

(Ohjepituus max. 4 minuuttia, sisältää 474 sanaa)

HLPF, National Statement by Finland

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

All of us – states, regions, municipalities, civil society, youth and private companies – share the urgency to advance the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

We have seen an increasing number of people falling into poverty in recent years. Development Cooperation plays an important role in reducing poverty. Countries also need to implement measures that reduce inequalities and provide all people with universal social protection as well as protection from extreme weather events.

Supporting the investment needs of developing countries to achieve the SDGs is a priority for Finland. As part of the EU, we work within the context of the EU Global Gateway initiative. We promote transparent and democratic solutions that respect human rights. In doing so, we use the expertise, networks and technology of our private sector. We enhance SDG implementation in partnerships where we work together and learn from each other.

Countries that focus on gender equality have stronger economies. Gender equality stimulates economic growth, boosts private and public sector performance and reduces income inequality.

The education of girls and the employment of women have been important factors in Finland's national development. We strongly support UNICEF's work to promote girls and women's education around the world. To enhance learning and to tackle malnutrition, school meals are a powerful tool.

To tackle climate change and extreme weather events, we need swift action to raise our ambition on mitigation. We support the Secretary General's call for Early Warning Systems for All. Furthermore, we need to ensure that we find global solutions to addressing biodiversity loss and pollution.

Finland is one of the most water-rich countries in the world, and our waters are critical for our economy and wellbeing. We are improving the status of our waters, for instance, with a government funded water protection program. Finland is committed to achieving all international water targets.

Regions and municipalities play an important role in sustaining wellbeing and enhancing resilience. Tackling homelessness through the Housing First approach has been a success in Finland. Sustainable development depends on peaceful and inclusive societies where there is no room for racism or any forms of discrimination.

In Finland, we will continue to engage all actors of society in sustainable development. The National Commission on Sustainable Development of Finland, chaired by the Prime Minister, is a key forum for broad-based cooperation.

Finally, I would like to voice our strong support for Ukraine, who has struggled for more than a year against the unprovoked and illegal war of aggression by Russia. Russian aggression is destroying the environment and the livelihoods of the people in Ukraine.

There is no sustainable development without peace and human rights. Finland is committed to promoting the implementation of international agreements. For this, we need effective and inclusive multilateralism.

Thank you.