

15.9.2016

Finnish civil society organizations' recommendations for Finland's Agenda2030 implementation plan

Kepa, the umbrella organization for Finnish CSOs in development cooperation has coordinated the drafting of recommendations for Finland's Agenda2030 implementation plan. The recommendations were made in workshops by advisers and experts from 47 organizations. Finnish Youth Cooperation – Allianssi, Finnish Sports Confederation Valo/Finnish Olympic Committee, Kepa, The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations NYTKIS, SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health and WWF Finland have accepted recommendations in their full extent.

The workshops concerning national and local recommendations were participated by:

Amnesty International Finland (Goal 5), Crisis Management Initiative CMI (Goals 16 and 17), EAPN-FIN European Anti Poverty Network Finland (Goals 1 and 2), EHYT Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention (Goals 1 and 2), Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (Goal 10), Finland National Committee for UN Women (Goal 5), Finn Church Aid (Goal 4), Finnish Committee for UNICEF (Goal 6), Finnish Federation of Graduate Women (Goal 5), Finnish Library Association (Goals 1-17), Finnish Red Cross (1-17) Finnish Sports Confederation Valo/Finnish Olympic Committee (Goals 1-17), Finnish Youth Cooperation – Allianssi (Goals 1-17), Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland (Goal 6), Greenpeace Finland (Goals 7, 13 and 14), Green Women's Association (Goal 5), Kallio Congregation (Goal 10), Kepa (Goals 1-17), National Union of University Students in Finland - SYL (Goals 1-17), Plan International Finland (Goal 5), Save the Children Finland (Goals 16 and 17), SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (Goals 1, 2 and 3), Swedish Parliamentary Group (Goal 5), The Association for Nature Conservation of Hämeenlinna region (Goal 6), The Central Organization of Women's Associations in Finland (Goal 5), The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners MTK (Goal 6), The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations NYTKIS (Goals 1-7), The Family Federation of Finland (Goals 1-17), The Finnish Association for Environmental Education (Goals 4 and 12), The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (Goals 1-17), The Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities (Goals 11 and 15), The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Goals 7, 12 ja 13), The Martha Organization (Goals 1 and 2), The Siemenpuu Foundation (Goal 12), The UN Association of Finland (1-17), The University of Applied Sciences Students in Finland – SAMOK (Goal 4), Unioni - The League of Finnish Feminists (Goal 5), UN Youth of Finland (Goal 5), Workers' Educational Association WEA of Finland (Goals 1-17), and WWF Finland (Goals 12 and 14).

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The workshops concerning global recommendations were participated by:

Caritas Finland (Goals 7, 13, 14 and 15), Diaconia University of Applied Sciences – Diak (Goals 4 and 5), Finland National Committee for UN Women (Goals 4 and 5), Finn Church Aid (Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 16 and 17), Finnish Committee for UNICEF (Goals 8, 11 and 12), Finnish Disabled People’s International Development Association (Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 16 and 17), Finnish Library Association (Goals 1, 2, 9, 16 and 17), Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility (Goals 3 and 6), Finnish Youth Cooperation – Allianssi (Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 16 and 17), Friends of the Earth Finland (Goals 7, 13, 14 and 15), Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland (Goals 3 and 6), Kehys - The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU (Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 16 and 17), Kepa (Goals 1-17), National Union of University Students in Finland - SYL (Goals 4 and 5), Plan International Finland (Goals 4 and 5), The Children and Youth Foundation (Goals 4 and 5), The Family Federation of Finland (Goals 3 and 5), The Finnish Association for Environmental Education (Goals 4 and 5), The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (Goals 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15), The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Goals 4, 5, 7, 13, 14 and 15), The UN Association of Finland (Goals 4, 5, 7, 13, 14 and 15), and The University of Applied Sciences Students in Finland – SAMOK (Goals 4 and 5).

Goal 1: No poverty

Everyone has the right to a decent livelihood.

Global recommendation: **Finnish development cooperation should target the poorest and most marginalized so that at least half of the development co-operation funding is allocated to LDCs.** Eradicating extreme poverty and realizing human rights are the main aims of Finnish development policy and should steer all activities. Finland must support inclusive poverty eradication policies and the social security systems in developing countries.

National recommendation: There are over 900 000 people living at risk of poverty and social exclusion in Finland. In order for Finland to reach the goal to at least halve this number, the living conditions of these people must be improved substantially. **Poverty reduction requires determined social policy: increasing employment and decreasing long-term unemployment, increasing reasonably priced rental apartments, strong social security and an increase in the level of basic social security.** Implementing adequate basic income would reduce poverty. Gender and age sensitivity must be taken into account in statistics.

Local recommendation: The constitution guarantees the right to adequate social and healthcare services for everyone in Finland. The municipalities and regions must ensure that quality social and healthcare services are equally available for everyone. **Client fees and the level of deductibles cannot hamper or complicate the availability of these services.**

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Goal 2: Zero hunger

All people have the right to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Local food production supports sustainable development.

Global recommendation: **In order to develop food security and sustainable agriculture it is a priority to support small farmers and land rights in developing countries.** For this we have to utilize the strong know-how of Finnish NGOs. In all international negotiations, Finland should advocate for fair trade rules that strengthen food security.

National recommendation: **The opportunity for everyone to buy healthy and nutritious food must be supported by tax policy solutions.** Ecologically sustainable agriculture, local production and the reduction of food waste must be strengthened. Finland must have a law that obligates vendors to give out the food that is still edible but no longer vendible for the food distribution organized by non-profit organizations.

Local recommendation: **The municipalities and regions must ensure that the leftover food for instance from schools and nursing homes is distributed for useful purposes.** Municipalities and regions must also support the private sector and civil society in distributing the leftover food. The municipalities must follow the national nutrition recommendations when serving food for groups. Schools and day care centers must distribute information on ethical eating habits.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

Promoting good physical and mental health is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Global recommendation: **Finland should support the work of civil society organizations in promoting good health, which in turn supports education, the ability to work and comprehensive well-being.** Finland is one of the few countries that have promoted sexual and reproductive health globally. Finland should continue speaking out strongly for these issues on the international arena and also support sexual rights.

National recommendation: There needs to be inter-administrative networking and co-operation in order to reach comprehensive and equal social and health care services for everyone. **Promoting an active lifestyle throughout a person's lifecycle creates well-being and prevents diseases.** Funding for preventive actions and incentives must be increased. Information on experienced well-being needs to be the basis for decision-making.

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Local recommendation: **In its well-being strategy, the municipality has to guarantee prerequisites for an active lifestyle by offering sports and culture services and conditions.**

The municipality has to encourage its residents and communities to enhance their own well-being. Diseases of affluence and mental illnesses, drug abuse, as well as preventing exclusion all require quick reactions and a gender sensitive approach.

Goal 4: Quality education

Equal and inclusive education is at the core of development and stable societies. Quality education is a prerequisite for reaching other SDGs and it is therefore important to prioritize it.

Global recommendation: **Quality education is one of Finland's strengths and should be considered one of the priorities within development policy.** When developing quality education, inclusivity and possibilities for lifelong learning have to be taken into account. Education should support participation and global citizenship skills that promote sustainable development.

National recommendation: **Finland has to ensure an equal, open and quality education for all, and resources for attaining high know-how and well-being.** Equal learning opportunities require adequate financial support. The obstacles for the education of the growing non-Finnish speaking population must be removed, and internationalization of education must be increased. The significance of non-formal learning and digitalization must be recognized more strongly.

Local recommendation: **Access to equal and quality early childhood education and basic education as well as library and cultural services must be guaranteed for everyone regardless of their residential area.** The emphasis in the premises of the curriculums such as enhancing sustainable lifestyle, gender sensitive upbringing and human rights must be taken into account when planning and executing education from early childhood to upper secondary school and in supplementary education.

Goal 5: Gender equality

Gender equality should be clearly mainstreamed into the implementation of all SDGs.

Global recommendation: **Finland's commitment to enhance gender equality and the rights of women and girls in all development cooperation should be implemented in practice, and its fulfillment should be monitored and evaluated.** Equality has to be taken into account coherently in all forms of development finance, including that to the private sector. The role of civil society in doing long-term gender work has to be acknowledged and provided with sufficient resources.

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National recommendation: The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women obligates Finland to promote gender equality by active measures and monitoring. **In decision-making, gender impacts must be pre-evaluated and publicly reported.** There also needs to be reforms in legislation, such as renewing the family leave system following the 6+6+6 model, increasing earmarked leave for fathers, renewing the legislation on sex crimes in compliance with the Istanbul Convention, and renewing TransLaw for fulfilling the human rights of sexual minorities. There needs to be a critical evaluation of the general military conscription only obligated to men.

Local recommendation: Many international conventions and the Finnish legislation obligate municipalities to execute gender equality and parity in their actions. It is thus necessary that gender impacts are evaluated in all municipality decision-making and actions are taken to secure the development of equality. Municipalities are significant employers in low-wage work that is dominated by women. In addition, municipalities have a crucial role in preventing violence against women. **Municipalities also organize education from early childhood to upper secondary school and in the best case this education is able to deconstruct gender segregation of Finnish education system, and affect attitudes in general.**

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

Equal access to clean water and sanitation is a human right and a basis to all development.

Global recommendation: Finland has strong know-how in the water and sanitation sectors. NGOs' **local knowledge and rights based approach advance sustainable results and also strengthen possibilities of companies active in the sector to succeed in developing countries.**

National recommendation: The technology for wastewater treatment and ability to attend emergencies in water supply need to be improved. **Adequate level for water protection must be ensured by legislation that takes into account the impact that agriculture has on water quality, and enables safe and usable nutrient recycling.** Resources for research on waste water and nutrient recycling must be ensured. Water-use efficiency and increasing recycling in households and in industry must be increased through incentives.

Local recommendation: Knowledge on recycling water used in industry and households must be increased. In order to reduce energy consumption, the use of warm water has to be limited, and the use of dry toilets supported. **On the local level, the use of resource efficient decentralized water and wastewater systems must be promoted.** The capacities of wastewater treatment plants must be adequate so that bypass events will not occur.

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Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

The climate disaster and the dwindling of natural resources make energy efficiency, energy saving and the use of renewable energy vital.

Global recommendation: Finland has know-how in energy technology. **It is important that our activities strengthen local know-how and support sustainable access to energy services, with respect to local environment and culture.** Finland should promote just access to clean energy, that supports the education, livelihoods, health and equality of the poorest.

National recommendation: There is strong potential in energy technology in Finland. **Finland has to support a comprehensive system-wide change and develop solutions, for instance, to integrate large proportions of renewable energy into the electrical grid.** There needs to be both economic incentives and regulation in order to increase energy saving on all levels of consumption.

Local recommendation: Municipalities have to strengthen energy citizenship through communications, guiding policies and services. Incentives on small-scale energy production strengthen local economy and promote system-wide change. **Solutions that speed up the energy revolution must be favored in the investments and procurements made by municipalities.**

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

A sustainable economy is the foundation of people's livelihoods and well-being. Youth employment is a precondition for sustainable development all over the world.

Global recommendation: Traditionally Finland is a country with strong labor rights and hence it is natural for us to support decent and dignified work globally. **We must respect the ownership of developing countries for example through supporting local, small entrepreneurship and sustainable innovations, and provide them with proper forms of finance.**

National recommendation: **For securing a sustainable income, the society has to be able to anticipate the continuous change of the work life, and the trend towards inequality.** It is vital to prevent the income gap and the divergence of working conditions through both legislation and in collective labor agreements. Flexible support systems are needed to secure adequate income, enable coping with work-related stress, lifelong learning, and preconditions to move from one type of work and duties to another. The needs of people working part time jobs, insecure employment or are partially able-bodied needs to be taken into consideration. The expenses of a family leave have to be shared between both parents' employers and income gap between sexes must be tackled with consistent efforts.

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Local recommendation: Municipalities must utilize to the full extent their opportunity to support employment and the realization of labor rights of persons with an immigrant background, for instance by increasing cooperation with employers. Municipalities can support people's creative ways of self-employment for instance by providing working spaces and opportunities for networking. **The equality of people using employment services must be guaranteed through information sharing, career counselling, and education.**

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Equal and universal access to information brings out people's potential in society.

Global recommendation: Finland is a country of innovations and technology. We have a good basis for supporting small scale entrepreneurship, innovations and basic infrastructure in developing countries. **Infrastructure and access to information should primarily reduce inequality and be inclusive and sustainable.**

National recommendation: Developing new, ecologically and socially sustainable innovations is the key when renewing a welfare society. **Utilizing sustainable research in decision-making, product development and reforming industry requires adequate resources for education and science, and support for multidisciplinary cooperation.**

Local recommendation: Municipalities and regional governments have to support innovations and industry that promote sustainable development, for instance through town and country planning. **Coherent, ecologically sustainable practices must be in place for authorizations related for instance to extractive industry.** Local officials handling and monitoring industrial projects must be guaranteed resources and adequate know-how. At the same time, independence from the interests of industry need to be secured. Information from industrial projects have to be open for citizens' comments.

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

Increasing inequality and discrimination between different groups of people are among the biggest challenges of our time.

Global recommendation: Finland is a pioneer in promoting internationally the rights of persons with disabilities. **Finland must promote all forms of non-discrimination and compliance with all human rights treaties.** Global inequality has to be reduced through better regulation and oversight of financial markets. All countries must be able to participate in international decision-making.

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National recommendation: Measuring people's value with economic indicators and by **productivity adds to the experience of inequality. The government has to ensure that all people are treated equally as guaranteed in the constitution.** Implementation of the rights of people easily exposed to discrimination must be given special attention. Everyone has the right to a family. Status of the people who live alone, single parent families, caregivers and pensioners must be addressed through legislation. The life expectancy of the people in the lowest income bracket must be increased through diversified cooperation.

Local recommendation: **The increasing polarization among citizens of municipalities must be stopped.** Municipalities have to provide safe and low threshold spaces where people from different socioeconomic backgrounds can meet each other. The feeling of not having prospects that the young experience must be decreased by increasing civic participation for instance through cooperation between schools and the third sector. It needs to be ensured that increasingly multicultural municipalities have the abilities to secure equal rights to all people.

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Protecting natural and cultural heritage supports economic, social and environmental well-being in cities and communities.

Global recommendation: Finland has know-how in urban and regional planning. **This provides a good basis for participating globally in improving the habitats of the most marginalized people.** The ability of civil society organizations and researchers to tackle increasing threats to the environment should be utilized in managing and preventing catastrophes, among other things.

National recommendation: Transport solutions must support sustainable development and the equal treatment of all people. This can be achieved, for example, by building a comprehensive, fully applicable infrastructure for rail transport and by supporting transport based on renewable energy. **Aging of the population requires that community planning needs to consider accessibility of the built environment even more.** The planning of housing, transport, and green networks must be simultaneous.

Local recommendation: **The housing production in municipalities must utilize solutions that are the most energy efficient, while also taking into account the carrying capacity of the environment and the needs of all groups of people, as well as citizens' participation in decision making considering their livelihoods.** The readiness of municipalities to respond to environmental accidents has to be strengthened. The importance of immediate nature areas for people's well-being must be taken into account in urban planning.

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Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Everyone should have information about sustainable ways of consumption and production and be able to realize them in their everyday life.

Global recommendation: The knowledge that indigenous peoples have about building societies that interact with nature should be utilized in development cooperation. Sustainable production methods should be supported through circular economy and a reduction in the use of chemicals.

Finland must require through legislation and voluntary measures that natural resources are used sustainably and that the private sector acknowledges the value of nature.

National recommendation: **The Finnish economy must respect planetary boundaries as well as boundaries of Finnish nature and human rights.** The government has to set policies that lead to a significant absolute decrease of the consumption of natural resources. In public procurement it needs to be made sure that the supply chain promotes the realization of sustainable development goals, such as labor rights and halting deforestation. The responsibility of companies to undertake due diligence concerning the environment and human rights needs to be nationally binding, and there needs to be set a tracking system in place for monitoring them. The government has to actively support the people's perquisites for a sustainable lifestyle.

Local recommendation: **The municipalities promote coherently ecologically and socially sustainable lifestyle in their activities on all levels.** Municipalities need to develop and put forward resource efficient operational models that ensure absolute decrease of the consumption of natural resources. Ecological and social criteria are considered in the public procurement of a municipality. It is secured through education, training and communications that all citizens of a municipality acquire information and skills on a sustainable lifestyle. Adequate opportunities and resources must be guaranteed for teachers and other educators to undertake this work.

Goal 13: Climate action

Tackling climate change requires immediate and coherent actions in all sectors of policy-making.

Global recommendation: Tackling climate change must be mainstreamed into everything that Finland does. **Finland must bear its climate responsibility through providing climate finance which is new and additional to development finance.** At least half of the finance should be allocated to supporting adaptation measures and targeted to the most vulnerable areas and groups. Finland must also finance the costs of losses and damages caused by climate change.

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National recommendation: There is a separate climate legislation in Finland. Its implementation needs to be strengthened. **According to the Paris agreement, our society has to give up fossil fuels before the year 2050, and the options for realizing this need to be thoroughly examined in a research-based way.** Speeding up a climate neutral society requires a change that ranges through the whole society: in energy production, traffic, housing and agriculture. Climate solutions must coherently support the good state of the environment and anticipate impacts of climate change. All emission allowances must be auctioned and income from emission auctions must be steered into climate finance for developing countries.

Local recommendation: **Several municipalities have ambitious climate goals and from now on every municipality has to commit to being climate neutral by 2050.** At the local level sustainable traffic alternatives need to be supported for example through land use planning and enhancing climate friendly transport forms and services. Climate knowledge and education must be visible from all levels of municipality decision-making to the activities of schools and day care centers.

Goal 14: Life below water

Protecting coastal ecosystems is necessary both in Finland and globally. Protecting seas is important in order to guarantee biodiversity and people's food security.

Global recommendation: Finland should advocate for including maritime protection areas into international agreements, also for Arctic areas. **Fish stocks must be protected for example through removing fisheries subsidies that contribute to over-fishing.** Designing well-functioning waste management systems and reducing agriculture related emissions will also decrease pollution, such as the accumulation of plastic waste in the oceans, that threats biodiversity.

National recommendation: **The seabed areas rich in biodiversity need to be protected by widening the network of Finland's marine national parks.** The nutrient offload from forestry and agriculture is managed by targeted environmental protection measures and by increasing significantly the share of vegetable-based food in Finnish people's diets. The alarming development of fish extinctions must be reversed.

Local recommendation: **The different ways of using the sea, which are the basis of the blue economy, must be accommodated through sea area planning on the regional level.** The effectivity of wastewater treatment in the coastal municipalities must be resourced with the best available technology. Endangered migratory fishes' chance for a natural life cycle must be returned by, for instance, removing the obstacles of migration.

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Goal 15: Life on land

The intrinsic value of nature needs to be respected. For example, the fragmentation and destruction of ecosystems as well as poaching have already caused a serious wave of extinctions.

Global recommendation: Finland is an international forerunner in planning conservation areas and in researching biodiversity. Relying on a locally founded approach and on a sustainable use of nature is key to protecting ecosystems on land. Finnish NGOs' know-how on this should be utilized. **The alarming loss of biodiversity should be stopped by 2020 for example through advocacy for improved national legislation and through requiring the private sector to bear responsibility for the environment.**

National recommendation: **Only a sufficiently wide and coherent habitat network ensures the preservation of species. Therefore at least 17 % of all habitats must be protected in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol.** In order for the biodiversity targets to be met, financing of environment protection must be increased. The opportunity of all people to enjoy nature experiences, like camping and collecting of berries and mushrooms, needs to be supported. Activities against poaching have to be strengthened by increasing surveillance and tightening the legislation on sanctions.

Local recommendation: The municipality forests that have high nature values must be saved for the homes of species and for recreation places of people. The building of national city parks need to be supported by decision-making while existing immediate forest areas have to be protected for instance by planning. The immediate nature offers important learning facilities, and utilizing nature in education of children must be strengthened in co-operation with civil society organizations.

Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Participatory decision making and transparent institutions increase trust and social stability. Without peace there is no development and vice versa.

Global recommendation: Finland is a constitutional state with know-how in peace mediation and democracy. We have to use this knowledge to support the strengthening of democracy in developing countries. It is alarming that globally the space for civil society to act is constantly shrinking. **Finland must coherently promote civil rights and free civil action in its foreign, development and trade policies.**

National recommendation: **Finland has good rule of law and a well-functioning governance system, both of which require constant attention, administration, and resources.** Finland has to recognize that human trafficking and hate speech are severe human rights violations. Work on these issues cannot be left for the civil society alone. Equality is supported, for instance, by ensuring a legal identity also for undocumented persons and an equal legal protection for everyone.

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Local recommendation: Municipalities and regions need to utilize and develop solutions for increasing participation and civic competences which strengthen peace and justice. There is a lot of violence especially against women and children in Finland. **Protection and prevention from violence has to reach everyone regardless of a person's residential area.**

Goal 17: Partnership for the goals

Attaining sustainable development requires sufficient resources and universal participation.

Global recommendation: Finland must promote policy coherence, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable development. For the goals to be reached, different actors must cooperate and build partnerships. **Finland must allocate 0,7 % of its GNI to development cooperation according to its international commitments.** Finland must promote aligning the global economy and all financial flows for supporting sustainable development.

National recommendation: There is a functioning dialogue in Finland between the public sector and civil society. **Finland has to enable the work of an independent, competent and active civil society also in the future.** An assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals has to be included coherently into all legislation and the implementation of decisions. Monitoring has to utilize and develop indicators for well-being that are not based only on the GDP.

Local recommendation: **Information on the Sustainable Development Goals and on their implementation has to be distributed to different demographic groups around the country.** The role of municipal citizens in achieving and monitoring the goals on a personal and local level has to be strengthened.



SOSTE

Suomen Luonnonsuojeluliitto



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