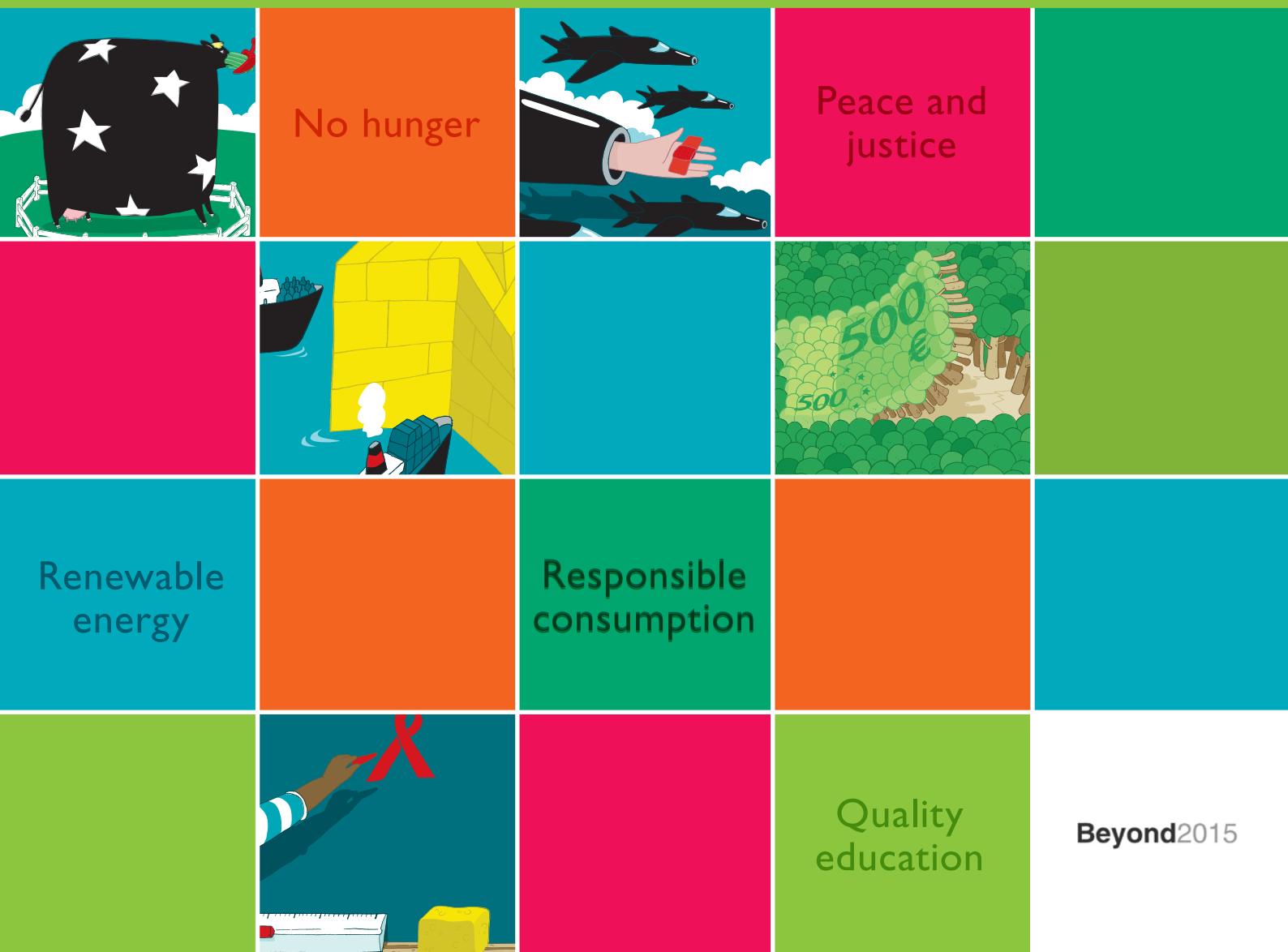


ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

– FOCUS ON SELECTED POST-2015 GOALS
IN FINLAND AND BEYOND



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ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

– FOCUS ON SELECTED POST-2015 GOALS IN FINLAND AND BEYOND

The new set of global development goals were endorsed by the UN General Assembly on 1 September 2015 and will be formally adopted by Heads of States at the time this publication is launched. *Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* opens up a path for us to a new world, sustainable in social, environmental and economic terms.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are far more ambitious than their predecessors, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), covering new topics such as peace and security, ecosystems and infrastructure. It is now time for all countries to match this ambition and develop clear strategies for implementation. These strategies must be developed in a participatory process, cover all goals and targets, and reflect the integrated, interlinked and comprehensive nature of Agenda 2030.

As countries now line up to take up their responsibilities, their opportunities and challenges look very different. The thing with universality is that all countries must do something. This publication takes a first look on what the implications of the new goals will be for Finland and its partner countries. We have taken five of the seventeen goals and invited qualified professionals to consider what this specific goal entails for either Finland, its partner country or globally. For each of the five goals, we have a perspective for both Finland and beyond. It becomes clear that in order to follow its SDG commitments, Finland has to align both its internal and external policies with the new agenda.

It is worth emphasising here that even if we in this publication choose to focus only on five selected goals, it does not mean that they could be detached from the SDG agenda as a whole. The goals are interlinked by their nature, and realizing sustainable development requires achieving each and every goal. Some of these linkages will be illustrated in the articles of this publication. It becomes strikingly visible how for example food security, agriculture, energy, climate change and sustainable consumption and production are closely connected and how difficult it would be to solve the respective problems in silos. This is why the SDGs require even stronger efforts towards policy coherence for sustainable development. Comprehensive strategies and coordination mechanisms for implementation at global, regional, national and local levels will be key to this end.

The first topic to be discussed here is food security. Tiina Huvio from the Finnish Agri-Agency for Food and Forest Development (FFD) identifies greenhouse gas emissions, leakage of nutrients from fields to water systems, and food waste as critical areas for Finland. Tapani Haapala and Katri Leino-Nzau from the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission in turn discuss Cambodia and present nutrition education and sustainable small-scale farming as potential ways of reaching the food and nutrition security targets.

Global citizenship education is a topic that the civil society worked hard on to be included among the education targets. Rilli Lappalainen from the Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU (Kehys) reminds us of the different aspects of global citizenship. Jose Roberto Guevara from RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, meanwhile argues, using experiences from a research carried out in Indonesia, that global citizenship should be understood as both a means and an end to education.

Sustainable energy has emerged as one of the hot topics in development since the 2010 UN Secretary General announcement to launch the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Finland has still miles to go in terms of moving from fossil fuels to sustainable and reliable energy, as aptly broken down by Sarri Nykänen from the Energy Renovation 2015 citizen campaign. Laura Meller from Greenpeace takes the argument to the global level and explains how the efforts made by Finland can lead to expansion and proliferation of cheaper and cleaner technologies.

Another goal, which will be elemental in bringing the three dimensions of sustainable development together is sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Aino Kostainen takes a closer look at food waste as a particular SCP issue in Finland, and Ranjan Prakash Shrestha explains what has been done in Nepal and how promotion of indigenous knowledge and practices reinforce sustainability.

Finally, we have two pieces on Goal 16 – which Paul Okumu from the Africa Platform has called the social contract of SDGs. In this context, Nora Forsbacka from Kehys explains how societal violence remains an issue in Finland. Okumu himself closes the publication by illustrating the importance of reaching goal 16 in Kenya by addressing issues like narrow electoral democracy and the conflict of priorities between the goal and national strategies. ★

WORK AHEAD FOR FINLAND WITHIN AND BEYOND ITS BORDERS TO PROMOTE **FOOD SECURITY**

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The concept of food security is multifaceted and it can be interpreted in diverse ways even if the principles for food security are well established by the FAO's Committee for Food Security (CFS). Every country has its own challenges in particular when facing the challenges linked to climate change, scarcity of potable water, land grabbing and wars and other political crises. Thus, it is obvious that agriculture remains at the centre of political agendas in the future.

Achieving food security globally is a demanding and complicated task, for which the present international

agreements and systems do not provide necessary tools. The World Trade Organization has not been able to promote solutions in the Doha round to establish international consensus on how to deal with the agricultural market. The key question lies in the need to establish criteria for the agricultural market which would also take into account issues related to food security. There is need to develop systems to adjust to market failures and to improve stability of agricultural markets.

Finland is one of the most Northern countries where agriculture is practiced, which determines its possibilities and potential. At the same time agriculture in Finland needs to adjust in order to take into account environment and climate change as other global challenges. In the EU area the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) creates the basis for food security. The Finnish agricultural policy as well as how

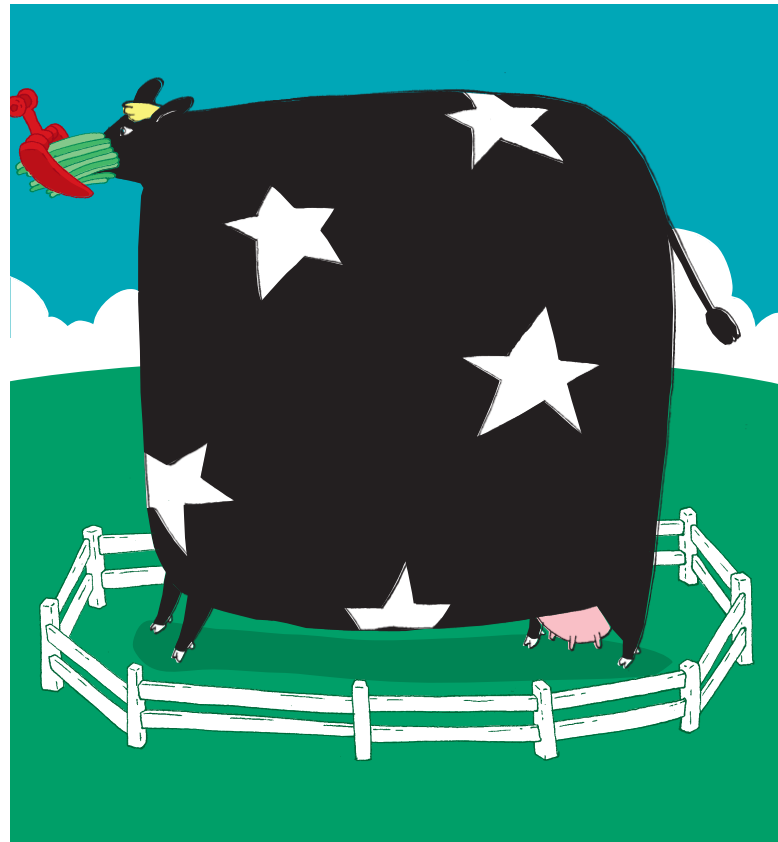
food security is achieved through it, is largely determined by CAP. While acknowledging the global challenges, changes in agricultural policy are constructed jointly with the other EU member states. There are, nevertheless, issues which are not sufficiently covered through CAP. Both in Finland and at the EU level, there is need to give more attention to security of supply of food, feed and fuel, which is ever so complex in the globalized world.

In Finland, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs carried out a process to improve policy coherence in relation to food security in Finland, which has contributed to understanding the complexity of the issue and how different sectors influence food security. Based on this work, the Ministry has supported the OECD to develop methodology further, which is being tested in Tanzania in collaboration with the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM).

At the moment agriculture is responsible for approximately 20% of Finland's greenhouse gas emissions (approx. 14.3 million tons of CO₂ equivalent). The obligation to diminish these emissions by 13% at the national level is focusing solely on agricultural activities, of which the greatest sources of are NO₂ emissions deriving from cultivating organic soils and CH₄ emissions from ruminants. Possibilities to reduce emissions through decrease in fertilize usage and cutting down the number of cattle without having an impact on production, is complicated, expensive and heavily decrease productivity. Counting in possibilities to reduce emissions through land use changes, which would turn them to carbon sinks, would motivate farmers to carry out changes. Other powerful mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are e.g. separation of nutrients from manure, fallowing or no-tilling agriculture and reforestation of fields which are no longer used. It is important to recognize forests' role as carbon sinks, but this should not prohibit their sustainable economic use.

Leakage of nutrients from fields to lakes, rivers and the Baltic Sea is wastage for farmers as it is a source of eutrophication of water. Finnish agriculture is already aiming at reducing nutrient leakages through several actions, of which the most important ones are: to take care of the structure of soil, precision fertilizing, better understanding of need to fertilize and to adjust fertilizers composition accordingly and zero-tilling techniques.

Food wastage is one of the critical areas where a lot of improvement can be achieved. In Finland, approximately 120-160 million kg of food is wasted annually. It is important to create awareness on the consequences of food wastage and to teach people to purchase food according to their needs. Action to reduce food wastage should cover also food industry, retailers, food usage in institutions (hospitals, schools etc.) and restaurants.



Finland has a responsibility to invest in developing agriculture contributing to food security both in Finland and globally. The role of agricultural research is pivotal in this process and requires more resources to allow adoption of better and more sustainable and climate-smart technologies. In order to guide this process, there is need to understand resources, positions and dynamics of both agricultural producers and food chains. Food security at the national level as well as at the global level can not be left to markets only but requires active and consistent political guidance.

It is important to strengthen the position of smallholders both in agricultural policy-making, agricultural markets and along the whole food chain. In this process, support to producers' organisations can be critical and merits to be acknowledged as a pivotal part of development cooperation or as a part of private public partnerships. A good example of this is the Farmers Fighting Poverty programme of AgriCord which channels technical and financial knowledge of producers and their organisations in the North to their colleagues in the South. Applying the principles of sustainable development through the food chain is a challenge but it can also be seen as an opportunity. ★

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN CAMBODIA – STILL SUFFERING FROM POL POT REGIMEN

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During the era of Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot (1975–1979) nearly a quarter of the country's population, ca. 2 million Cambodians were killed. Devastation of people is still affecting the welfare of the civilians of the country, as almost a generation was lost. Food security is one of the affected sectors. The government supports rice farming and the aim is to make rice an export product. The country is already producing sufficient amounts of food but people are suffering from qualitative malnutrition. Very little is done

to improve the sectors of farming that could provide more nutritive elements to the everyday diet of the common man and woman.

In October 2014 Cambodian Global Hunger Index 2014 was released in Phnom Penh in a national conference. Especially children are suffering from insufficient food for their growth, which has serious long-term consequences to their health. Staple food rice is good as energy food but it does not lead to good growth and health. In most cases parents do not know much about nutrition. This leads children to become underweight and even stunting. 29% of children under 5 are underweight and many of them stunted. 67% of pre-school aged children have anemia, iron deficiency.

NGOs in Cambodia have realized the threatening situation and have developed many approaches to improve nutrition of the population, especially children. The following methods are utilized by the local NGO partners of FELM (The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission) in Cambodia.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Nutrition education in communities has proved to be an efficient method to improve health of young children. The education is helping parents to realize the critical needs of children after breast feeding. All is fine when children get most of their nutrients from breast milk. When it is time to start eating solid food it is a drastic drawback to nutrition. Rice does not develop children's brains; many other food elements are needed. The NGO project staff teaches easily available food substances in the neighborhood and encourages the parents to cook food out of these substances on a regular basis.

SMALL SCALE FARMING USING SUSTAINABLE METHODS

When training people in vegetable production it is important to find methods that are free of charge but working. Likewise, it is vital to introduce a method that requires only very little external inputs outside of the village. In biological farming all fertilizers and agro chemicals are produced locally and they are harmless to consumers. The rural communities are taught better and more efficient methods to make compost and how to use local herbs and other plant species for organic pesticides or how to use mulching to avoid the use of herbicides. Education is improving health and quality of products. It also helps the farmers to employ themselves by producing the chemicals they would otherwise buy from local markets.

MUSHROOM GROWING, SOLAR DRYING, FISH FARMING, CHICKEN RAISING, COW BANKS

Cambodian people have an appetite for mushrooms. Mushrooms are ideal agricultural products and sources of income for people with physical problems or those who are weak in a way or another. The NGOs are promoting methods that utilize the least expensive raw materials and techniques that are easily learned. Usually, saw dust or rice straw is used to grow most of the common mushrooms. These materials can be easily found and are cheap enough. Mushrooms are ideal supplements to the local rice-dominated diet. It provides nutritional elements that are important for child development and health.

When producing fresh food items it is important to pay attention to conservation of surplus food. In the country rich with sunlight solar drying is an ideal method. Dried food

items must be packed in vacuum, which can be done without expensive equipment. As a drawback, vacuum packing is done with plastic bags that are not eco-friendly. Solar drying provides many opportunities to develop different kinds of marketable products, such as flakes, grains or flours.

Fowl rearing, especially chicken, has proved to be an excellent way to improve family income levels in the villages. Chicken are easy to keep, demand of chicken is constant and they provide nutritious food for the families themselves. Very often, chicken are reared by the poorest of the poorest. Veterinary medicine is not common but vaccination could improve fowl production considerably, as FAO studies in Africa have indicated.

NGOs are also engaged in cow bank activities. A poor family receives a young heifer to rear. After the heifer calves, the calf will be donated to another poor family listed by the NGO. The original cow will become property of the first recipient family. Even one single cow can make a substantial difference to the life of a poor family. Families can earn living by selling cow dung as fertilizer, and families with cow or cattle gain respect in their communities.

To conclude, a remarkable difference can be made in improving the living conditions and health of the poorest in the Cambodian countryside. However, challenges are encountered commonly. Maintaining a full participatory approach throughout and ensuring the sustainability are just a few to mention. The partners of FELM have learned that the ideas and views of the poor are fully understood and respected. Furthermore, the dialogue with the target communities must be fair and impartial. The poor are not objects but subjects of their lives. The projects are tools to empower them to full independency and improve the quality of their lives as per their own wishes. History cannot be changed, but the future of the least advantaged can be better. ★

EDUCATIONS TOWARDS GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN FINLAND

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"The Programme for Global Education outlines the development of global education in Finland and defines the term 'global education' as used in this report. Altogether seven national objectives are set for global education: including global education in the foremost educational, cultural and social policy lines, expanding global education in formal education, supporting research and higher education relating to global education, supporting international activities of civic organisations building up partnerships between the public administration, businesses, the media and civil society increasing resources

*needed for this monitoring systematically and evaluating analytically the success of global education in Finland. For the achievement of each wide-ranging objective, three to five crucial measures are proposed, with justifications."*¹

This text is an abstract from the Finnish national Global education strategy. As a whole it was ideally made by all relevant stakeholders, contentwise it is still relevant in changing times. The only thing missing was and still is the resources to implement it.

Finland has a long history with global education already from the early 1960's, when global education was done by great personalities as teachers and educators in schools and civil society. In parallel one very relevant topic in schools was the so-called "citizens skills" which was simply focused on

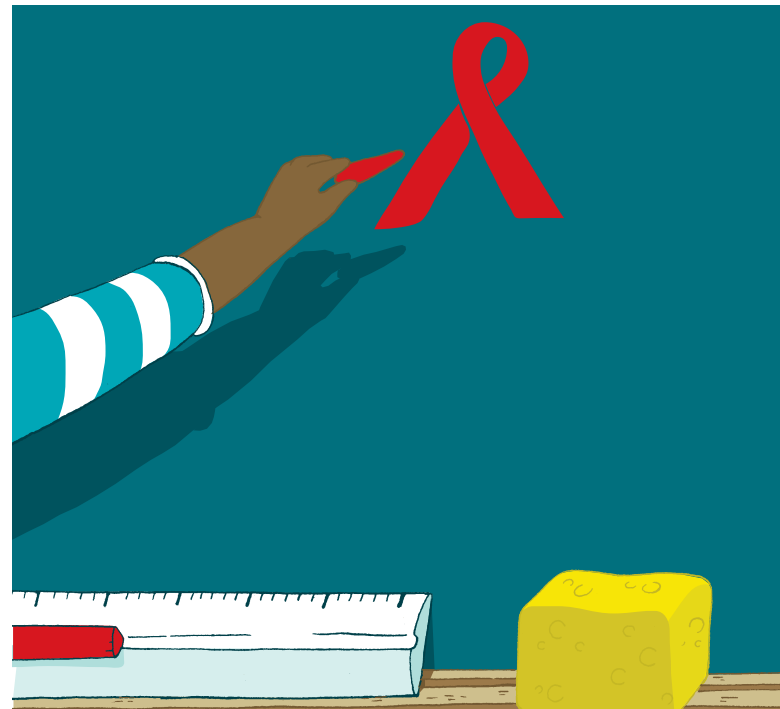
¹ <http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/julkaisut/2007/liitteet/opm12.pdf?lang=fi>

skills you need in society to live in harmony and respectfully as a capable citizen. Unfortunately that topic is no longer in fashion. A strong environmental wake-up happened after the United Nation's original Rio Summit in 1992. The following decade was the inspiration for designing the national strategic framework for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The purpose is that ESD is and will be implemented in the everyday life of educational institutions and the wider community. The national core curriculum for basic education has been a very important guiding instrument to boost sustainable development (SD).

The current core curriculum (2006) is under review at the moment, but the existing curriculum includes the objectives and core contents of different subjects, as well as the principles of pupil assessment, special-needs education, pupil welfare and educational guidance. The education providers, usually the local education authorities and the schools themselves, draw up their own curricula for basic education within the framework of the national core curriculum. SD has been one of the seven topics emphasized in the core curriculum for basic education. The new version of the curriculum will come into effect in 2016, and there will be even more emphasis on SD.

The national strategies for SD and ESD are other important guiding instruments. Finland's national strategy for sustainable development, originally entitled "Towards sustainable choices – A nationally and globally sustainable Finland" (2006) was revised in 2013 into the new form of "Society's Commitment to Sustainability". The Commitment includes a vision, shared objectives, indicators and a mechanism to present and report on individual commitments and actions online. ESD is integrated within the objectives of the Commitment. In order to reach the eight objectives, the idea is that operational commitments are established on a voluntary basis by all stakeholders in society, including the administrative sector, companies, municipalities, NGO's, educational institutions and local operators, as well as individual citizens. The operational commitments need to include concrete measures, changes in operating procedures and habits and/or innovative trials to promote the shared goals. The commitments should also be new and measurable. More information on The Society's Commitment to Sustainability can be found on the website of the Ministry of the Environment.²

For lifelong learning Finland also has strategic objectives called "Strategic objectives for education and training 2020". They are objectives like: Supporting the individual continuum of competence and self-development and consoli-



dating key citizenship skills, extending careers by reinforcing recognition of prior learning and flexible transition between forms and levels of education and the world of work, supporting informed decision-making through national and international research, statistical and assessment data, reinforcing openness and educational partnerships, promoting digital learning and making efficient use of new learning environments, developing the competences of teaching personnel and reinforcing motivation and joy of learning.

All of these three strategies are relevant parts on the way to holistic global citizenship. Global citizenship education (GCED) equips learners of all ages with those values, knowledge and skills that are based on and instill respect for human rights, social justice, diversity, gender equality and environmental sustainability and that empower learners to be responsible global citizens. GCED gives learners the competencies and opportunity to realize their rights and obligations to promote a better world and future for all.

What is now needed in Finland and every country, region, city and town is to support of all of these aspects of education and take them seriously in schools, workplaces and politics. Without joint work between actors, nature and people the results will not be very good. I think every human being and nature have deserved better behaviour than what we have at the moment. ★

² http://www.ym.fi/en-US/The_environment/Sustainable_development

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FOR ALL

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As civil society organisations, we need to ensure that we continue to embrace, advocate and advance the entire education goal that ensures the right to quality education and lifelong learning for all. I wish to highlight this because there is a tendency within education to identify with one particular theme or issue, as this is the way most of us have been educated – within disciplinary boundaries and areas of specialisation. However, my understanding and commitment to education that promotes global citizenship is that it challenges this potentially narrowing approach to education and liberates education to become more holistic, inclusive, participatory and empowering. Therefore the challenge, but at the same time the opportunity, is to ensure that we are not merely promoting education *about* global citizenship, but that we are also advancing education *through* global citizenship.

Education *about* global citizenship will embrace the whole of Target 4.7 – which included “*education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.*” While it is essential that we learn about each of these elements if we are to achieve sustainable development, we need to guard against the tendency where each of these elements are identified as subject areas to be studied, rather than principles to be lived. It is in living these principles that I argue we learn *through* global citizenship – by *being* global citizens.

I was involved in a five-year learning for global citizenship project with Plan International, the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne and RMIT University that paired secondary students from Melbourne with youths in community and in detention centres in Indonesia.³ The groups were asked to exchange communication pieces (which were translated to and from English to Bahasa Indonesia) that introduced themselves, identified an issue they wanted to learn more about and implement an activity

³ Wierenga, A & Guevara J R (eds.) (2013) *Youth-led Learning for Global Citizenship*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press.

to respond to the issue they identified. The issues ranged from environmental conservation to teenage pregnancy. Each year, a different group of students from Melbourne were involved for at most three months during the school year. However, there was one community group in Indonesia that was involved for the entire five years.

At the end of the project, when asked what their most significant learning was, the Australian students tended to identify that they were lucky to live in Australia. Most of them conducted activities that helped their classmates learn more about the issue they were interested in, with some of them raising funds to help respond to this issue. This demonstrates both aspects of learning *about* an issue, and learning *through* conducting activities that engage others to also learn.

The Indonesian youth community group, on the other hand, identified learning English as one of the most significant things they learned. Probing this response a bit more allowed the Indonesian youths to explain that if they were to become global citizens, they need to be able to communicate more effectively with other youths around the world. After five years, this community group was able to establish a mangrove rehabilitation project which included a small community tourism venture. For a small fee the group took mostly local visitors through a mangrove forest and at the end of the tour asked the visitors to plant seedlings to help rehabilitate the mangroves. Similar to the Australian students, the Indonesians learned more *about* mangrove reforestation, but also learned *through* establishing a mangrove reforestation project.

Where was global citizenship? A key finding of the research was that global citizenship was not just about identifying and acting on an issue (whether it be a global or a local issue) it was as much about establishing a relationship with the 'other' that facilitated the learning. One of the Indonesians summarised it succinctly when he said that, the most important aspect of the project was that they knew that the students in Melbourne were interested in them and what they were doing. This on-going relationship, built through a five year project kept their motivation to achieve their goal. The challenge we identified was that the three months for the Australian students was enough to begin to just scratch the surface about the issue they identified as it related to the issues the Indonesians identified. This illustrates how learning *through* global citizenship needs to be sustained across a longer time span, which allows the students/learners to develop deeper relationships and more in-depth understanding. For example, we hoped that a more long-term program would result in the Australian students not only appreciating that they

were lucky, but to begin to ask and investigate the reasons behind – why they were 'lucky'? This is the ultimate aim of education *through* global citizenship, when we investigate the *why*, while learning more about the *what*, through engaging in the *how* we can transform ourselves and our world.

Another challenge we face, is based on a comment I heard after the Nagoya Conference⁴ that celebrated the end of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, where there were some concerns that ESD and GCE would be competing for limited funds if both were to continue after 2015. I am pleased that Target 4.7 has managed to keep both of them together. The challenge is for us to demonstrate how we can be global citizens – capable of working collaboratively with other educators and advocates who are as committed to their own issues or thematic areas, and advance the essence of the new education goal, which is the right to quality education and lifelong learning for all. ★

4 Guevara, J. R. (2015) "Education for sustainable development and global citizenship education: partnering for quality education" in *International Perspectives in Adult Education No. 71, Adult Education in an interconnected world*, Gartenschlaeger, U and Hirsch, E (Eds). Bonn: DVV International. pp.134-146. http://www.dvv-international.de/fileadmin/files/Inhalte_Bilder_und_Dokumente/Materialien/IPE/IPE_71_web.pdf

A FOSSIL BASED **ENERGY** SYSTEM NOT ECONOMICALLY SENSIBLE FOR FINLAND

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CITIZENS' CAMPAIGN ENERGIAREMONTTI2015

Finland has little fossil resources, and therefore fossil fuels are imported. In 2012, Finland used 8.5 billion euros to import energy products.⁵ This hardly makes sense, when the 12-month moving current account was 1.5 billion euros in deficit in June.⁶ Ceasing to import fossil fuels and directing billions of euros to domestic, sustainable energy solutions represents a great opportunity for the Finnish economy. Without fossil energy imports, the current account of Finland would be in surplus. The 8.5 billion euros spent on energy imports correspond to over 4% of the gross domestic product.

The energy sector is experiencing a great transformation that creates a fast-growing market for new energy solutions. These include renewable energy, energy efficiency solutions and intelligent system solutions. Technologies are developing quickly. Renewable energy costs less and less, and fossil energy more and more. Global annual investments in renewable energy sources increased from \$60 billion in 2000 to \$250 billion. Over the period to 2035, another \$6 trillion will be invested in renewables and \$8 trillion in energy efficiency.⁷ The market growth rate is tremendous.

The competitiveness of a country is linked to competences in growing industries, and in Finland, the economy has long been based on technology exports. Is Finland then pioneering in the growing energy technology business? No, not really.

5 <https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/43432>

6 http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/mata/2015/06/mata_2015_06_2015-08-14_tie_001_en.html

7 http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WVEIO_2014_ES_English.pdf

WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN FINLAND CURRENTLY?

In 2014, Finland consumed 1.340 EJ of total energy.⁸ Total energy consumption refers to the production of energy plus imports and minus exports. The number includes electricity, heat and traffic. The sources of the total energy consumption consisted of 23% oil, 10% coal, 7% natural gas, 18% nuclear energy, 25% wood fuels, 5% peat, 4% hydro power, 0.20% wind power, 5% net imports of electricity, and 3% others, including heat pumps and solar energy. What does this mean?

Fortunately, the utilization of bio-energy has historically been very strong since the forest industry in Finland generates energy from their waste materials. Because the Finnish industry is very energy intensive, it accounted for 46% of the total energy consumption in 2013, and for nearly all bioenergy consumption.⁸

What needs to be improved? In spite of a history in the utilization of bioenergy, the application of modern energy technologies remains marginal. A lot of unused potential can be found in wind power, geothermal energy and heat pumps, solar electricity, solar heat, distributed energy technologies in general, energy efficiency of buildings, industry and traffic, electrification of traffic, bio-propulsion in traffic, smart systems that apply information technology to improve energy efficiency and balance the consumption with the generation of electricity. A diversified combination of modern solutions needs to replace the 45% share of total energy consumption that consist of coal, oil, natural gas and peat.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR FINLAND TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ON ENERGY?

The seventh Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations Agenda 2030 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Targets most relevant for Finland are to substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and to double the global rate of energy efficiency improvements.

A national approach to achieve the sustainable development goal is provided by the Energy Renovation 2015 citizens' campaign. We demand that Finland ends the use of coal by 2025, produces all electricity and heat by renewable means in 2035, and all energy including traffic by renewable means by 2050. However, the energy renovation campaign is not aiming to close down nuclear plants prior to the end of their lifetime. Finland has to commit to these goals in order

to assume a pioneering position in the globally blooming sustainable energy market, improve its current account, and complete its transformation to a sustainable society.

THE SOLUTIONS OF THE FUTURE

A recent study at the Lappeenranta University of Technology found that a fully renewable energy system is a viable alternative for Finland.⁹ In their solution they propose a system with high shares of wind and solar energy. Power would be converted to gases from carbon in the air because gases can be stored for longer time periods. Other energy storage technologies the researchers suggest are heat storage and batteries. The modelling of the researchers indicated that a fully renewable energy system would be the most affordable option for Finland in 2050.

Why is political action needed when a sustainable energy system is economically the best alternative in any case? Energy markets are not free. They are influenced by a great amount of regulations and policies that either hinder or promote the deployment of sustainable solutions.

In order to promote the economically most viable and sustainable option, tax reliefs and subsidies for fossil fuels should be removed or redirected. The permit processes for sustainable solutions need to be speeded up and bureaucracy reduced. Further, energy politics require a long term vision and consistency in decision-making, since investments tend to have a long payback time, and the predictability of energy policies is very important to companies and thereby the implementation of policies.

Most important is a shift in mindset. A fast transition to a renewable, energy efficient and smart system is the best alternative for the Finnish economy and has to be hastened, not slowed down.

For more information on new directions of energy in Finland, please consult the expert group of professors on how energy politics can generate growth and employment at www.energiapolitiikka.fi, the Neocarbon project of the Lappeenranta University of Technology at www.neocarbonenergy.fi, and the citizens' campaign Energiaremontti2015 for a fully renewable Finland at www.energiaremontti2015.fi. For fossil subsidies, please see the report of the Ministry of the Environment at http://www.ymparisto.fi/FI/Ajankohtaista/Julkaisut/YMra132013_Ympariston_kannalta_haitallis%2810428%29. ★

8 http://pxweb2.stat.fi/sahkoiset_julkaisut/energia2014/html/suom0000.htm

9 http://www.lut.fi/web/en/news/-/asset_publisher/Igh4SAywhcPu/content/fully-renewable-energy-system-is-economically-viable-in-finland-in-2050

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

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CLIMATE AND ENERGY CAMPAIGNER,
GREENPEACE FINLAND

The president of Kiribati, Anote Tong, has one ask for all world leaders: no more new coal mines. For people of small island states, coal mines translate into rising sea levels and the ocean swallowing their homes. If carbon emissions continue their track business as usual, scientists say the resulting climate system may not be able to support civilizations as we know them.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the majority of fossil energy reserves must stay in the ground if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change. Coal, oil and gas need to be phased out of the energy system completely within the next decades.

Everywhere in the world, societies are on the verge of an energy transformation. From now on, every decision and action needs to advance the transformation into a completely renewable energy system. By 2050, all energy could come from renewable sources, and everyone can have access to sustainable, clean and safe energy.

Energy transformation is a huge endeavor, and the change has to start immediately. It is also an enormous opportunity within our reach. Over the past years, energy from wind and solar has increased faster than anyone could foresee.

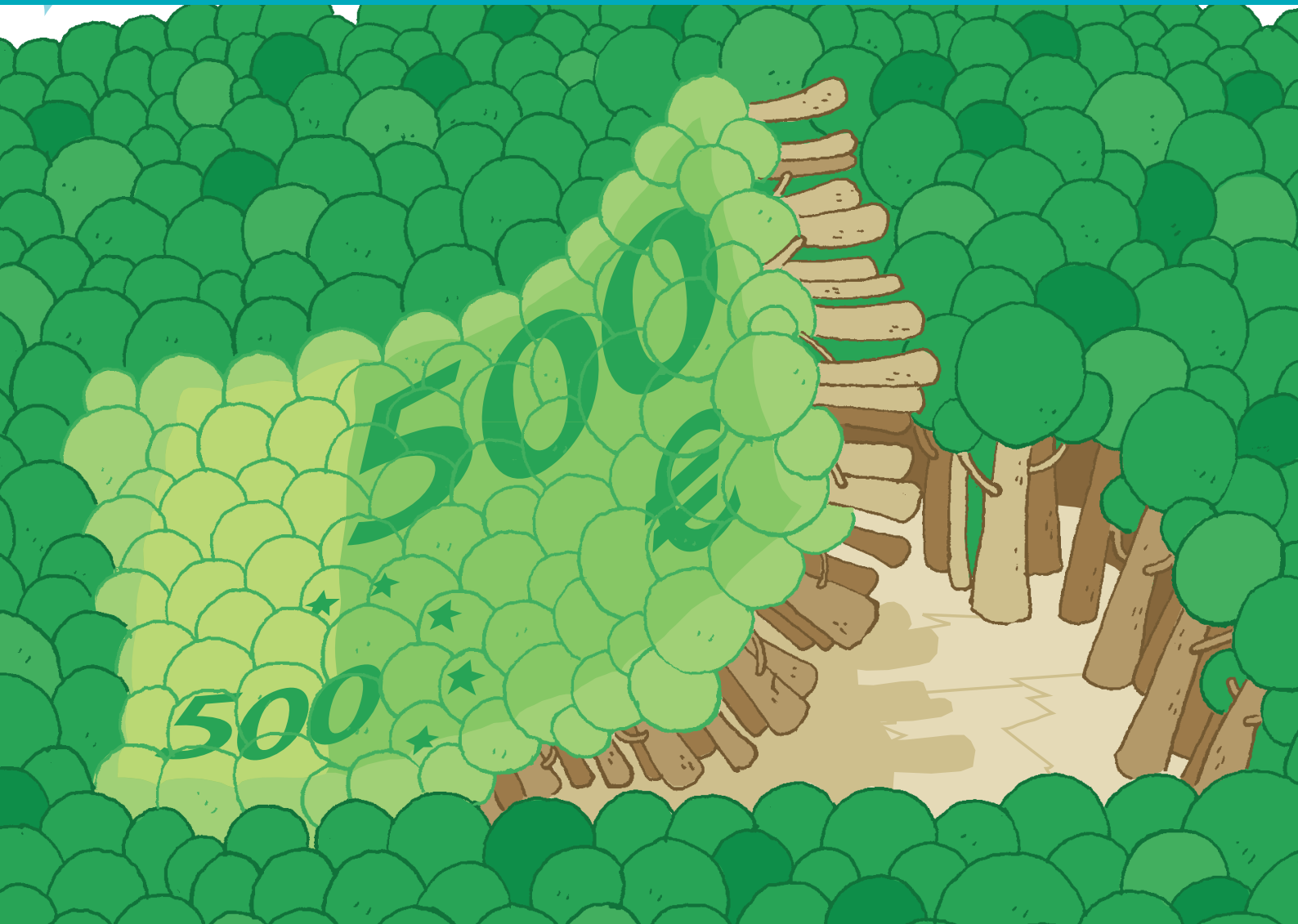
This change opens a door for a more democratic and fair energy system. Local people and communities can be the owners of solar panels and windmills in a decentralized energy system. Energy consumers will thereby become energy producers, or *prosumers*.

In regions – developed countries – where energy is used a lot, the focus has to be on reducing energy use through efficiency, and the demand should be met primarily with the energy of sun, wind and the earth. Intelligent energy systems can balance the variation in electricity demand and thereby facilitate the use of modern energy.

In regions where people do not have access to energy to meet their basic needs, the energy transformation means meeting these needs with renewable energy. Decentralized systems are an effective way to improve energy access even outside of the reach of electricity networks, or where people cannot afford to buy electricity from an energy company.

Conditions are in many ways different between Finland and the island of Kiribati. Nevertheless, speeding up the uptake of wind and solar energy in Finland will help develop better and more reliable technologies that can then enter large-scale production. This will, in turn, decrease their cost, further improving accessibility. Supporting the uptake of and access to renewable energy is one of the key means for countries like Finland to support development on renewable pathways.

Fossil fuels have few friends left. The government of Finland has set a target to phase out coal in energy production during the 2020s. Investors are washing their hands from coal. The Norwegian pension fund is divesting from coal companies. The Rockefeller foundation and the Lutheran Communion are removing their investment from fossil energy. Consumption of coal fell last year even in China, and renewables are meeting the growth in the country's energy demand. An analysis from the research group of Sir Nicholas Stern suggests that China's emissions are likely to reach a peak within the next ten years.



These recent developments mean that the door is open to limiting global warming to the critical 2 degrees or 1.5 degrees target by the end of this century, thereby avoiding the most severe consequences. In June, the G7 leaders declared that the world should go fossil free during this century. The global climate deal negotiated in Paris should set the world on a path where everyone has access to a completely renewable energy system by the year 2050.

The United Nations climate convention and Sustainable Development Goals can support each other by going hand in hand with respect to climate and energy. The time frame of the SDGs is 15 years – targets are set for the year 2030. These targets should reflect progress towards a completely renewable energy system by 2050. By 2030, at least 45% of final energy use globally should be met with renewable sources. A similar quantitative and aggregate target should be set for improving energy efficiency.

In their World Energy Outlook published in June, the International Energy Agency recognized that we are on the

threshold of a new energy era. To bring the change up to speed with the 2 degrees target, the IEA called for phasing out subsidies to fossil fuels within the next 15 years while further increasing investments in renewables and energy efficiency and increasing ambition of countries' pledges. The International Monetary Fund estimated post-tax fossil fuel subsidies to 4.9 trillion dollars in 2013, and their efficiency in improving access to energy is questionable. According to the IEA, only eight percent of the spending on fossil fuel subsidies ever reached the poorest fifth of the world's population.

Global goals and conventions reflect the readiness of governments to act on climate. When governments are not ready enough, people can solve the climate challenge. And all around the world people are standing up and acting for the future they believe in. From Arctic oil rigs to Alberta tar sands to Australian coal port and polluted Asian cities, people are now drawing a line for the use of dirty energy. People can set the world on a path to safe and healthy societies powered by renewable energy. ★

WHAT A WASTE! DECREASING FOOD WASTE AS PART OF **SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION**

AINO KOSTIAINEN
DODO

At the same time when millions of people struggle to have enough food on their plates, food is wasted more than ever. It is estimated that one third – 1.3 billion tons – of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted. This happens at all levels of food supply chain, from primary production to processing and consumption. While in developing countries most of the food loss happens in first steps of the food value chain, in high- and middle-income countries food is wasted mostly on consumer and retail levels. In industrialized countries the food wasted at the consumer level is around 222 million tons, which is nearly the same amount as the total net food production of Sub-Saharan Africa, 230 million tons.

Decreasing food loss is important in the face of a growing global population and the urgent need to feed us all. It is estimated that by 2050 food production must increase by

70%. It is unlikely that all of this can be covered by increasing yields: solutions for reducing food waste must also be found.

Food production also has significant environmental impacts. It does not only require large amounts of land and water but it also produces an important share of greenhouse gases. Unsustainable food production is also related to alarmingly declining biodiversity. When food is wasted, it means that all these environmental impacts have been unnecessary. Reducing the amount of food waste would be both ecologically, economically and socially beneficial.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND FOOD WASTE

The need to reduce the amount of food waste is reflected also in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The SDG number 12 is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. It has many sub-goals focusing for

example on public procurement practices, transparency of large and transnational companies and waste management. Furthermore, one of the sub-goals is to halve per capita global food waste by 2030. To achieve this goal, actions are needed at all levels of the value chain, from production to consumption.

Compared to other sub-goals of SDG 12, reducing food waste can be considered as low-hanging fruit. Reducing food waste is economical and thus it should look appealing to different political parties. There are also solutions that can be applied at the local level. However, to achieve the goal, a change in human behavior is needed – something that is often easier said than done.

REDUCING FOOD WASTE IN FINLAND

It is estimated that in Finland the total amount of edible food wasted annually is around 400 million kg, which means around 75 kg per person. As our food plate is increasingly global, it is not unimportant what we consume and what we waste: it has a global dimension.

Although it is not easy to reduce food waste, there are encouraging examples. For example Denmark has been able to reduce food waste by one quarter in only five years. There was not one magic bullet to do this. Instead, many small actions were made in different sectors. For example 300 restaurants started to give surplus food to customers for free and all supermarket chains made a strategy on reducing food waste.

In Finland, more political guidance could be used on initiating these kinds of models. There are already some good solutions available, but support is needed on implementing and scaling them up.

For example various food services (restaurants, schools and hospitals) have an important role as they count for 20% of the total food waste in Finland. Strict regulations on food preparation and serving have partly contributed to the high amount of food waste in this sector. However, in recent years regulations have become easier when it comes to giving leftover food to charity. New pilots, similar to the ones in Denmark, are emerging and for example some municipalities have started to sell or give leftover food from schools to private customers. These kinds of models, when spreading to all schools and other food services, would contribute positively to Finland's attempts to reduce food waste.

One way to reduce food waste is to make its economic value visible. For example, in public food services, such as schools, there might be an increasing incentive to reduce

food waste if it was turned in to numbers in budgets. In times when budget cuts are made across the public sector, savings in food waste should look appealing to decision makers.

At the household level, food is the third biggest contributor to household level CO₂ emissions. Households also produce approximately 35% of all food waste. However, the household level seems to be one of the most difficult to affect as it consists of millions of individuals. To reduce food waste in households, change is needed in people's habits. Better planning of shopping, consuming first the easily spoiling food and cooking right amounts of food are part of the solution. Various campaigns to increase awareness and valuation of food could be tools in this change.

Also retail level solutions can help consumers to reduce the amount of food waste for example by offering smaller package sizes. In 2014, 42% of households in Finland were one-person households. Smaller packages would serve better the needs of these households. However, small packages should not mean significantly higher per kg price, as this might lead economical consumers to choose the bigger package despite the possible waste.

One problem at the retail level is consumers' demand for large selections of fresh vegetables and fruits, no matter if they have harvesting season or not. This means longer transportation and higher CO₂ emissions but also more food waste. Although seasonal eating is becoming more popular, there is still much to do. Campaigns to change consumer habits are needed, but also the retail level could play a bigger role in supporting responsible food choices.

Furthermore, new technology provides promising solutions and there are already various innovations that can help in reducing food waste. For example small sensors can be added to food packages to detect if the food is spoiled or not. This would help retail and customers to evaluate the quality of the food and reduce wasting of edible food just because the "best before" date has expired.

All in all, the above mentioned examples are just some of the possible solutions. It is important to make sure that good pilot projects, such as giving away surplus school food, would continue and scale-up, turning into a new standard way of doing things. Reducing food waste is a global challenge and Finland should do its part to achieve the goal. ★

Sources:

FAO (2011) Global Food Losses and Food Waste

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ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION TARGETS OF SDGs: *A PERSPECTIVE FROM NEPAL*

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The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Progress Report 2013 underscores that most of the targets for Nepal would likely to be met by the end of 2015.

¹⁰ The content of this article does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the article lies entirely with the author.

There was no space for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) dimension in the MDG framework, which allowed to some extent to neglect the adverse environmental implications of economic activities.

In 2013, the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 development agenda found that the world's consumption and production patterns need to be managed in a more sustainable and equitable way and mobilise economic, social and environmental actions together for poverty reduction.

Nepal, landlocked by two economic giants, China and India, has a total area of 147,181 square kilometres. The total population of Nepal is estimated at about 28 million

in 2014. Although the current level of urbanisation in Nepal is still low, it is changing rapidly. The urban population growth rate in Nepal is alarming; it has increased from 1 million (6.5%) in 1981 to 4.52 million (17%) in 2011.¹¹ The increasing population growth and unplanned urbanisation has resulted in demand for more energy and exploitation of natural resources.

Nepal's economy is largely a consumption-based economy coupled with environmental degradation which is leading to an unsustainable use of resources, posing an adverse impact on the environment. On the one hand the fertile land is used to build infrastructures such as houses, industries and roads, whereas on the other hand, cultivation is done in unproductive sloppy or barren lands. As a result, agricultural productivity is not increasing. A recent report concludes that 16% of agricultural land has been converted into non-productive land in the Eastern Tarai. Furthermore, only in the last decade, the agricultural land has decreased by 5%.¹²

The economic challenges that Nepal faces have become more critical after the devastating earthquake of 25 April 2015. In particular, the reconstruction process is highly challenging, especially in terms of rebuilding and reconstruction. As the construction sector is energy-intensive, the reconstruction and rebuilding process will have a significant impact on consumption patterns and will contribute to GHGs emissions and other pollutants as well.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nepal faces serious environmental challenges with the increasing economic development activities. Inadequate integration of environmental considerations in the planning and ineffective implementation in the development activities could be considered as major reasons or threats for degradation of land and air quality, depletion of forest and water resources and increasing solid waste problems etc. Nepal also has both financial and technical resource constraints and relies largely on external support.

Sufficient integration of SCP practices in development planning is lacking. Nepal's latest Agriculture Development Strategy explains only consumption patterns, as well as highlights implementing green technologies to reduce carbon emissions, with limited information on promotion

of SCP. Nepal's progress on economic prosperity, which contributes to reducing poverty, will pose pressure on the use of natural resources and result in greater energy consumption and overexploitation of natural resources. The share of environment-friendly renewable energy resources is still below 5% of Nepal's total energy mix. The unsustainable and growing energy consumption, especially from the industrial and transport sectors, increases levels of emissions, especially GHGs, which have a very high potential to contribute to climate change.

FINDING SOLUTIONS IN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES

In recent years, Indigenous Knowledge and Practices (IKPs) have acquired wide attention in international forums. It is also informed that indigenous knowledge can be incorporated into development activities to enhance their sustainability because indigenous knowledge is acquired by local people through accumulation of informal experiences and intensive understanding of their environment in a given society.¹³

The Nature Conservation National Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development (2015–2030) also highlights that application of IKPs was useful in the conservation of nature in the past, however considers it being slowly displacing due to urbanisation, modernisation and industrialisation. The concept and integration of IKPs in economic or development activities and interventions has been limited whilst targeting to achieve MDGs as well. Therefore, there is a need to think about the possible integration of IKPs in achieving Sustainable Development Goal No. 12, which ultimately contributes to attaining the SDGs.

In Nepal, without international attention, it appears that it will not be possible to integrate IKPs to SCP practices. Integration of IKPs with scientific knowledge, more specifically relating to SCP, can further reinforce to attain the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN Declaration on indigenous peoples recognises respect for indigenous knowledge, culture and traditional practices, contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment. Indigenous knowledge has sustained the varying ecosystems for so long in the history of mankind. As many of the indigenous knowledge and practices can be integrated with scientific knowledge and tools to prevent environmental

¹¹ IUCN. (2013). *Enhancing Ecosystems and Livelihoods, Delivering Nature-based Solutions to Development Challenges*, IUCN Nepal Programme Framework 2013-2016.

¹² Nature Conservation National Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development (2015-2030), Government of Nepal.

¹³ Stiles (1993), cited in Cheserek, G. (2005). *Indigenous Knowledge in Water and Watershed Management: 'Marakwet' Conservation Strategies and Techniques*, School of Environmental Studies, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya.

degradation and climate change by switching strategies, technologies, modifying or transforming existing norms and behaviours, it could also be a subject of importance to see how IKPs can be integrated in achieving Sustainable Development Goal No. 12.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT DOING ITS PART: THE CASE OF EUROPEAN UNION'S SWITCHASIA

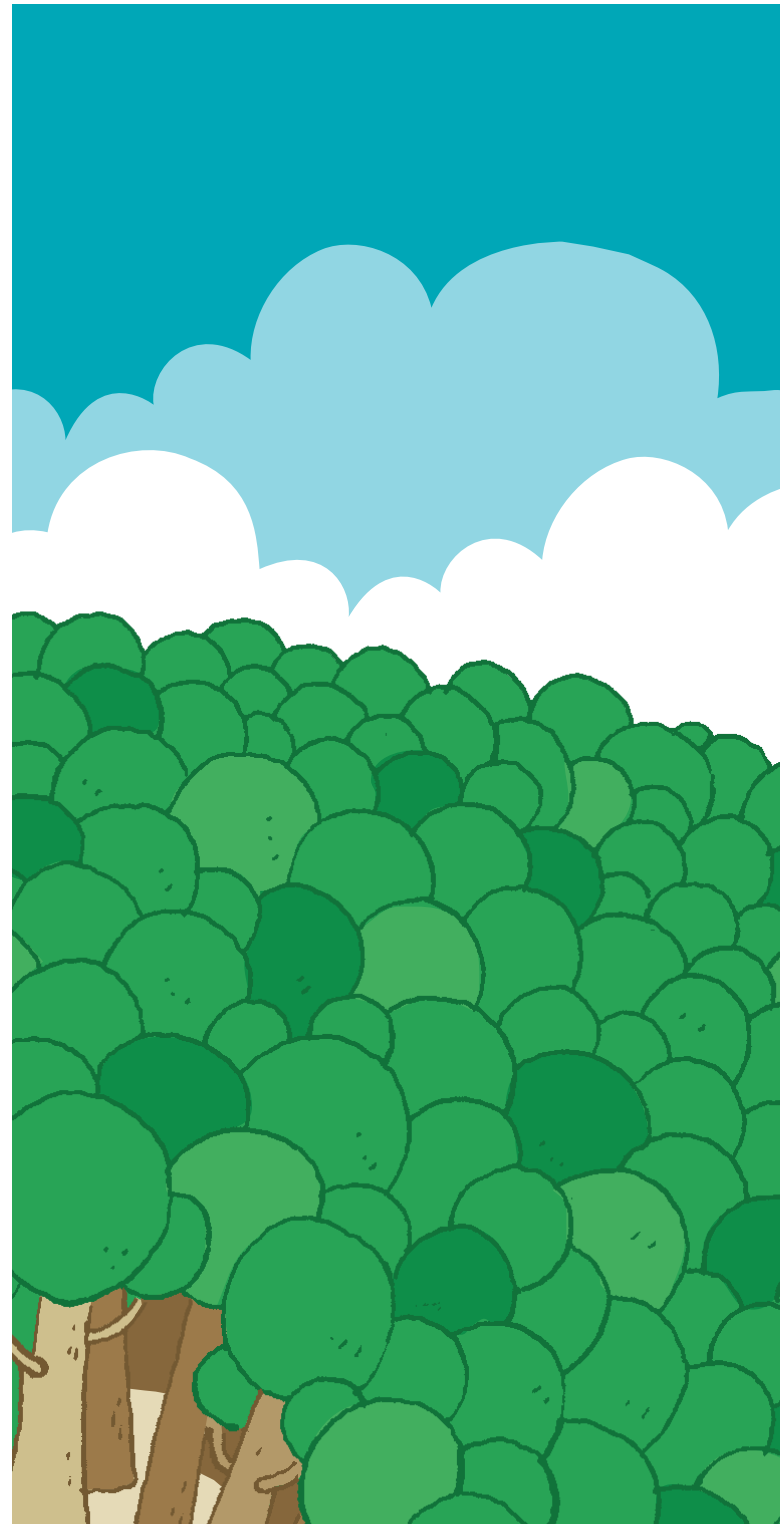
The European Union (EU) has been assisting Nepal to alleviate poverty through various initiatives. SwitchAsia is one of them, offering an integrated approach to reducing poverty by achieving overall development, reducing economic, social, and environmental costs, and strengthening economic competitiveness. Nepal suffers migration of youths into gulf countries in search of employment opportunities. Promotion of green employment and environment friendly technology assist shifting towards SCP patterns, while also contributing to preventing outmigration.

A case example of a SwitchAsia project in Nepal entails support to building vertical shaft brick kilns (VSBK) and promoting other sustainable construction practices. The conventional brick production has proved to have detrimental social effects in Nepal, from rising energy consumption to high levels of CO₂ and black carbon emissions leading to increasing air pollution in heavily populated areas. The project follows a holistic approach encouraging the use of VSBK production technology that uses less energy. The project also aims at creating an enabling policy and regulatory framework and environment, and mobilises and capacitates private sector stakeholders for green building materials and solutions, as well as informs consumers about the benefits of cleaner and low energy consumption building materials.

Nepal benefits significantly from projects implemented by SwitchAsia. However, the benefit needs to be maximised implementing a policy support component as well, in order to strengthen national and regional policy frameworks to promote the shift towards more SCP patterns and resource efficiency, and thereby contributing to green growth and the reduction of poverty.

THE WAY FORWARD

There is a growing concern about the negative effects of environmental degradation. Nepal needs to progress in mainstreaming the SCP policy, in order to protect its environment and prevent depletion of natural resources. This can best be done by promoting dialogue and networking



among the key stakeholders, including government, private sector, civil society, industry associations, and academia. ★

FINLAND AND THE **SOCIAL** **CONTRACT** OF THE SDGs

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PLATFORM TO THE EU

Peace and security are enablers of sustainable development, and thus a vital part of Agenda 2030. Safeguarding Goal 16, with the purpose of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, has been an EU priority in the international Post-2015 negotiations. Matters of peace and security should not be confined to fragile and conflict areas. With the new universal sustainable development goals stepping into force, the international community should increasingly consider societal violence as a development problem. This holds true for Finland as well, that as a staunch defender of Goal 16 must live up to its spirit and universality. In order to create societies that are resilient to violence, the root causes of violence – in particular inequality and discrimination – must be addressed everywhere, including Finland.

A report by the Stakeholder Forum notes that all countries will need to work on their institutional and judicial processes for advancing sustainable development. Out of the targets

of Goal 16, the Stakeholder Forum identifies four that need particular attention from developed countries: developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions (16.6.), reducing violence and related deaths (16.1.), reducing illicit financial and arms flow and combatting organized crime (16.4.), and ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making (16.7).¹⁴

FINLAND – A DANGEROUS COUNTRY FOR WOMEN?

Finland has collected data on intentional homicide from 1760, making it, together with Sweden, the country with the longest running statistics on the issue. Finland figures very highly on the list of countries with the highest homicide-rates in the European Union, with the homicide rate being higher only in Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.¹⁵ There has, however, been a positive downwards trend since the late 1990s.

¹⁴ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1684SF_-_SDG_Universality_Report_-_May_2015.pdf

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime_trends_in_detail#Homicide

The incidence of violence against women is of particular concern, with Finland, according to EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), being the second most violent country for women in the European Union. According to FRA's study, 47 % of women in Finland have experienced physical or sexual violence after turning 15, compared to the European Union average of 33 per cent. With the EU average at 21 per cent, 35 per cent of Finns have also worried about being physically or sexually assaulted in the 12 months prior to the interview. The results are similar for violence against children, 53 per cent having experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence before the age of 15, compared to the EU average of 35 per cent.

Oddly enough, only 64 per cent of Finns believe violence against women to be fairly or very common in their country, where as the EU average is 78 per cent. Finland is thus not only a particularly dangerous country for women compared to other EU Member States, but Finns are also exceptionally unaware of how widely spread this violence is.¹⁶ It stands clear that Finland has a lot to do with regards to violence in general, and violence against women and children in particular, in order to have fulfilled its obligations under Goal 16. In order to address this issue, the root causes of violence must be thoroughly analysed.

COHERENT POLICIES ARE NEEDED

In addition to improving its domestic situation, Finland must ensure all its policies are in line with the new Sustainable Development Goals. Policy coherence for sustainable development should be integrated into, for example, Finland's foreign, security and trade policies, in order to ensure that they support the successful implementation of the SDGs.

Finland has placed a particular emphasis on combatting the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, being one of the co-authors of the initiative resulting in the Arms Trade Treaty that entered into force December 2014. As an arms exporter itself, Finland, along with other Nordic countries, is considered to be open about its exports. As a report from SaferGlobe Finland suggest, it must however pay close attention to how it addresses re-transfers. The most important step in this regard is committing to

comprehensive risk assessments prior to granting export licenses. In addition, ad hoc verification visits are called for, to verify that exported items are used in the way they were intended.¹⁷

Another type of illicit flows that Finland should work on regards tax evasion and tax havens. The European Commission has estimated European tax losses to amount up to € 1 trillion every year. Exact figures are hard to come by, but recent figures have suggested that Finland loses annually € 175 million worth of corporate tax income to Belgium alone. Finland's shortcomings in this area do not however concern only Finnish citizens, as the Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation (FINNFUND) has invested ODA in tax havens. Finland should also take a stronger stance in Europe in advancing the agenda against tax havens.

TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION

According to Transparency International, Finland consistently ranks among the least corrupt states in the world. According to polls, only nine per cent of Finns say they are affected by corruption, while the corresponding number in the EU is approximately one in four. That does not, however, mean there is no work to be done. The European Commission has for example suggested that Finland oblige municipalities and regions to secure transparency in public contracts with private entrepreneurs.

Finland has traditionally been a country that has placed a very high value on and has consciously supported an active and free civil society, recognizing it as a key component of a democratic system. The civil society is actively consulted and invited to participate in decision-making. It remains to be seen whether the government that stepped in to power in the spring of 2015 chooses to continue on this road. The government has sent alarming signals by targeting sectors that civil society is particularly active in with massive cuts. Funding for NGOs active in the development sector has for example almost been halved on a very short notice, while funding for the private sector has been substantially increased. This has happened without consulting civil society to discuss how these cuts can be performed in a controlled and responsible manner. With civil society under threat globally, Finland should intensify its efforts to safeguard its own that it has traditionally valued so highly, in order to ensure that decision-making remains inclusive and participatory at all levels. ★

¹⁶ <http://fra.europa.eu/en/vaw-survey-results>

¹⁷ http://www.saferglobe.fi/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/NATCTTSC_WEB_small.pdf

WILL KENYA WAVER IN ITS **SOCIAL** **CONTRACT** WITH CITIZENS?

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Civil Society often underestimates the challenges of implementing global policy agenda that have a direct impact on national politics or economies. For many countries the challenges fall into four major categories. First, global policies that are binding must be ratified and then domesticated into national laws. And that hurdle is political, however economic or social the agenda. The second stage is that of aligning its implementation with national policies so that it can allow for budgetary allocation. When this hurdle is passed there is another major in implementation. Finally, most global policies are on specific areas of development, yet governments work on an allocation that considers each policy agenda within the broader context of national priorities, and the impact of the agenda on other segments of development.

Millennium Development Goals, while hailed as a success by donors, was actually a major failure because of these

challenges. Because they were framed as “Log Frames” or Projects, they could not easily be incorporated into broader national agenda areas owing to their focus on very narrow aspects of poverty alleviation. In the end, the only progress was in those areas that national governments were able to quickly integrate into national programs with little political challenges, or those where donors pumped money because they had own interests.

Kenya is in a unique position, and may perhaps be a test case on the success or failure of one of the most contentious goals in the SDG agenda – Goal 16.

For a start Kenya is not a post-conflict country, although it faced its share of internal strife awhile back, and continues to face the challenges of Radicalization and attacks by Islamic insurgents from neighbouring Somalia. But Kenya has many things in her favour.

It has been acknowledged as the country with one of the most progressive constitutions in the world - second only to South Africa and the United States. Adopted exactly five years ago, Kenya’s constitution has one of the most elaborate governance and justice oversight mechanisms. Kenya has also one of the strongest Governance and Justice mechanisms, and has already opened way for a forthcoming Freedom of Information Law. It led to an overhaul of its

Judiciary, introduced the first civilian oversight of the Police System and devolved its Governance system to forty seven counties that today control over 25% of national revenue. The powers of the Executive have been reduced considerably.

One can therefore be tempted to think that the country is ripe for implementation of Goal 16. But that would be a gross overstatement. Three fundamental issues stand in the way of a successful Goal 16 in Kenya: narrow electoral democracy, conflict of priorities with its national 2030 Vision and Strategic Agenda, and concerns over the real interests and intentions of this Goal.

The focus on electoral democracy with universal suffrage as the foundation for a democratic agenda means that after fifty one years of independence its executive and legislative powers remain the domain of no more than five major ethnic groups who collectively make 61.5% of the population. The remaining thirty eight can only watch from the side-lines, thanks to a skewed democratic agenda driven by numerical strength rather than equity and social justice. The result is that accountability of the state is largely driven by the interests of these small groups.

Kenya's Vision 2030, developed in 2008 seeks to push the country to middle income status in less than 20 years. It focuses on 8 sectors, three of which are directly linked to Goal 16 – governance, security and justice. But since its launch, the sectors that address infrastructure, energy, technology and macroeconomic policies have become the key focus agenda areas, again due to the skewed political interests that suppress the other softer sectors. It is interesting to see if a global policy agenda will do what a national strategy has failed to do and turn the spotlight from the hardware policies to social cohesion.

Kenya's foreign policy agenda has for the past three years been driven by events at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The war crimes trial that begun with five leading political figures before narrowing down to two and then to the current vice president, has been the lens through which the government views and evaluates any global policy. Any global policy agenda— especially one that is perceived to have come from a Western arena such as Goal 16, is going to find a very hard landing on the runways of the executive and parliament. That is why despite co-chairing the entire Post-2015 agenda (both the Open Working Group and the intergovernmental negotiations) the SDG agenda remains unknown outside of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While the pillars that make up Goal 16 are in themselves part of the government's vision 2030 agenda, their implementation will largely depend on the goodwill and not on the realities of their impact on society.

Kenya therefore is a classic test case of a country that desperately needs to push for the implementation of Goal 16 and yet has so many hurdles on its path. The implication for Civil Society and others seeking the successful implementation of the SDG is three-fold.

First, Goal 16, and indeed the SDG agenda, should not be implemented as yet another Log Frame for the aid industry in the way MDGs were. Rather than make this appear like a new development agenda, civil society and other actors should use existing policy agreements such as Vision 2030 that already have the support of the government, and which in principle includes all the ingredients that make up Goal 16. Actors should also insist on resources raised locally for this Goal, instead of the strong foreign resourcing that characterized the MDGs.

Second there is a need to begin looking at a new emerging implementation approach known as Goal 16+. This means looking at this Goal within the larger context of other Goals and seeking for a broader implementation and ownership that captures the core elements of the goal within the broader development agenda. Pushing for Goal 16 as a new project alongside the other Goals will be the quickest way to kill its implementation.

Finally, there is an urgent need for a citizen driven accountability framework that does not rely on political interests or powers vested in political leadership. The Accountability for the Post-2015 agenda as currently framed in the SDG Document has left too much power to national governments. Kenyan society will need to develop their own social accountability mechanisms that ensure this Goal is not just integrated in its entirety, but that the citizens are actively in the driving seat of its implementation. To do this requires an increased ownership that goes beyond the current NGOs and CSOs. Only when Goal 16 is seen as a second chance at a renewed social contract between the state and the citizens will it transform society. Otherwise, like many past Global policies, Goal 16 and its 16 siblings will die of political asphyxiation even before they begin to crawl out of New York. ★

Peace and justice

Responsible consumption

Renewable energy

Quality education

No hunger



Beyond2015

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