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DRAFT REPORT

on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals
(2023/2010(INI))

Committee on Development
Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

(Joint committee procedure - Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure)

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CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION.....	3
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	9

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (2023/2010(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to UN Resolution 70/1 entitled ‘Transforming our World – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ (the 2030 Agenda), adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015 in New York and establishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- having regard to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs’ publication of January 2022 entitled ‘SDG Good Practices: A compilation of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation – Second Edition’,
- having regard to the UN Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, entitled ‘The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development’,
- having regard to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, agreed at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNCBD,
- having regard to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) in Paris on 12 December 2015 and the agreement on new ‘loss and damage’ funding for vulnerable countries adopted at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh on 20 November 2022,
- having regard to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,
- having regard to the UN Sustainable Development Report 2021, entitled ‘The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals’,
- having regard to the UN Secretary-General’s report entitled ‘Our Common Agenda’, presented to the UN General Assembly, and to the mandate that UN General Assembly Resolution 76/6 of 15 November 2021 gave the UN Secretary-General to follow up on his report,
- having regard to the joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission of 30 June 2017 on the New European Consensus on Development – ‘Our world, our dignity, our future’¹,

¹ [OJ C 210, 30.6.2017, p. 1.](#)

- having regard to Decision (EU) 2022/591 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030²,
- having regard to the European Environment Agency report of 4 December 2019 entitled ‘The European environment – state and outlook 2020: Knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe’,
- having regard to the Commission work programmes for 2020 (COM(2020)0037), 2021 (COM(2020)0690), 2022 (COM(2021)0645) and 2023 (COM(2022)0548), and to their references to the SDGs, in particular the EU’s first voluntary review of SDG implementation,
- having regard to the integration of the SDGs into the better regulation framework, including the Commission communication of 29 April 2021 entitled ‘Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws’ (COM(2021)0219),
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 22 June 2021 entitled ‘A comprehensive approach to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development – Building back better from the COVID-19 crisis’,
- having regard to Eurostat’s 2021 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context, published on 15 June 2021,
- having regard to its resolution of 9 June 2021 on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives³,
- having regard to its resolution of 10 March 2022 on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: annual sustainable growth survey 2022⁴,
- having regard to its resolution of 23 June 2022 on the implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009⁶,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission entitled ‘EU Legislative Priorities for 2023 and 2024’⁷,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 24 October 2019 on the Economy of Wellbeing⁸,

² [OJ L 114, 12.4.2022, p. 22.](#)

³ [OJ C 67, 8.2.2022, p. 25.](#)

⁴ [OJ C 347, 9.9.2022, p. 181.](#)

⁵ [OJ C 32, 27.1.2023, p. 28.](#)

⁶ [OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1.](#)

⁷ [OJ C 491, 23.12.2022, p. 1.](#)

- having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the joint deliberations of the Committee on Development and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A9-0000/2023),
- A. whereas, with less than seven years to go until the deadline for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the new geopolitical landscape and the multiple crises in various areas have hindered the achievement of the SDGs; whereas the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs are key to addressing the current challenges and reorienting the global compass towards a socially and environmentally just transition that leaves no one behind;

Status update at the halfway mark

1. Stresses its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, especially in light of the new geopolitical landscape and the ongoing climate, biodiversity and health crises; warns against further polarisation in the distribution of wealth and income, which would lead to increased inequality and poverty; highlights, against this backdrop, the importance of the SDGs, which provide a universal compass for people's prosperity and to protect the planet; recalls that a pledge to leave no one behind lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and that the achievement of the SDGs should benefit all countries, people and segments of society;
2. Highlights the fact that, at the halfway point in the 2030 Agenda timeline, EU leadership in the global implementation of the SDGs remains crucial; underlines that 2023 offers a unique opportunity to gather momentum and undertake the urgent transformative action required to place our societies firmly on course to achieve the SDGs; warns that the consequences of inaction in this crucial year would primarily be borne by the most vulnerable people;
3. Notes that the implementation process for almost all the SDGs is lagging and that two consecutive years of regression have been recorded for many indicators⁹; reaffirms the importance of each SDG and highlights the key challenges that persist for sustainable development, particularly in relation to poverty (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2), health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), climate change (SDG 13), oceans (SDG 14) and biodiversity (SDG 15); underlines the strategic role that SDG 10, on reducing inequality, can play in the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
4. Highlights the importance of the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the SDG Summit, which are both due to take place in New York, as opportunities to review progress at the halfway point, which must be the starting point for an intensified effort to achieve the goals by 2030; acknowledges, in this regard, the SDGs being focused on in 2023 (SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17);

⁸ [OJ C 400, 26.11.2019, p. 9.](#)

⁹ UN Sustainable Development Report 2022, 'From Crisis to Sustainable Development: the SDGs as Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond': <https://resources.unsdsn.org/2022-sustainable-development-report>.

Governance, multilateralism and partnerships

5. Recognises the EU's significant role in establishing the 2030 Agenda in 2015 and calls for it to take bold action and provide global leadership by setting an example in the implementation of the SDGs and redoubling its efforts ahead of the deadline;
6. Regrets the fact that the Commission has still not presented a comprehensive strategy for achieving the 2030 Agenda;
7. Calls on the Commission to continue integrating the SDGs into the European Semester and to use the country-specific recommendations to systematically measure Member States' progress and set out concrete proposals for improvement;
8. Stresses Parliament's important role in promoting the SDGs' implementation through European policies and heightening the goals' visibility in public discourse; underlines that coordination within and between the EU institutions is essential in order to ensure the EU's leadership and increase the effectiveness of its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda;
9. Recalls that voluntary national reviews are the cornerstone of the follow-up and review framework for the 2030 Agenda and a key accountability tool; welcomes the Commission's initiative to draft and present the first EU voluntary review report in 2023;
10. Reiterates the call on the Commission to establish a new permanent platform for regular and structured engagement with civil society organisations in order to systematically involve them in a meaningful way in the SDG implementation process;
11. Underlines the importance of enhanced cooperation with partners in the Global South, particularly the African Union and civil society representatives, in order to implement the 2030 Agenda globally;
12. Stresses, in this regard, that the EU and its Member States must avoid negative spillover effects at the expense of the Global South, which occur as a result of their past economic and technological model; advocates cooperation with global partners to turn any negative spillover effects into virtuous circles; calls for all EU policies to be subject to a mandatory SDG check to provide more insight on and address any negative effects and ensure that change in this area is measurable;

Data and monitoring

13. Points out that, in order to assess the Member States' progress on the SDGs, the Eurostat sustainable development indicators must be improved by filling the gaps for some SDGs and better measuring policies' impact on territories and specific vulnerable groups;
14. Notes, furthermore, that important data remains unavailable on global, national and regional development policies in the Global South, particularly with regard to the poorest and most marginalised people;

15. Highlights the importance of voluntary local reviews and voluntary subnational reviews as a means of further localising the SDGs and therefore advancing their implementation;
16. Calls on the Commission to present the ‘beyond GDP’ dashboard without delay, as set out in the 8th environment action programme;

Financial framework

17. Recalls the broad recognition, when the SDGs were adopted, of the need to ‘go from billions to trillions’ in financing for development; is alarmed by the fact that the SDG financing gap has instead grown from USD 2.5 trillion to USD 4 trillion per year¹⁰;
18. Calls for the preparation of an EU financing plan for the SDGs; underlines that the 2030 Agenda should guide all EU financing tools and their programming; calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal for a social taxonomy to complement the green taxonomy and help implement the European Green Deal;
19. Stresses that adequate financing for the attainment of the SDGs, especially in developing countries, requires a thorough overhaul of the global financial architecture; urges the Commission and the Member States to step up their engagement and jointly work towards the necessary reforms of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group and multilateral development banks in order to adjust these financial institutions’ visions and operating models with a focus on strengthening the fight against poverty and rising inequality and promoting a just and sustainable transition;
20. Strongly welcomes the Bridgetown Initiative in this regard and calls on the Commission and the Member States to constructively and proactively engage in the relevant discussions in international forums throughout 2023 so that ambitious reforms can be achieved swiftly;
21. Stresses that more than half of the world’s poorest countries face either a debt crisis or a high risk of one; welcomes the UN Secretary-General’s push for a global SDG stimulus package and calls for effective debt relief measures that make use of the full toolset available and include both ‘new lenders’ and private creditors;
22. Recognises the importance of domestic resources being mobilised in developing countries and draws attention to the fact that this is contingent on an enabling international environment; calls on the Commission and the Member States to take the initiative and push for the establishment of a UN intergovernmental commission for international cooperation on tax matters, in order to fight illicit financial outflows and close tax havens;

Outlook

23. Reiterates that the SDGs are the only globally agreed and comprehensive set of goals on the great challenges ahead and the 2030 Agenda should therefore serve as a guiding light for navigating through the current uncertainties; highlights the opportunity that the

¹⁰ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2023: No Sustainability Without Equity*, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2022: <https://doi.org/10.1787/fcbe6ce9-en>.

SDGs provide to establish a true well-being economy centred on people and the planet and to work towards a sustainable world beyond 2030;

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24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

With only 6,5 years left until the deadline for the realisation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is of utmost importance for the EU to show leadership, globally and regionally, in their implementation. Confronted with pluri-crisis, such as Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the climate and biodiversity emergencies, the international community observes a global negative impact on the achievement of the SDGs. Despite some progress of certain SDGs prior to the crises, trends are now reversed for several years in a row, leading to increased poverty and inequality, food price crisis, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. In this context, it is important for the co-rapporteurs to underline that the Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs are the key tools to address those challenges and that they serve as the global compass to a socially and environmentally just transition that leaves no one behind and to a wellbeing economy.

The year 2023 is a pivotal year for the review of the SDGs and a push for their realisation by 2030, especially with the EU presenting its first Voluntary Review report at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023 and the SDGs Global Summit in September 2023 marking the mid-term of their implementation. The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and plays a central role in the follow-up and global review of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. This year's HLPF will be dedicated to "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels".

Status update at the halfway mark

This report aims at contributing to the overall EU efforts towards the SDGs implementation and at presenting a number of recommendations. The midterm is a key moment for the EU to translate its ambitions into concrete strategies and actions by stepping up its efforts. The report also serves in preparation for the European Parliament's delegation to the HLPF in July 2023.

In this context, the report focuses on the midterm status of the SDGs implementation, on issues of governance, multilateralism and partnerships, it looks further at the availability of data and monitoring tools, followed by recommendations as regards the financial framework and provides an overall outlook for the future.

Governance, multilateralism and partnerships

The EU played a significant role in setting up the Agenda 2030 in 2015 and therefore carries a big responsibility to revive it on a global level while leading by example. For that, a comprehensive European strategy for achieving the Agenda 2030 is needed. The report regrets that the Commission has still not presented such an overarching strategy on full implementation of the SDGs, as called for by the European Parliament in its resolution of 23 June 2022 and in Council conclusions. There is a broader need for a wider coordination within the EU institutions, a better involvement of the European Parliament and tangible tools to consult the civil society. The first EU Voluntary Review in 2023 is a very much-welcomed step that the Parliament supports despite strong regrets over the lack of involvement of the

Parliament in its preparations.

Moreover, the report places an important emphasis on the need for improved cooperation with global partner countries. In this context, the EU and its Member States must avoid negative spill-over effects at the expense of the Global South and ensure that all EU policies should be subject to a mandatory SDG check to better understand and address any negative effects.

Data and monitoring

There is an important lack of data for global, regional and national development policy in the Global South, particularly for the poorest and most marginalised which makes the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs difficult. The EU must also enhance data collection and more specifically the Eurostat Sustainable Development indicator system, which must be improved by filling gaps for some SDGs, with specific focus on vulnerable groups.

Financial framework

As has been observed for years, financing of the SDGs is a major challenge in their implementation. At the time when the SDGs were adopted there was a broad recognition of the need to “go from billions to trillions” in financing for development. However, the SDG financing gap keeps growing at an alarming rate from USD 2.5 trillion to USD 4 trillion per year.

The COVID 19 pandemic and its economic impact contributed largely to the shifting of priorities and the reversal of prior progress with the Agenda 2030. The financing needs are ever bigger but the resources are smaller, subjecting the SDGs to the so-called ‘scissors effect’.

The co-rapporteurs therefore propose a number of measures in order to close the financing gap for the SDGs. Apart from the call for the EU to adopt its own SDGs financing plan, they call for the adoption of a global SDGs Stimulus package. Furthermore, the report highlights the need of a thorough overhaul of the global financial architecture, effective debt relief measures for developing countries and the fight against illicit financial outflows and tax havens.