-utr-pol-2017-web.pdf>

civil society stresses that these examples contradict PGD and feminist foreign policy, as well as the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

The *Voluntary National Review* shows that Sweden is at the forefront of fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has unique conditions for implementation. The government has taken a global lead on SDG 14 and the oceans, and is a 'pathfinder country' in the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. At the same time, it is pointed out that Sweden still faces challenges, for example regarding inequality and carbon footprint. Even though Sweden's output of greenhouse gases decreased by 14% between 2008-2014, Sweden is nonetheless contributing to an increase of greenhouse gases globally. Emissions owing to imports for consumption and production are increasing and not following the positive domestic trend.¹⁶ Issues that are not described thoroughly or analysed in the review are several challenges at the international level, for example the above-mentioned arms trade and migration concerns.

Financing the 2030 Agenda

The Swedish government lives up to its 1% Official Development Aid (ODA) target and civil society supports the commitment and Sweden's level of ambition when it comes to pushing at the EU level and internationally for the ODA quantity and quality commitments. However, from 2015 there was a negative trend, with an increase in the share of ODA spent on refugee costs in Sweden.

In 2017, Sweden developed a report on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development with examples from the government as well as from the private and public sector. The report includes different areas such as capital flight, micro and climate finance, and it is welcomed by the civil society. It aims to engage different stakeholders and to 'trigger a movement towards a more action-oriented dialogue in various national and international forums, such as the Financing for Development Forum'.¹⁷ However, it does not allow room for increased ambition.

News for 2017 is that the Swedish government has developed new measurements of wealth as a complement to the GDP, to highlight the sustainability of the economy and people's quality of life. The new measurement was included in the 2017 financial spring bill.

Monitoring, follow-up and review

The government has declared that the 2030 Agenda will be an integrated part of the existing decision-making bodies. However, there is no national institutional mechanism that draws together and coordinates the three dimensions of sustainable development. Moreover, there is no parliamentary oversight committee for the 2030 Agenda.

In conclusion, Sweden has a strong commitment on the local, national and global level. However, it is yet to be seen how the government will take care of the action plan delivered by the Swedish Delegation for the 2030 Agenda. The civil society in Sweden is calling for a concrete roadmap to guide them to 2030.

¹⁶ <http://www.regeringen.se/49f006/contentassets/f883444856cd40838e69a22d5da2beed/sverige-och-agenda-2030--rapport-till-fns-politiska-hognivaforum-2017-om-hallbar-utveckling.pdf>

¹⁷ <http://www.government.se/49aff9/contentassets/bcc36dbcb8bf43728ba977e6b2b1c4c0/towards-achieving-the-2030-agenda-and-the-sustainable-development-goals.pdf>



TANZANIA

► IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA TO DATE

Tanzania has continued to make strides in aligning its second Five Year Development Plan implementation (FYDP II) in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the African Union Agenda 2063 implementation through the national implementation plan for FYDP II, sector-specific strategic plans, regional strategic plans and district strategic plans.

Since the last *Champions to Be? Making the 2030 Agenda a Reality* report to date, Tanzania has made the following major strides in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals:

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Tanzania conducted in collaboration with Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21) a data gap assessment in Tanzania in line with the SDGs and Tanzania's second Five Year Development Plan.

A six-month work-plan and budget for data roadmap processes in Tanzania was developed and is implemented by the NBS. As part of the data road map process in Tanzania, NBS is working in collaboration with Ministries, Departments, and other Agencies (MDA) to collate, clean, better organise, and facilitate data collaboration and sharing of existing data between MDAs.

Poverty Eradication Department (PED) under the Ministry of Finance and Planning has developed poverty indicators, and is now in the process of finalising the national baseline for the SDGs. Development of Ministry, Regional, and District strategic plans for the implementation of FYDP II, the SDGs, and Africa Union Agenda 2063, has also been made.

The NBS has constituted a multi-stakeholder technical committee comprised of data scientists from the NBS, MDAs, think tanks, Development Partners, and CSOs to advise the Director General and the National Joint Committee on technical aspects on national dashboard and reporting platform for the SDGs.

The implementation of the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063 has been prioritised as part of Ministry, Regional and District Strategic Plans. Most of these plans are still works in progress.

The Ministry of Gender in collaboration with UN Women, CIVICUS DataShift, and National Bureau of Statistics, co-convened a national gender forum focusing on the implementation and follow-up and review of SDG 5. Furthermore, a parliamentary caucus on Sustainable Development is in the final stages of being constituted at the National Parliament.

Civil society engagement

Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform continues to be the preferred platform for government and other development partners to engage with civil society in the implementation of the SDGs in Tanzania. The platform continues its role as part of the National Joint Committee on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, and was recently requested to second two data scientists to sit on the national technical committee for national dashboard and national reporting tool.

The Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform, through the Africa Philanthropic Foundation, is working in partnership with Data Shift and the National Bureau of Statistics to develop the national civil society

guidelines on the Tanzania Statistics Act of 2015. The aim of the guidelines is to facilitate civil society organisations to produce and use data in line with the Tanzania Statistics Act of 2015. Moreover, the process seeks to officially register civil society concerns and recommendations for improvements to be made to the Statistics Act and its respective guidelines.

Engagement between the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform and the National Parliament on the establishment of the Parliamentary caucus is ongoing, and the first convening of the caucus is expected to take place before the end of June 2017.

The Tanzania Sustainable Development platform continues to engage with local government authorities to open up spaces for civil society organisations at regional, district, and grassroots levels to be involved in the development, implementation, follow-up and review of regional and district strategic plans.

Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform was consulted by UNDP Tanzania to contribute towards the capacity development for a sustainable development framework for Tanzania. This framework is going to be the main reference point for UN efforts on capacity development on Sustainable Development in Tanzania.

Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform is currently finalising the annual updating of civil society mapping that includes documentation of civil society contributions towards the implementation of FYDP II, SDGs, and Agenda 2063, and contribution towards the monitoring and evaluation of the same. This includes engagement with the Ministry of Finance and Planning on the baseline process of SDGs and the development of the national monitoring and evaluation framework.

Civil Society Organisations and Non-State Actors continue to play a crucial role in Tanzania's Data ecosystem through the work of organisations such as the Tanzania Data Lab (D-Lab), Data Zetu, and Data for Local Impact Innovation Challenge (DLI).

► CHALLENGES

Lack of institutional arrangements for coordination of the three dimensions of sustainability (social, economic, and environmental) continues to be one of the main challenges for the holistic implementation of the SDGs in Tanzania. This is partly contributed to by the lack of political leadership on data in Tanzania.

Multi-stakeholder partnership is not institutionalised and is not practiced consistently. There have been a number of incidences where the government chose to work independently and only involve civil society and other stakeholders when the final product had already been released or was in its final stages prior to launch.

There are significant data gaps that need to be filled in order to track the progress of FYDP II, SDGs and Agenda 2063 in Tanzania. Filling these data gaps requires multi-stakeholder approaches and partnership between government, private sector, academia, philanthropic and civil society organisations.

Financing in general, and more specifically, financing for the work on data, continues to be the main stumbling block for the full realisation of data revolution potential in Tanzania, along with limited expertise in data science and data management.



TIMOR-LESTE

► IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA TO DATE

The Government, especially the Office of the Prime Minister, Civil Society Organizations, notably Plan International, Alola Foundation, Rede Feto (“Women’s Network”), FADA, FOKUPERS and others have actively promoted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the governments national annual budget and expenditure pattern is far from being driven by SDGs around human capital – education, health etc. The capital, Dili, has a large “active” electronic billboard at a major road junction for Government promotion of the SDGs and several important meetings and conferences have been arranged.

In 2016, the Office of the Prime Minister conducted a one-day workshop working together with the G7+ focusing on Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The Secretariat of G7+ recognized the achievement of Timor-Leste in promoting peace, justice and strong institutions.

In 22 and 23 May 2017, the government, in cooperation with the G7+ Secretariat, conducted an important global conference on the 2030 Agenda: A Road Map for SDGs in Fragile and Conflict –Affected states.

30 June 2016, Plan International, Timorese CSOs PERMATIL and La’o Hamutuk and the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) conducted a first socialization of the SDGs to international and national CSOs. More than 500 participants from CSOs divided into 17 groups to discuss each Goal in the Timor-Leste context, produced valuable recommendations to Government.

10 of May 2017, Plan International worked with Timorese CSOs Rede Feto, Caucus, Fundasaun Patria, Fundasaun Alola, CNJTL, MoFFe, MHV and with the Government’s Secretary of State for Women’s Equality and Economic Empowerment to organize a national conference on Girls, Women and the SDGs, focusing on Goal 5, Gender Equality. This conference brought together not just national actors but also all (newly elected in October 2016) women Village Chiefs, some male Village Chiefs, Municipality (rural district) Administrators and also 13 Municipality Women’s Associations. The Prime Minister was the keynote speaker. On 10th August 2016, the National University of Timor Leste (UNTL) conducted to introduce and socialize the SDG to university students. The Prime Minister explained the MDGs, SDGs and the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan and government priority plan for 2017 with its links to the SDGs to students.

Civil society participation

La’o Hamutuk is a Timor-Leste non-governmental organization which has analysed and advocated for equitable, sustainable development for 17 years. The civil society is gratified that the Timor-Leste Government is embracing the SDGs, the global framework for achieving sustainable, equitable and peaceful social and economic development. Timor-Leste’s National Strategic Development Plan (SDP) contains many important targets in health, education and other areas, and we believe that harmonizing those parts of the SDP with the SDGs is a useful step towards achieving these objectives.

Timor-Leste faces many challenges, from enduring effects of occupation and war, young institutions, limited fiscal and human resources, poor infrastructure and widespread poverty and malnutrition, and meaningful progress toward the SDGs requires political will, wise and strategic policies, careful planning and concrete action on the part of policy makers, public servants, development partners and all Timorese citizens. Decision-making must also include civil society, youth and marginalized groups, in order to pursue an equitable development process, and their concerns and needs should be incorporated into all development programs.

The Government's programs and those of its international partners should be realistically achievable and based on evidence, understanding Timor-Leste's current context and aimed at improving people's well-being and incomes in the short term, and achieving equitable economic and environmental sustainability in the medium- and long-term. Therefore, La'o Hamutuk offers this analysis of Timor-Leste's economic reality and current government policies, along with some suggestions that we believe can help use the remaining money from our limited petroleum resources to improve all our people's lives, and achieve lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

► **ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY REQUIRES UPDATING OUR PRIORITIES**

La'o Hamutuk congratulates the Timor-Leste Government on successfully pushing for the inclusion of SDG number 16, 'Peace and Justice and Strong Institutions,' which aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Peace is an essential element of sustainable, equitable development, and the people of this country made tremendous sacrifices to achieve it. We also note that the Government has selected 19 indicators from several SDGs, including reducing extreme poverty and infant mortality, reducing violence, improving food security and increasing access to education, water and electricity.

La'o Hamutuk agrees that Timor-Leste needs to make its state institutions even more effective, and we appreciate that the other selected indicators address many of the profound challenges our people currently face. However, there are other important areas which have more immediate impacts on people's lives, such as endemic malnutrition and disease, dysfunctional health care and education systems and poor quality infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, but are not expressly addressed by any of the selected indicators.

The SDP contains targets for many of these areas, and we understand that the Government plans to implement the SDGs according to the objectives outlined in the SDP; however, it is an aspirational document, not a realistic plan, and as such it does not include cost estimates or timelines for achieving its objectives.



TUNISIA

Political situation in Tunisia

Since 2016, the Tunisian government has announced that security, employment, and economy growth are top priorities for the country, so it does not classify the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a priority but we can say that Goal 8, 'decent work and economic growth' and Goal 10, 'reduced inequalities' are considered as priorities.

In fact, Tunisia still faces many challenges. The political situation is still unstable and disturbed and the new government, which was established in August 2016 (the seventh government since 2011), has been slow to implement the 2030 Agenda thus far.

Local and regional elections are to be held on 17th December this year and we estimate that many SDGs will be referred to in the Electoral promises of the candidates in many cities and regions. This will encourage politicians and civil society and it will give a significant push for the 2030 Agenda implementation.

► IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA TO DATE

In Tunisia, UNDP is the most important institution working on the 2030 Agenda with government and civil society organisations.

Civil society participation

Tunisian CSOs believe that their role is important for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, they are organising many activities and projects, are working to build their capacities and are participating in many international events. But until now they have had little success in creating a national coalition to increase impact and pressure. In addition, the impact is not very high because the implementation of the SDGs is mainly directly linked to the government.

Many CSOs participated in a series of competitive SDG-camps at national level which were organised by UNFPA and other UN agencies, from August to December 2016. After that, an Eco-Camp, a winner project at SDG camp, was organised and funded by the UNFPA in different regions of Tunisia. It is a project that mainly targets young people and consists of a camp held in many attractive natural places in Tunisia to create a venue to discuss environmental issues, to exchange knowledge and experiences, and to network. The event included three main activities which were cleaning the area, using the collected garbage to create small creative gadgets for decoration, and planting plants and trees in addition to attending lectures on climate change and SDGs.

Government cooperation with UNDP

UNDP Tunisia, in collaboration with the UN, completed a survey inspired by the concept 'My World' to find out about the needs of different age groups regarding SDG implementation. 6952 people participated in this survey (people of all age groups, both women and men, and from different educational and professional backgrounds). Good education, the creation of job opportunities and reliable healthcare were the highest-ranked necessities found in the survey.

UNDP Tunisia is planning to create a civil society focus group which will work on Goal 13. Many CSOs, experts and other actors will participate in this focus group.

At government level, UNDP supported the government in the implementation of SDG 13. The support began before the climate change meeting COP22 in 2016.

The Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment and APAL (Coastal Protection and Development Agency) are working on many projects and activities to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In collaboration with UNDP, they are working on the vulnerable coastal areas, research and project on the ground (working in collaboration with local people), a project on coastal resilience in the Island of Djerba (SDG 14), Information Days on Marine Turtles, and other awareness campaigns.

The Coastal Protection and Development Agency launched the beach clean-up program on 15th May 2017. Clean-up work for 2017 will be done on 120 beaches covering a total area of 7200 hectares.

Cleaning operations consist of sand screening and raking periodically at the rate of one intervention per week for public beaches and two interventions per week for tourist beaches.

Global environment funds support the government (National agency for the control of energy) in the implementation of the solar plan for Tunisia (Goal 7), with the additional collaboration of UNDP (experts). The Tunisian government, UNDP and Swiss cooperation worked together for the creation of a new index 'Sustainable inclusive growth in Tunisia: determining a possible way forward'.

Development of an overall approach to sustainable development

The National Commission for Sustainable Development (CNDD) continues its work on developing an overall approach to sustainable development, to trace the strategic orientations of the country in this area and to ensure the implementation of various programs, in particular the 2030 Agenda. However, the 'Sustainable Development and the Rights of Future Generations Act', stipulated by the Tunisian Constitution of 2014, has still not been created. Since 2016, civil society and some political parties have been campaigning to make this law a reality, but unfortunately, until now we have not seen a draft of the law relating to this Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In this chapter we, the civil society group on the High-Level Group on the 2030 Agenda, present recommendations for next steps to be taken by the governments in the High-Level Group. The recommendations are based on the findings in this review and our analysis of what needs to be done to make the 2030 Agenda a reality.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

There is a need for global political leadership and for global initiatives. We strongly believe that collaboration and joint action are critical for achieving the leadership the 2030 Agenda needs. It would demonstrate a commitment to the collaborative spirit which is the basis of the 2030 Agenda.

We believe that an annual multi-stakeholder meeting involving governments, civil society, and the private sector from High-Level Group countries would be a good platform for exchange, stakeholder consultation and peer-learning, and an opportunity to share and reflect on progress regarding SDG implementation. We strongly believe that this will have a spill-over effect in the respective regions as well as globally.

1 The initiator of the High-Level Group should host a multi-stakeholder meeting with representatives from all nine countries. Ideally, successive meetings will rotate, covering the nine High-Level Group member states.

VIBRANT AND INDEPENDENT CIVIL SOCIETY

The success of the 2030 Agenda lies in the involvement of all actors, from the initial planning stage and throughout the rest of the process.

The national case studies show that civil society participation varies across the nine countries. All countries have committed to engaging civil society in their work on the 2030 Agenda. The studies show that most countries have initiated dialogues, some already having formalised them, or at least introduced mechanisms for doing so. However, all countries must show that civil society participation will happen in practice. Others will have to increase their efforts to establish participatory mechanisms.

2 Formalise stakeholder engagement and meaningfully involve stakeholders in established participation mechanisms to ensure the effective, inclusive and meaningful participation of all people, including civil society and other stakeholders, in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. To make this possible, governments must fully respect civil and political rights, including freedom of speech and assembly, media freedom, full transparency, and the right to access information.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Most of the nine governments in the High-Level Group have been quite active in aligning existing policies and budgets with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and indicators. More work remains to be done, however, as most existing national policies are not ambitious or coherent enough to contribute to the full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. So far, there seems to be a general focus in the nine countries on reducing poverty and promoting economic growth, and in some countries on basic environmental protection policies. The national case studies also reveal a lack of policy coherence for sustainable development and lack of global leadership.

3 Make sure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is led at the highest possible level, and that a ‘whole of government’ approach is ensured, providing a clear allocation of responsibilities, a division of labour and a working system of checks and balances. The approach must ensure sufficient financial and human capacity to enable each sector to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It must also offer opportunities for engagement and enable leadership at the sub-national level, and it should indicate a clear division of labour between the national and subnational levels.

4 Align all policies to support SDG implementation, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development. It is essential to put in place coordinating committees, at the level of both government and parliament, with a mandate to check all legislation and policies for their SDG compatibility.

INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT AND COMPREHENSIVE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

Without inclusive, transparent and comprehensive follow-up and review, and strong accountability frameworks, the 2030 Agenda is in danger of being nothing but an empty promise. Other key principles of the agenda are to ‘leave no one behind’, for the follow-up and review to be ‘open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people’, and for it to ‘support reporting by all relevant stakeholders’ (the 2030 Agenda, paragraph 74).

At the global level, the Voluntary National Reviews will be the main official tool for monitoring progress and reviewing the agenda, but these global reports will not be enough to ensure that the follow-up and review are regular, transparent and comprehensive. Of the members of the High-Level Group, Germany and Colombia volunteered to report to the 2016 High-Level Political Forum and Brazil and Sweden to the 2017 Forum.

Each country must make a commitment to going further than the global reporting requires them to. The case studies nevertheless show that none of the nine countries have set up national mechanisms for follow-up or review of the 2030 Agenda. High-Level Group members have a key role to play by showing their own commitment to making their national follow-up and reviews truly inclusive, transparent and comprehensive. They can also play a critical role in pushing for this at the regional and global levels.

5 Put in place national institutional mechanisms that draw together and coordinate the three dimensions of sustainability, and that include representatives from government, civil society and other stakeholders.

6 Create national parliamentary 2030 Agenda oversight committees, to ensure an effective checks and balances system, and hence stronger accountability mechanisms.

7 In the spirit of ‘leaving no one behind’, the members of the High-Level Group should ensure that follow-up and review in their respective countries are open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people.

