

Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Finland
Statement by Eija Lumme
Senior Ministerial Adviser
Ministry of the Environment, Finland

UNECE Arhus Convention and PRTR Protocol
Joint High-Level Segment
Budva, Montenegro 14 September 2017

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland has actively started to take national measures to implement the 2030 Agenda.¹

The Government of Finland has shown leadership also by adopting a National Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda in February 2017. The Plan expresses the Government's political will and sets concrete measures for putting the 2030 Agenda into practice.² The importance of the Government's commitment was also stressed by the panellists at the beginning of this thematic session.

We find it very important to translate the global goals to national policies and measures. It helps different actors to understand what global goals mean to our country, and enables commitment and ownership for action. Looking from the environmental angle, the challenge is to mainstream the environmental concerns into other sectors and the whole-of- government approach. The Government Implementation Plan is a good tool to make it happen.

Stakeholder engagement, including public, and participation is one of the cornerstones of the Finnish model for sustainable development. This is in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention. We have invented a special tool to boost concrete action and innovations for sustainable development. It is called "Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development". By now, we have over 600 commitments from companies, schools, municipalities and civil society organisations, as well as individuals.

The most recent participatory arrangement in Finland has been the establishment of a Youth Agenda2030 Group. The Government is partnering with 20 young persons chosen by the Finnish Youth Cooperation organization. These young people from different backgrounds and regions will challenge the work of the Government and act as sustainable development ambassadors in places where young people meet: schools, hobby clubs, and shopping malls.

I have agreed with the UNECE Aarhus Convention secretariat that a link to the Finland's Government report on the implementation of the 2030 will be put on the website of the Convention. (see below). I hope that the Finnish model will inspire you in your further national work.

Thank you for your attention.

Government Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development in Finland –Long-term, Coherent and Inclusive Action

Prime Minister's Office Publications 11/2017

http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/79455/VNK_J1117_Government_Report_2030Agenda_KANSILLA_netti.pdf?sequence=1

¹ Finland was amongst the first countries that reported to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2016 on our mechanisms, measures and challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

² Finland is committed to implementing the global Agenda as a whole, but we wanted to focus our work on few issues that are critical for Finland. The two key themes for Finland are 1) Carbon-neutrality and resource-wisdom, and 2) Non-discrimination, equality and competence. These themes cover most of the 17 SDGs and bring them to the national context.