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REPORT

« The 2030 Agenda » Taking action to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through French foreign policy

The National Council for Development
and International Solidarity (CNDSI)

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Report by the “2030 Agenda” Working Group

**Taking action to promote the
implementation of the 2030 Agenda
through French foreign policy**

**The National Council for Development
and International Solidarity (CNDSI)**

Co-chaired by:

Olivier Bruyeron, President of Coordination SUD

Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director of the Institute for
Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

Table of contents

THE PROCESS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2030 AGENDA WORKING GROUP	6
Session 1. The state of play with financing the 2030 agenda	10
Session 2. Public policies and civil society's resources for the SDGS in relation to food challenges	14
Session 3. Public policies and civil society's resources for the SDGs in relation to services (water, sanitation and energy)	24
ANNEXES	
Annex 1. Extract from the voluntary national review incorporating the work of the CNDSI 2030 agenda working group	28
Annex 2. List of acronyms	30
Annex 3. List of participants	31

THE PROCESS

France presented its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) of July 2023. In line with the recommendations of the UN and the OECD, all of the stakeholders involved with development and international cooperation contributed to its drafting. The CNDSI 2030 Agenda Working Group was set up to contribute to Area of Action 6 of the VNR, “Work at European and international levels for sustainable transformation”. Olivier Bruyeron, President of Coordination SUD, and Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director of IDDRI, were cochairs.

This Working Group involved various French and foreign players – civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, public development institutions, the research sector and international organizations. The Working Group met four times between January and April 2023, following an iterative process involving various organizations and individuals, harnessing their expertise, practices and status as CNDSI members. By presenting their practices, analysis and considerations, at the end of their fourth meeting they were able to draw up the set of recommendations outlined below.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Growing needs require strong political will

The report¹ given by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in May 2023 highlighted that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was slowing, particularly in developing countries, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts. Recent crises have exacerbated the difficulties of achieving the SDGs in comparison to the situation in 2015. It is crucial that we take urgent, coordinated and firm action to accelerate their implementation. The OECD’s report underlines the growing gap between the financial requirements for sustainable development in developing countries and the financing flows in place. In order to harness the opportunity to step up progress on the 2030 Agenda in 2023, it is crucial that we make use of integrated and transformative aspects and commit to “leave no one behind”. Recent scientific studies have underlined that the political impact of the 2030 Agenda is mostly discursive, rarely

prescriptive, and not transformative enough.² The recommendations of the CNDSI 2030 Agenda Working Group propose tangible actions that France can take to reinforce its commitment to the SDGs through its international solidarity strategy and national policies concerning least developed countries (LDCs).

Financing the 2030 Agenda

At the first session, three organizations jointly drew up an overview of the creation of the 2030 Agenda, highlighting the crucial importance of international collaboration, appropriate funding and adaptation to national specificities to achieve the SDGs and promote sustainable development. The report by the OECD underlined the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, defined as the worst economic crisis since the Second World War, while stressing the effects of rising inequality and inflation growth, which are particularly concerning in developing countries. Meanwhile, a public French financial institution, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group, presented a fourlevel approach to aligning its activities with the SDGs. It emphasizes the importance of adapting to the specific needs of each country, taking into account public policy trajectories, and appreciating the importance of accountability. Lastly, a presentation by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) highlighted a global decline in indicators linked to the SDGs, despite stagnation in Europe. The SDSN recommended changes to consumption habits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the importation of forced labour. It also suggested studying carbon border adjustment mechanisms to resolve the lack of separation between economic growth and the imported effects.

Changes relating to food security, agroecology and policy coherence for sustainable development: a complete overview

Over the course of this session, participants explored concepts linked to agriculture and food, highlighting the importance of ensuring the coherence of public policy for sustainable development. The issue of food security, which previously focused on boosting production to meet growing demand, has changed, now looking more at access to food and underlining the impact of poverty and inequality. Peasant agroecology is now internationally recognized as a way to achieve the SDGs by reducing poverty, improving nutrition

¹ [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet](#)

² Biermann, F., Hickmann, T., Sènit, CA. et al. *Scientific evidence on the political impact of the Sustainable Development Goals*. Nat Sustain 5, 795–800 (2022).

and promoting gender equality while protecting biodiversity and combating climate change. Nevertheless, agroecology faces competitive challenges. Lastly, the coherence of public policy for sustainable development is crucial to aligning national policies with the 2030 Agenda and reducing unnecessary public spending. The OECD has proposed tangible tools to ensure this coherence while underlining the importance of involving stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

SDG approaches: the energy transition in Africa, urban inclusion in Colombia, and challenges related to water and education

The NGO ENDA Tiers Monde focuses on the energy transition and combating climate change while adapting to different contexts, particularly in Africa. Senegal, for example, faces challenges such as universal access to energy, energy sovereignty, technology transfer, and partnerships for the energy transition. The SDGs provide a framework for these efforts. Barranquilla, a Colombian city with 2 million inhabitants, is also harnessing the SDGs to promote urban inclusion, reduce inequality and protect the environment. The AFD has supported this initiative by contributing €170 million, with an emphasis on promoting biodiversity and fair development. PS-Eau, an organization working to improve access to water, highlights the advantages water-related initiatives offer for wellbeing and health, underlining the importance of good access. It recommends better coordination between official development assistance from the government and civil society, as well as greater complementarity between “Team France” and local organizations. Meanwhile, the SDGs have expanded access to high quality education, but its connection to other SDGs is not always properly understood. Recommendations include an intersectional approach to the SDGs, the bolstering of intersectoral partnerships and the coherence of public policies in France and internationally.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2030 AGENDA WORKING GROUP

Are systemic recommendations an obstacle to prioritization?

The recommendations of the 2030 Agenda Working Group mostly focus on systemic aspects. This approach was debated in discussions at the fourth session, with some organizations emphasizing the importance of prioritizing certain SDGs. The debates concluded that a systemic approach was not an obstacle to prioritization insofar as it enabled clearer identification – using the tools mentioned throughout the recommendations – of a country’s delays in contributing to the achievement of one or multiple SDGs. Furthermore, this approach enables countries to go further by anticipating the consequences of certain public policies, which may be positive for some SDGs while having a negative impact on others. However, focusing solely on the SDGs that are considered a priority, without adopting a systemic approach, presents the risk of “cherry picking” SDGs. This entails highlighting action taken in relation to one or several SDGs without taking into account the subsequent impact – sometimes negative – on the other targets. Lastly, the recent example of Spain, which has revised its policy to implement the SDGs from a systemic perspective, shows that both approaches are compatible. After implementing systemic tools, Spain has identified priority policies for certain SDGs, known as *políticas palancas* (policy levers).

Promote a holistic approach to the 2030 Agenda

1. Reaffirm France's political commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the changes that it will involve between now and 2030, as well as in the longer term.
2. Recognize that developing countries and particularly low-income countries are facing a growing shortfall in the funding that they need to achieve the SDGs.³ Moreover, recognize that French players are committing to stepping up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda not only in France and Europe, but also in developing countries. In addition to this political assertion, realizing this commitment will be made possible by implementing best practices and projects based on the following recommendations.
3. Adopt a systemic approach to the 2030 Agenda that takes into account not only the environmental aspect, but also social and economic aspects, as well as a rights-based approach.
4. Consider the SDGs outside of their silo by appreciating and supporting projects and initiatives taking an intersectional approach, focusing on co-benefits and transformational approaches while promoting the "do no harm" principle so that none of the funded projects undermine sustainable development.
5. During initiatives for a specific service or sector, express a long-term vision (for 2030 and 2050) regarding the desired transformation of the system supplying that service (e.g. energy, healthcare, etc.) and related to all of the SDGs – therefore breaking down barriers between sectors – and promote a multi-service approach, if applicable.

Make French public policies more consistent with the 2030 Agenda and establish a stronger statistical system

6. In addition to indicators already used by France, systematically incorporate the indicators developed by the SDSN in order to measure France's spillovers, as well as indicators produced using methodology developed by the OECD to measure Target 17.14 ("enhance policy coherence for sustainable development").

7. Draw up a French Voluntary National Review (VNR) more regularly (ideally, every two years) in order to follow the country's progress, incorporating the indicators outlined above.
8. Underline the lessons learned from the experiences of regional players (CSOs, public authorities, local government bodies, citizens, the social and inclusive economy, companies, etc.) for whom the SDGs enable a better understanding of the cobenefits of various aspects of the transformations sought in key services that the 2030 Agenda seeks to overhaul (e.g. energy, food, water, health, education, etc.).

Apply the process of policy coherence for sustainable development throughout the policy decision cycle, from planning public policies through to their evaluation

9. Integrate target objectives to achieve policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) into existing planning tools. This involves identifying, in concrete terms, at every stage of a political process, which types of tools and stakeholders should be better integrated in order to use the SDGs as a guide under the responsibility of all ministries and government agencies.
10. Use the tools developed by the OECD for the coherence of public policy for sustainable development, such as:
 - the coherence matrix⁴ before and during the drawing up of political guidelines, but also after, in order to use performance data in the next decision-making cycle; and
 - the coherence fiche,⁵ an evaluation tool used in decision-making and project arbitration, planning documents and legislative acts.
11. Reshape the French trade assistance strategy so it integrates objectives to achieve the SDGs in France and partner countries, strategic support for voluntary sustainability initiatives such as fair trade, as well as the emergence of collective transnational institutions in producing countries that are capable of controlling supply in order to better regulate prices.

³ OECD (2022), [Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2023: No Sustainability Without Equity](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

⁴ OECD (2022), [Italy's National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, p.12-15

⁵ OECD (2022), [Italy's National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, p.16-19

The policy coherence fiche is an evaluation tool used in decision-making and project arbitration, planning documents and legislative acts. It is therefore used after policy design, at the approval stage. It is an evaluation tool used to observe the role that a measure will play in the achievement of the SDGs and identifying which indicators will be used afterwards to demonstrate its implementation and impact.

12. Ensure that the SDG framework is mobilized to enable optimal regulation of private bodies' activities supplying essential, high quality and universal services, and optimize the capacities of key institutions such as public development banks.
13. Ensure the SDGs are steered at the highest level of the State – at the Prime Minister's level at minimum – in order to obtain sufficient resources and the political leverage needed to carry weight in interministerial arbitration.
14. Implement a parliamentary control mechanism for the consistency of French legislative measures with regard to the SDGs and the need for coherence in public policy for sustainable development, in line with Decision 21.4 of the CICID from 2018.⁶
20. Redirect public financial support to align it with the SDGs, in particular by focusing agricultural subsidies on transformative agroecology.
21. Address the impact, both positive and negative, of French financial support for causes that may hinder the achievement of the SDGs, particularly in relation to achieving food security (combating climate change, supporting female and family farmers, and fighting undernutrition).

Take action at European and international levels to ensure that the policies, standards and principles negotiated there are consistent with the commitment to achieve the SDGs

Direct financing towards the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda

15. Retain the objective to “leave no one behind” in terms of funding, particularly by following the two-fold approach of alignment with the 2030 Agenda:
 - Firstly, resources must be unlocked in order to leave no one behind, fight to eradicate all forms of poverty, and cover the SDG financing gap;
 - Secondly, resources must enable accelerated progress towards all of the SDGs by reinforcing countries' financing capacity.
16. Contribute to better alignment of international financial flows – particularly public – with the SDGs by advocating for approaches enabling operationalization; for example that of the AFD and other public development banks that have already embarked on this process, in bodies where France is represented.
17. Adopt a cross-cutting rather than piecemeal approach to SDG funding, including it in longterm national (or local/regional) trajectories to sustainable development.
18. Promote finance for essential services through suitable public financing to ensure universal access to quality services, with the aim of achieving all of the SDGs.
19. Align budget programmes with the SDGs and assess the contribution of the national budget to them, requesting technical support from the OECD and drawing inspiration from what has been done in other countries, such as Finland and New Zealand.
22. Encourage measures to make agricultural imports and EU trade policies compatible with the SDGs.
23. Promote the establishment of financial measures to promote agroforestry products and/or to combat deforestation, and penalize the suppliers of non-certified products, using the revenue generated to fund measures supporting small producers whose approaches align with the SDGs in farmland and forested areas in the most vulnerable countries.
24. Promote changes to competition law in order to more effectively prevent the formation of oligopolies in competitive sectors and to authorize horizontal price agreements where they allow the sharing of value that is essential to achieving the SDGs.

Encourage technical and financial partnerships

25. Promote and support work in intersectoral and multi-stakeholder spaces and environments, while defining guarantees against conflicts of interest and standards for transparency and accountability.
26. For initiatives for a specific service or sector, express a long-term vision (in relation to the 2030 Agenda) regarding the desired transformation and translate it into an investment plan sequenced over time (short-term, medium-term or long-term) and at system level rather than project by project. The aim of this is to ensure, through the intersectoral nature of the approach, greater visibility and stability for public and private investors, and to enhance the co-benefits between SDGs.

27. For initiatives for a specific service or sector, express a long-term vision (in relation to the 2030 Agenda) regarding the desired transformation and ensure that this vision and transformation plan draw on and consolidate local expertise, the latter by bolstering local expert institutions, citizens and CSOs, and mobilizing relevant expertise, for example from diasporas, to avoid replacing the consolidation of local expertise.

Improve consideration of the needs, respect for human rights and aspirations of the people targeted and involved

28. Recognize the position of stakeholder organizations (including citizens, civil society and populations affected by change) in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies that concern them.
29. Foster better localization of the SDGs, taking into account the importance of grassroots dynamics, civil society, citizens, democratic forms and local governance.
30. Systematically involve and consult CSOs in France, for example by maintaining the CNDSI 2030 Agenda Working Group, and in partner countries (citizens, populations affected by climate change and transitions, etc.).
31. In initiatives for a specific service, ensure local ownership by bringing out genuine social pacts locally and ensuring that this vision and transformation plan are co-constructed over the long term as part of an open, inclusive and democratic approach involving multiple stakeholders at relevant levels, as a political project for each region for which local authorities are accountable.
32. Bolster education and outreach so as to ensure ownership of the 2030 Agenda and civic participation in their implementation.

The state of play with financing the 2030 agenda

Presentation of the 2023 report on the SDGs, “no sustainability without equity”

Rachel Morris, Policy Analyst, Development Co-operation Directorate at the OCDE

The report on the state of financing for sustainable development published by the OECD in 2023 titled “No Sustainability Without Equity”⁷ is the result of regular assessment carried out every two years. It covers the macroeconomic context, trends for domestic and international resource flows, the impact of funding on achieving the SDGs as well as recommendations for OECD member countries.

The analysis of 2023 identified the COVID-19 pandemic as the most significant economic crisis since the Second World War. It has been followed by a difficult recovery in the poorest countries, with a strong risk of gaps in performance between developed and developing countries. Another challenge is inflation, which affects people with the lowest incomes most due to rising food and energy prices. Inequality is also rising sharply. The global extreme poverty rate has returned to 2019 levels due to COVID-19, while gender inequality has worsened, due in particular to difficulties in accessing education.

The succession of events that characterized the COVID-19 “polycrisis” has been multidimensional, confirming the relevance of the analysis enabled by the SDG framework as the health crisis had a social, political and environmental impact. This effect can be felt particularly sharply in low-income countries, where the need for short and long-term financing is increasing. What’s more, financing for “build back better” recovery initiatives is expensive in the short term (33% higher than average costs), despite the positive effects expected in the long term.

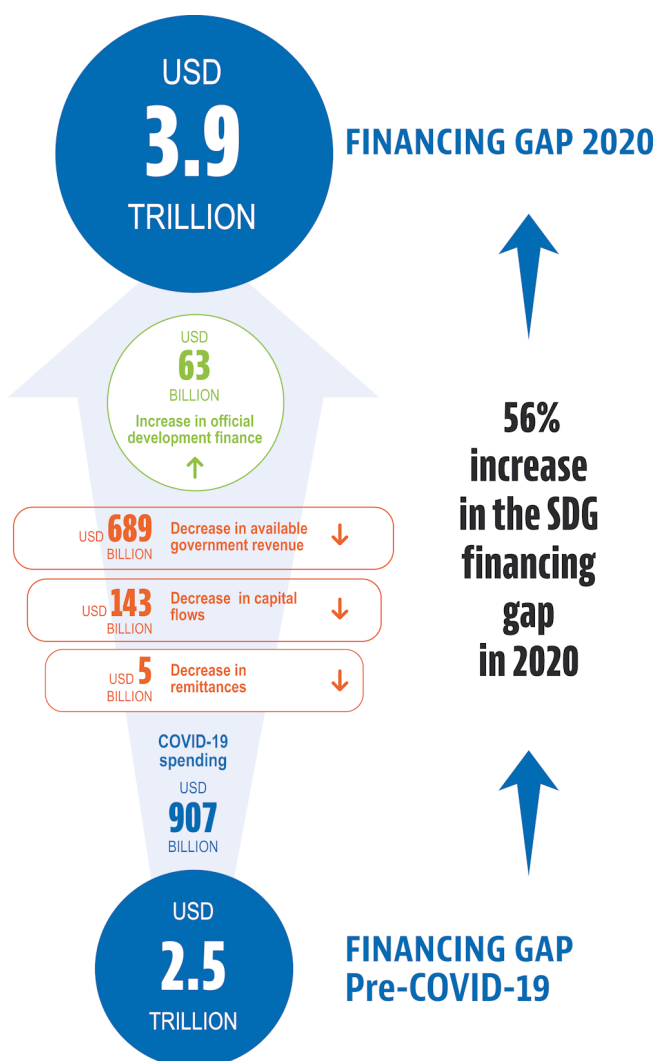
However, the fiscal and monetary policies put in place by high-income countries enabled them to absorb the impact of international funding drying up, while official development assistance (ODA) efforts provided a countercyclical flow. Nevertheless, the financing gap for SDGs continues to grow. Financing required by governments of developing countries rose from US\$2.5 trillion in 2019 to US\$3.9 trillion in 2020, with an additional US\$400 billion expected per year from 2020 to 2025 due to the war in Ukraine. Public revenue is expected to be 20% less than what was forecast before the pandemic due to the reduction in private investments and increase in inflation and debt service costs (with a risk of over-indebtedness).

The challenging context has nevertheless driven stakeholders to take non-financial risks into account. Long-term investments (approx. US\$35 trillion) are therefore increasing more quickly (up by 15% vs 11%) than worldwide financial assets (approx. US\$469 trillion), while the annual SDG financing gap (US\$3.9 trillion) comes to 1% of the total sum of world financial assets.

However, this funding is disproportionately raised in developed countries. LDCs continue to face difficulties accessing it, including from the Green Climate Fund. Regulations to access funding remain complex, for example due to the data required for due diligence in order to ensure the transparency of financial flows to prevent the risk of “SDG-washing”. Another challenge is that of sovereign ratings, which focus on short-term GDP growth without taking into account potential longterm growth.

Recent crises show that the progress made in different countries is interdependent. LDCs currently account for a small fraction of greenhouse gas emissions; but if no corrections are made, they will account for over half of global emissions in 2050. These countries have lost 20%-30% of their share of overall GDP due to the impact of climate change.

The SDG financing gap in developing countries grew by at least 56% in 2020



Source: OECD (2022), Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2023: No Sustainability Without Equity, OECD Publishing, Paris

The OECD's recommendations include:

1. Reinforcing equity by bolstering countries' capacity to financing (see tax and the role of Tax Inspectors Without Borders);
2. Bolstering sustainability (OECD/UNDP framework)⁸ with the aim of synergy between everyone involved in funding initiatives in order to avoid any transnational spillover effects (internal and external policy coherence);
3. Improving work with investors and asset managers;
4. Ensuring that national policies do not create any additional obstacles preventing LDCs from accessing funding.

The many high-level events in summer 2023 should not hide the sometimes declaratory nature of commitments that have been made, while calls for the reform of international financial institutions grow following the backing of a new financing pact by France and Barbados, as called for at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact. In this context, the work of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) aims to consolidate these specific quantified commitments and propose lines of action to protect the credibility of the international funding system for sustainable development.

Philippe Jahshan, Director of Strategy, Foresight and Public Relations, AFD

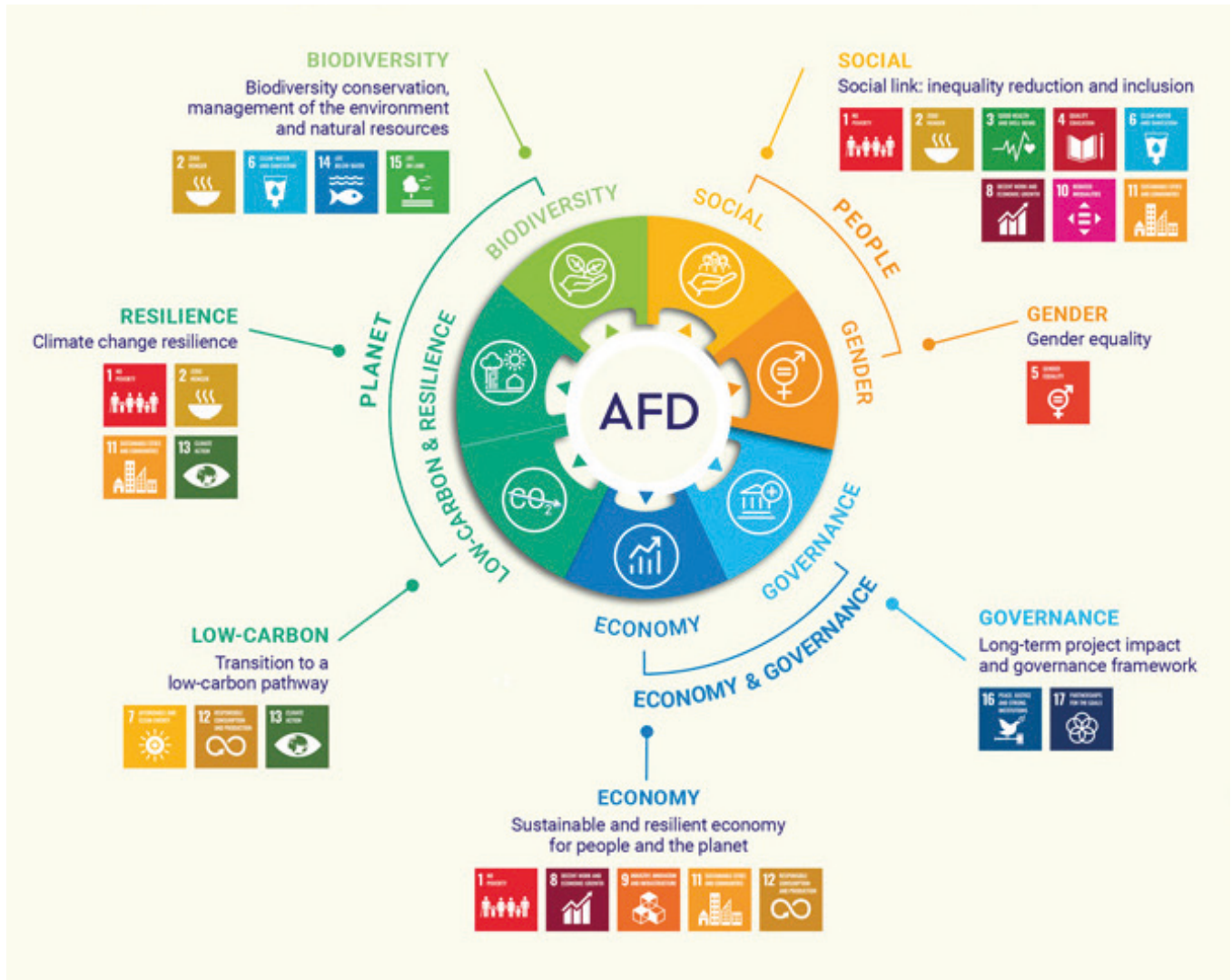
The AFD is creating a strategic plan as part of the CICID and the renewal of the objectives and resources contract between the French State and the AFD, with the SDGs as a backdrop.

The AFD demonstrates its aligning of funding and operations with the ownership of strategic principles through a "360° alignment" approach that aims to ensure action is integrated at multiple levels: tools, people and institutions; long-term trajectories (at stakeholder and regional levels); and the leveraging of funding (in systems and standards).

The idea is to take a four-level approach that combines the reinforcement and consolidation of sectorspecific SDGs, one SDG at a time. The first level of the approach is aligning operations. Here, the challenge is offering responses to priority areas and according to demand, under a framework for monitoring and strengthened viability. The second level is that of impacts, with alignment to account for three wide-ranging priorities: social challenges; the climate and biodiversity; and challenges related to the rule of law. The tools used to do so include an internal system that aims to qualify operations under the different focuses of the SDGs, accompanied by external advice or corrections regarding the first analysis.

8 [OECD-UNDP Impact Standards for Financing Sustainable Development](#), OECD Publishing, Paris, 2021

Sustainable development analysis: questioning and integrating sustainable development issues into the projects from the outset



Sources : AFD, [The Sustainable Development Analysis](#)

This work is juxtaposed in discussions with peers (other public banks). The challenge is scaling up by surpassing the project approach and going further with support for the organizations involved (public banks, the private sector, etc.) in the alignment of financing. The third challenge is that of trajectories. This includes the capacity of certain countries that are strategic for the AFD Group and Team France to bring into the public policy guidance approach. In this area, as with organizations, the approach of accountability is crucial to understanding the impact of loans granted to correct the trajectories of public policies. The fourth level is mobilization, which incorporates both an increase of resources and the issue of redirecting flows. Both of these subjects are central to the Finance in Common coalition co-led by the AFD and its partners. It showcases the crucial role that public development policies can play in this context.

The law⁹ sets out a framework for these specific commitments and the allocation between LDCs and middle-income countries, which calls for differentiating between approaches. Innovation loops are also high on the agenda within this framework.

One of the benefits of the approach espoused by the AFD is that it is not limited to accounting for the efforts to achieve each SDG separately and can appreciate the different approaches adapted to the situation observed in each LDC. The sustainability of funding criterion could exclude countries from accessing it. Drawing up exclusion lists and examining each country's trajectory for transformation in view of the SDGs separately should be avoided.

⁹ France's Programming Act 2021-1031 of 4 August 2021 on inclusive development and the fight against global inequalities

Taken at face value, the SDGs are cannot be resolved; arbitration of each project is impossible. To share practices, the International Development Finance Club (IDFC) is currently working on an initial grouping of six public banks, where a productive dialogue is taking place, and with a view to opening up to more participation. Showcasing these initiatives is also being discussed, with the aim of improving visibility beyond the community of public donors. The Asian Development Bank is also studying these issues with interest.

Guillaume Lafortune, Vice-President of the SDSN and Head of the Paris office

The report published by the SDSN demonstrates a decline in SDG indicators at the global level, despite stagnation in Europe due to European stabilizers. However, these observations should be qualified by taking into account data availability in certain countries. Nevertheless, according to the Spillover Index, 40% of the European Union's carbon footprint is generated abroad, while international trade has led to an increase in imported forced labour (including in relation to the mining of rare earths to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal). At this stage, the SDSN has not detected signs of decoupling between economic growth and the imported effects. But although onshoring may be relevant in terms of strategic sovereignty objectives, overall it can have a considerable inflationary impact.

In light of these observations, the SDSN is promoting action in three areas:

- **Modifying consumption habits to reduce imported greenhouse gas emissions;**
- **Modifying consumption habits to reduce imported forced labour;**
- **Carbon border adjustment mechanisms, which may nevertheless have an inflationary impact.**

In regard to the partnerships required to collectively achieve SDG expectations, funding represents a crucial focus. In addition to this aspect of the work comes the issue of skills and technology transfers, as the global North must continue to make progress towards the green transition domestically, so as not to send any negative signals to the global South. The issue of domestic and individual consumption is also crucial, as innovation can enhance the efficiency of the solutions proposed, for example regarding the use of scarce resources.

There were no expectations regarding the achievement of the SDGs at this midway stage, but there are relative expectations regarding the adaptation of governance tools. Of the around 60 countries surveyed by the SDSN, some stood out for their deep commitment to integrating SDG targets into their governance tools. Against this backdrop, the EU and France's work to produce VNRs sends a strong signal. Looking beyond the performance data, documenting political commitments and linking them to funding challenges is important.

For the SDSN, financial constraints have largely been worsened by the context of the polycrisis. In this context, a suitable financing plan is crucial. Six priority working areas were identified: education, health, clean energy, culture, sustainable water supply and sustainable resource management. Financing needs for sustainable initiatives can vary considerably according to the methodology used, ranging from 1% to 4% of global GDP. Although these figures are not insurmountable in a financial sense, current commitments fall short of these levels. Available sources of financing include increasing tax revenue, increasing sovereign borrowing from multilateral banks, increasing sovereign borrowing from financial markets, restructuring debts and reducing interest rates.

Analysing LDCs' credit ratings and interest rates reveals that those of these countries are more expensive because they are poor. And yet, experiments with sustainability-linked bonds have proven that investors are ready to pay significant green premiums or "greemiums". Taking domestic capacities for business and investment into account is also important. The SDSN therefore works to guide countries in the incorporation of these aspects into their investor fundraising strategies.

Public policies and civil society's resources for the SDGs in relation to food challenges

Nicolas Bricas, member of the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), Researcher at The Montpellier Interdisciplinary Centre on Sustainable Agri-Food Systems (UMR MOISA) and Director of the UNESCO Chair in World Food Systems

From the post-war period to the end of the 20th century: from a productionist agricultural vision to a wider outlook for access to food

According to analysis by Nicolas Bricas, from 1945, the year when the concept of "productionism" appeared for the first time, the issue of food security was essentially one of increasing production. At the World Food Conference in 1974, food security was defined as the "availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices". The aim of this vision, which could be considered "productionist", was to use two major drivers:

- Increasing production and reducing waste
- Building security reserves to alleviate fluctuations

This led to the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN institutions devoted to achieving these objectives.

The world began to experience overproduction of food from the 1980s onwards, setting aside the issue of global sufficiency. This phenomenon contributed to changing the definition of food security. The work of Amartya Sen in particular explained that focusing on access to food (through the means of food production and purchasing power) should be the priority.

Although sufficient reserves may be available, poverty and inequality prevent certain people from eating well. Food security has therefore become a legitimate concern for institutions working to combat poverty, such as the World Bank. Another definition of food security was therefore adopted at the World Food Conference in 1996: "when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

In the midst of crises, a return to "productionism"

In 2008 and 2011, the prices of various food products soared on world markets, despite higher overproduction than ever before. The numerous food crises that arose were an opportunity for stakeholders in agriculture to once more call for an increase in food production. But that is less to do with meeting current needs than it is to prepare for the population growth expected to continue until 2050. Productionism has therefore returned to political discourse.

The SDGs, changing the food system framework

With the emergence of the 2030 Agenda, food has become a broader issue. The challenge is not just producing enough food and improving nutrition; it is also about employment and the environment. In African and Asian countries where agriculture remains the main economic sector and the population continues to grow sharply, food systems are part of strategies to create millions of jobs and meet the needs of new generations joining the labour market. Questions are therefore raised regarding production models and their labour intensity, from family farming to industrial plantations. The 2030 Agenda has

also shed light on how fundamental agriculture and the subsequent steps in the value chain are in transforming the planet: deforestation, biodiversity collapse, ozone pollution, chemical residues and greenhouse gas emissions, etc. The concept of sustainable food systems has emerged in the face of these new challenges, with food security as a key component. Agriculture and food no longer appear solely in SDG 2, "Zero Hunger", but have also emerged as strategic topics for the many other SDGs. However, assessments of food systems' performance in regard to these aspects remain tentative for the time being.

The war in Ukraine driving a return to "productionism" and the emergence of the issue of food sovereignty

Since the post-war period, the number of people suffering from undernutrition has continuously fallen, until that trend reversed from 2017 – despite ever-growing per capita food availability. This is not so much the result of redistribution issues, but rather pauperization and the migrations brought about by climate and political crises and, in 2020 and 2021, the pandemic. The food crisis only rose to the top of the political agenda when war broke out in Ukraine and provoked a rise in wheat prices. Boosting production once more became a watchword; fallow land was brought back into cultivation and the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) and the Global Business Coalition for Food Security (GBFS) were created, calling for new private investments in the agricultural sector, presented as solutions to combating food insecurity.

The post-pandemic economic recovery has led to a rise in energy prices, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, which also resulted in a rise in the price of fertilizer. Food systems have proven heavily dependent on resources that farmers, companies in the food sector and States have little control over, such as fossil fuels, seed, fertilizer, phytosanitary products and electronic components. These resources come from international markets where a handful of multinational companies dominate governance of the food sector. Most of the actors involved, including the most vulnerable, have lost control of it. This dependence, both on the food supply and access to production resources, have repoliticized food. The concept of food sovereignty, initially developed by the Via Campesina farmers' movement in reaction to the introduction of liberalization policies in the 1990s, has returned to the political agenda. Food security is no longer only a technical issue of increasing food availability or boosting access; it has also become a political issue regarding a

country's capacity to direct and control its food system. The politicization of this issue can also be found in the fight against poverty and food poverty in particular. The economic vision of poverty that prioritizes the issue of access to material resources is accompanied by a political outlook that considers poverty first as a form of disempowerment, as clearly demonstrated by ATD Fourth World and Oxford University's research into "The hidden dimensions of poverty".

These changes have moved the issue away from the SDGs, even though their subject matter is more crucial than ever. France has played an active role not only in creating the 2030 Agenda, but also in politicizing the debate on food security, with its major contribution to reforming the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). This reform helped legitimize the participation of civil society and the private sector in the CFS, opening the way to a more political interpretation of food and highlighting the power relations that accelerate or curb the achievement of the food security objective. This interpretation which will be essential to fulfil the 2030 Agenda, because beyond the undisputed agreements in principle of the SDGs come interactions between stakeholders, which may to a certain extent form obstacles to implementing measures to achieve the SDGs. France could take back the initiative in opening up 2030 Agenda monitoring bodies to members of civil society who will be its most active champions, such as young people.

The peasant agroecology model strongly supporting the achievement of the SDGs to be led by France, through funding and international organizations

Marie Cosquer, Analyst on food systems and climate crisis advocacy at Action Against Hunger

Peasant agroecology, a comprehensive model that is recognized by international organizations

For Action Against Hunger, peasant agroecology is the model implemented in various regions through crop diversification projects, cooperatives, polyculture crop and livestock farming, land use planning, and many other innovative solutions. There are as many examples as there are different real-life realities on the ground.

Peasant agroecology consists of three key complementary pillars that cannot be dealt with separately, as outlined in the Declaration of Nyéléni:¹⁰

- **Agricultural practices providing multiple co-benefits – for society, the climate, biodiversity, nutrition, etc.**
- **The complex science of ecosystems**
- **A social movement**

Action Against Hunger works mostly on projects related to the third pillar – social movements, an integral part of agroecology – and maintains that it must be recognized internationally to achieve a greater number of SDGs. Initiated by peasant movements and civil society, the concept has now been picked up by international organizations. For example, the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) specifically wrote a report on agroecology and other innovative practices.¹¹ Meanwhile, the FAO has defined 10 aspects.¹² There is therefore consensus on the importance of agroecology.

Agroecology, a model aligned with the SDGs

Studying the principles of agroecology reveals that many can be found in the SDGs. Numerous projects are contributing to improving output, leading to a reduction in poverty and an increase in revenue for producers. There is also a clear link to the production of healthy, nutritious and diverse food (SDG 2). There is a strong connection not only to health, but also gender equality, biodiversity conservation, management of water resources and the achievement of climate goals, in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Action Against Hunger therefore developed indicators to provide information on progress in relation to these different aspects. These indicators take into account increasing pollinator populations, improving biodiversity and empowering women, for example. All of these indicators can be easily linked to the existing SDG framework.

The need for a favourable financial and international environment in order to move closer to agroecology

However, none of these positive agroecology initiatives being carried out on the ground can develop without proper consideration of a broader transformation of food systems. Agroecology requires a favourable context in order to grow, with supportive public policies. Competition does exist between certain models, for example in obtaining international funding. A study titled “*Une recette à la française. Une pincée d’agroécologie pour une louche d’agro-industrie*” (a very French recipe: a pinch of agroecology and a ladleful of agribusiness)¹³ reviewed French financing internationally, taking into account not only ODA, but also the participation of other institutions and provision such as BPIFrance and export credit insurance. By analysing this financial support, the NGOs behind this study realized that these instruments were not necessarily favourable to transformative agroecology; as a result, they were not aligned with France’s international strategy for food security and nutrition. The next assessment of this international strategy by France will be an opportunity to cover this topic.

Lastly, establishing a link between agroecology and the SDGs is important, because the international political context is not really in favour of the former. The approaches given support do not truly align with agroecology, despite the fact that it satisfies almost all of the sustainable development goals. It is therefore important to highlight France’s work in this area, going against international trends.

Recommendations by Action Against Hunger

In light of these observations, Action Against Hunger maintains that France must:

- **Massively redirect its agricultural financial support to agroecology. These funds must be redirected and signposted to projects contributing to an explicit strategy for shifting to fairer and more sustainable food systems, by prioritizing funding for projects based on a transformative agroecology approach; and**

¹⁰ Coordination SUD, [Farmer-based Agroecology: a societal alternative for sustainable agricultural and food systems](#), March 2020
The Declaration of Nyéléni was adopted at the Nyéléni Forum for Food Sovereignty in 2007. This forum was a gathering of representatives of peasant farmers’ movements, civil society organizations, NGOs, women’s groups and other stakeholders committed to promoting food sovereignty.

¹¹ [The 13 principles of agroecology](#)

¹² [FAO, The 10 Elements Of Agroecology – Guiding the Transition to Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems](#)

¹³ [Une pincée d’agroécologie pour une louche d’agro-industrie](#)

- **Account for the impact, both positive and negative, of its financial support for areas linked to the underlying causes of hunger (combating climate change, supporting female and family farmers, and fighting undernutrition) and genuinely seek to improve recognition of this in the allocation of funding.**

Achieving the SDGs is compatible with profitability requirements, as long as permitted by public policies

Gautier Queru, Director of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) fund at Mirova

SDGs driving transformation in the for-profit private sector

The SDGs cover all areas of the economy, particularly because they benefit from greater visibility than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The framework of the SDGs has therefore worked in terms of circulation and popularization, at least in economic spheres. However, this raises questions regarding the economy's capacity for transformation. Certain examples have demonstrated that this works, such as Mirova, and its fund to combat land degradation (the LDN Fund). Mirova is a private equity investment fund, which sometimes complicates its efforts to promote the SDGs. This has pushed the company to find solutions satisfying the expectations of stakeholders with fiduciary duties, with yields expected, while proposing an innovative approach to transform the economy.

The LDN Fund, an example of leveraging private funding to aid the SDGs

The LDN Fund is the result of a call for tenders by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and has been emblematic in its efforts to compensate underinvestment and a lack of access to international resources in efforts to achieve SDG 15. By focusing specifically on SDG Target 15.3 (to combat desertification and land degradation), which offers many co-benefits, the aim of the Convention was to leverage not only multilateral funds (the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank,

etc.), but also mobilize the private sector. The aim of the LDN Fund was to fund projects that are part of the so-called "restoration economy".

From 2015, Mirova therefore established a partnership with the UNCCD, carried out a market study, consulted civil society organizations (such as CARI, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, etc.), launched the fund and mobilized sponsors to finally create a coalition between public and private stakeholders and civil society. This led to blended finance for land restoration projects, inciting private investors to allocate more resources to these initiatives¹⁴ (\$208 billion in March 2021).¹⁵

Profitable projects related to SDGs, as long as public policies are conducive

When funding is allocated to an operator and they manage to increase yield in an environmentally friendly way while generating value through higher quality products in line with market demand, and they obtain certification premiums (payments for ecosystem services) or carbon credits, the door to delivering economically viable projects is open.

The challenge is ensuring these operators are properly connected to the local economy, creating benefits and jobs for local communities, and that they are integrated into value chains and can capture a market share in the face of less virtuous competitors. Public policies promoting more sustainable production therefore play a key role in ensuring these projects are competitive in value chains that are still dominated by less virtuous operators.

Similar examples demonstrate that it is possible to create profitable projects while encouraging progress towards the SDGs

Today, Mirova is able to fund projects on the condition that they are robust and lasting, meeting a certain number of criteria as proof. A call for projects was launched, for example, for the Great Green Wall, with financing for around a dozen projects with a central focus on promoting gender equality. Another example is a plantation project launched in Bhutan to develop the hazelnut industry with Rainforest Alliance certification, and a project in Nicaragua involving agroforestry systems related to coffee and cocoa, which also has certification from both the Rainforest Alliance and UTZ.¹⁶ A final example is a fair-trade and organic certified project in the north of Peru and North-East Colombia to develop

¹⁴ United Nations: [Land Degradation Neutrality Fund](#)

¹⁵ One Planet Summit: [Land Degradation Neutrality Fund \(LDN\)](#)

¹⁶ Rainforest Alliance: [UTZ Certification \(Now Part of the Rainforest Alliance\)](#)

sectors that would contribute to local prosperity. Other similar projects have been implemented in the Philippines, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Kenya.

If Mirova is striving to develop more demanding environmental and social criteria, despite higher financial risks and lower performance, that means a real market opportunity exists. What's more, the SDGs are becoming a universal language for public and private investors.

How is the achievement of the social SDGs essential to the achievement of the environmental SDGs? The example of the cocoa industry and combating imported deforestation

Julie Stoll, Delegate General for French fair trade organization Commerce Equitable France (CEF)

Recent positive changes enabling better control of the environmental cost of European imports – but consideration of interactions with the socio-economic aspects of the 2030 Agenda still incomplete

Some of the food that people in France eat is imported, in part from the global South. The SDSN has identified that a country's import and export activities can hamper the capacity to achieve the SDGs of the country of origin or arrival of the traded goods and services. European imports can therefore have a spillover effect on the global South, hampering capacity there to achieve the SDGs. This is, for example, the case of imported agricultural products contributing to deforestation in producing countries.

The European regulation on deforestation adopted in December 2022 tackles the issue head on, stipulating that from 2024, European imports of soya, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, wood, rubber, beef and leather will only be allowed if it can be demonstrated that they did not contribute to deforestation in their countries of origin.

The example of the cocoa industry shows that addressing social criteria is an important factor in the success of measures targeting the environmental SDGs. With this in mind, the two main challenges are ensuring

compliance (traceability) and stabilizing production to avoid deforestation arising from the poorest producers' search for fertile land. An agroecology-based approach must be taken in order to restore soil fertility. Difficulties arise in relation to how the market is structured; there is a high number of producers and consumers, but with highly consolidated middlemen and powerful oligopolies. The degree of consolidation of middlemen and oligopolies correlates with their ability to capture value and secure their margins, at the expense of producers. This puts middlemen in a strong bargaining position, enabling high margins in product distribution and processing (e.g. for cocoa). This distribution of added value makes carrying out the investments needed for an agroecology and agroforestry transition difficult. According to the CEF, the estimated cost of this transition would be €1,500 per hectare – inaccessible to producers, even in the event of a fast return on investment.

A study carried out by Horus regarding the use of credit (e.g. the Mirova fund) showed that loans could be made to producers to invest in the agroforestry transition. However, in order for the model to be profitable, the price of cocoa would need to be set at \$4,000 per tonne – i.e., 1.7 times greater than the current price. Adequately paying small producers is therefore an essential condition to introducing agroforestry practices.

DISTRIBUTION OF VALUE AND COSTS FROM FARMERS TO CONSUMERS

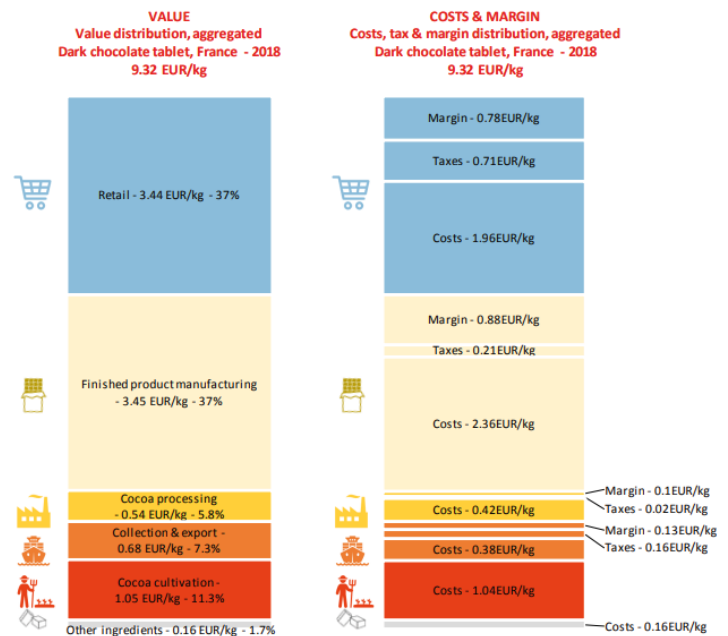


Figure 3. Distribution of value, costs and margins of plain dark chocolate tablets in 2018 (cocoa harvest 2017/18). Source: BASIC

Sources : [Comparative study on the distribution of value in European chocolate chains](#). Research report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Bureau d'analyse sociétale pour une information citoyenne.

The situation can therefore be characterized by a lack of participation by international industries in the achievement of the SDGs. Public policies are proactive in achieving environmental SDGs, but the failure to achieve SDGs 1 and 2 poses a risk. Sharing value more fairly would be a way of responding to this issue; drivers to achieve the SDGs therefore also exist in donor countries, to guide the private sector towards better performance in relation to the SDGs. Voluntary approaches to the SDGs are not sufficient if oligopolies do not position themselves to meet them.

As mentioned previously, innovative public policies have been introduced at the European level, but wider measures are needed to achieve SDGs 1 and 2 among farmers. Sharing value more fairly is essential to success, but not enough in and of itself. However, the value is mostly made in Europe. This is therefore where public policies need to be designed to help by ensuring that the private sector agrees to the obligation of making a positive contribution to achieving the SDGs. Private stakeholders must embark on a trajectory of “sustainable growth” (SDG 8), rather than one of predatory growth.

Examples of public policies targeting both environmental and social SDGs

- **Measures to ensure our agricultural imports are compatible with the SDGs**

In addition to the product traceability requirements of European regulation on deforestation, the implementation of voluntary contributions at Europe’s borders, paid by the importing companies, would contribute to specific funds controlled by producing countries, with the aim of ensuring the systems producing the imported foodstuffs are compliant with the SDGs.

Implementing a system of incentives and disincentives to promote agricultural producers with zero deforestation and agroforestry production certification would be particularly relevant, especially for cocoa. Governments could choose different private or public certification systems and set tax incentives for certified products. Conversely, products without guarantees would be taxed more highly. The revenue generated by the tax could fund measures supporting small producers.

- **Measures to ensure the markets operate so as to better redistribute value throughout supply chains**

For example: changes to competition law in order to more effectively prevent the formation of oligopolies in competitive sectors and to authorize horizontal price agreements where they allow the sharing of value that is essential to achieving the SDGs.

- **Rebuilding the French trade support strategy to incorporate proactive sustainability processes into its objectives**

Achieving the SDGs in France and partner countries and providing strategic support for voluntary sustainability initiatives such as fair trade, as well as supporting the emergence of collective transnational institutions in producing countries that are capable of controlling supply in order to better regulate prices.

European trade laws developing, but still insufficient

Laurent Lévard, Agricultural Economist at the Group for Research and Technology Exchanges (Groupe de Recherche et d’Échanges Technologiques – GRET)

Legislation on imported deforestation relevant, but insufficient

The common agricultural policy (CAP) contributes to shaping the European Union’s model for agriculture and food. This model presents problems in terms of consistency with the SDGs in the global South in particular. But the CAP is not the only issue; other European policies, especially on trade, are also responsible for the issue.

Firstly, the types of assistance offered through the CAP, such as aid for the grain sector, coupled with the EU market introducing a framework of free competition for imported oilseeds, have led to the domination of intensive cereal farming and imported soya. Much of this soya comes from Latin America, where the impact of deforestation is disastrous.

Although Europe’s recent legislation on imported deforestation is truly positive, as it has banned products that are produced in a situation of deforestation, it may have only limited effects outside the EU. An operator can therefore send production not generated in a situation of deforestation to the EU, but send the rest – resulting from deforestation – to other markets, like China. The obligation should therefore have been applied to all of a given operator’s production.

EU agriculture subsidies responsible for destabilizing production in developing countries

Subsidies for European farmers indirectly enable industrial producers to sell and export processed products for lower prices. This can lead to dumping. The dumping rate, which is calculated using the amount of indirect subsidies and the value of the products in question, has been estimated at 20% for milk powder and 35% for cereals. This creates competition with local producers in the global South. Milk powder exported from the EU to West Africa in particular severely curbs the development of local milk industries. What's more, European industries sometimes export a powdered blend of skimmed milk and imported palm oil; the catastrophic effect of the latter on deforestation is well known.

Free trade contrary to the necessary onshoring of food systems

In relation to trade agreements, the EU has put pressure on African countries so that they liberalize their markets, which leads to excessive competition between local products and those imported from European countries. European wheat indirectly competes with West African cassava, and milk powder competes with the West African milk industry. More generally, free trade agreements appear to run contrary to the consensus regarding the need to onshore food systems, both for social reasons and to combat climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

WTO rules do not currently allow a ban on imports due to social conditions at production, including in relation to prices paid to farmers. But setting conditions for imports in relation to fair prices for producers and other social issues is crucial. WTO rules do leave a window open to setting environmental conditions, but it needs to be clearer and more actionable.

Ensuring the coherence of public policy for sustainable development

Anna Piccinni, Analyst in the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) division of the OECD

Aligning 2030 Agenda policies and reducing public spending: the aim of SDG Target 17.14 and the PCSD

The UN's 2030 Agenda is an overall framework that offers the benefit of uniting three aspects – environmental, economic and social. This overall requirement is why SDG Target 17.14 requires consistency between all sustainable development policies. This approach is known as policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD). This involves taking three aspects into account:

1. Here and now: to make sure that governments better understand the co-benefits of and compromises to be made in the intersections of the SDGs
2. Later: to plan and avoid short-termism when defining priorities
3. Elsewhere: to organize national policies around the sustainable development priorities not only of that country, but also those of developing countries

PCSD is of great importance to all governments. A number of studies¹⁷ have been carried out demonstrating how a PCSD-based approach can generate savings by improving the efficiency of public policies. By adopting a consistent approach to planning and implementing policies in particular, governments can avoid wasting resources by cutting out unnecessary overlap and identifying areas where savings can be made.

Moving towards PCSD: the OECD's changing recommendations

This consistent approach is not new. A change applied from 2015; the SDGs were applied to all countries, and in 2019 all member states of the OECD adopted a new recommendation. This replaced a recommendation from 2010 and was the result of four years of negotiations between all members: the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD).¹⁸

¹⁷ See, for example: [GAO 2019 Annual Report](#)

¹⁸ [PCSD recommendation on policy coherence for sustainable development](#), OECD

It involves using tangible tools to overcome governance challenges and move past the silo mentality with which policies are usually made. This recommendation therefore proposes a public policymaking cycle. This involved identifying at which stage of the policymaking cycle certain tools could be used to improve PCSD and create policies that will further contribute to achieving the SDGs.

The various tools offered by the OECD

A specific example is the case of Italy’s National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. The image below comes from the work carried out with the Italian government. The aim was to outline, in concrete terms, at every stage of a political process, which types of tools and stakeholders should be better integrated in order to use the SDGs as a guide under the responsibility of all ministries and government agencies.

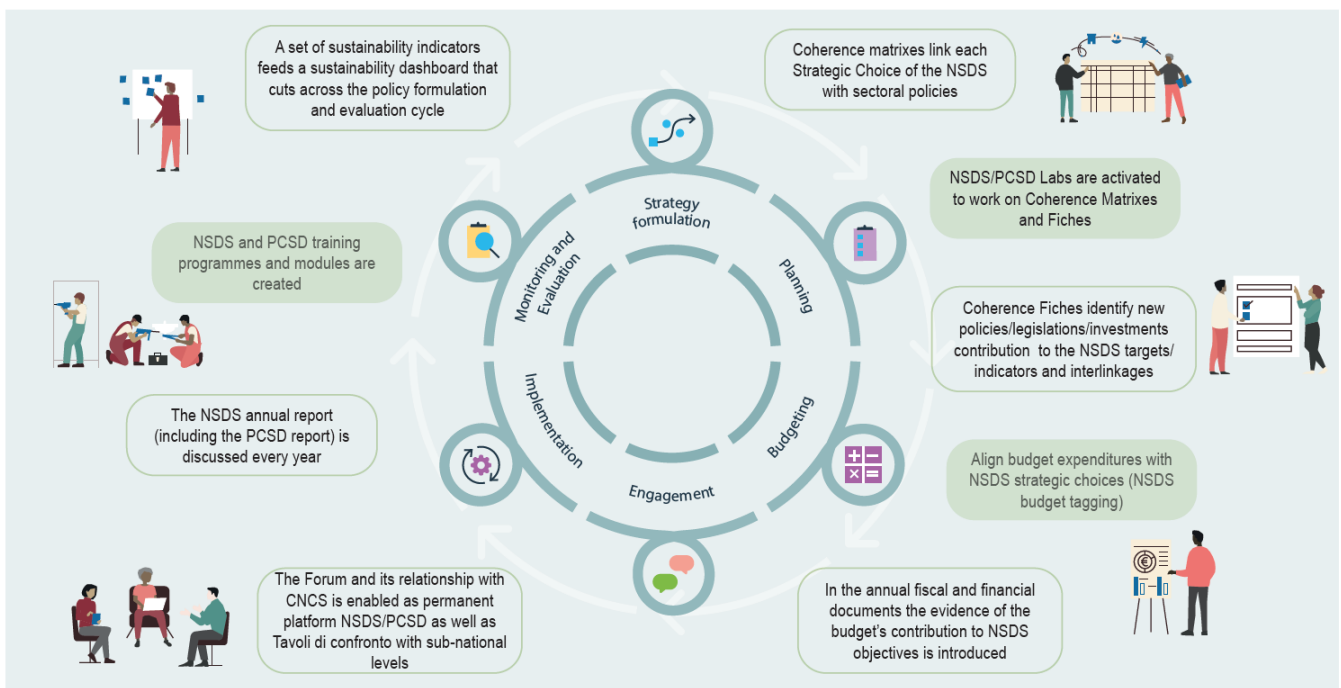
– The coherence matrix

One of the tools that can be used is the coherence matrix. The aim of this tool is to assess the impact of future policies on the objectives of the national sustainable development strategy, as well as complementarity with other policies contributing to the same objectives. This involves checking if other strategies are already working towards the same SDGs.

The coherence matrix should be used before and during the drawing up of political guidelines, but also after, in order to use performance data in the next decision-making cycle. This requires large amounts of data. It can be created by interministerial committees (such as the CICID) and ministries, for example.

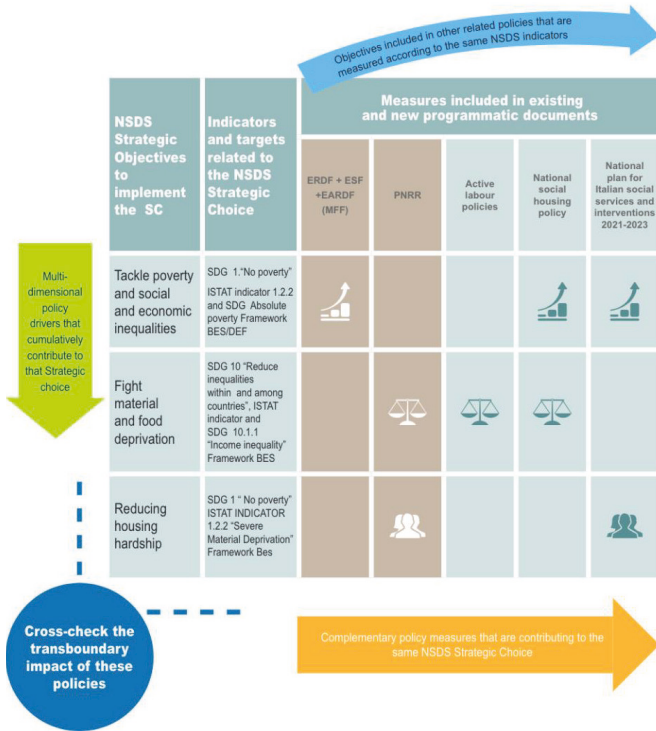
PCSD entry points along the policy cycle

The NSDS is recognised as the policy reference framework for public policy and investment making and co-ordination mechanisms across levels



Source: [Italy’s National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development](#), OECD (2022)

OECD visual elaboration: Coherence Matrix for area People, Strategic Choice (SC) I: "Fight poverty and social exclusion eliminating territorial gaps"



Source: OECD (2022), Italy's National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, OECD Publishing, Paris

Coherence starts with a good understanding of the policy aspects covered by a law or proposal on sector-specific or cross-cutting strategies. The coherence matrix therefore establishes a dashboard with existing sector-specific policies and expenses for all of the SDG targets. This exercise reveals any overlap between the government's sector-specific priorities, as well as links between budget programmes, the SDGs, and other sector-specific objectives. This tool can facilitate interministerial and multi-party dialogue to design viable action that integrates sustainability between a certain number of stakeholders and align priorities while taking into account areas for synergy, compromises and cross-border effects.

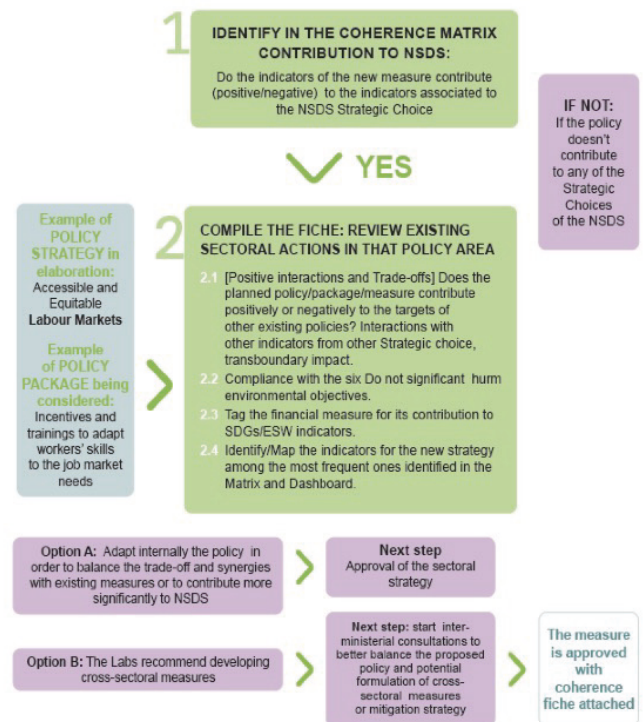
- Policy coherence fiches

The policy coherence fiche is an evaluation tool used in decision-making and project arbitration, planning documents and legislative acts. It is therefore used after policy design, at the approval stage. It is an evaluation tool used to observe the role that a measure will play in the achievement of the SDGs and identifying which indicators will be used afterwards to demonstrate its implementation and impact.

These evaluations already exist in most of the countries analysed by the OECD. This raises the question of integrating this tool into other tools that already exist, and which mechanism that should manage the quality of these tools and their impact.

"Coherence fiche" tools have been implemented in Germany and Luxembourg recently. Germany has also implemented a tool for sustainable development impact assessment that must be used in all draft legislation. The parliament receives an assessment sheet outlining the impact of each law on sustainable development, which is then evaluated by a bipartisan commission during the legislative process.

OECD Visual Elaboration: How to fill in a Policy Coherence Fiche – using the reference Coherence Matrixes



LEGEND BOX: Purple boxes: steps of the process / Green boxes: content of the policy coherence fiche

– Budgeting for the SDGs

The OECD provides technical support to align budget programmes with the SDGs and assess how national budgets contribute to them.

- Each budget proposal must contain a declaration of its impact on sustainable development in its accompanying documents.
- According to the OECD, performance budgeting can be defined as “the systematic use of performance information to inform budget decisions, either as a direct input to budget allocation decisions or as contextual information to inform budget planning. Its purpose is to instil greater transparency and accountability throughout the budget process by providing information to [...] the public on the purposes of spending and the results achieved”.
- Finland and New Zealand have relevant experience in this area.

– Getting stakeholders involved

This requires mobilizing the experiences and perceptions of different stakeholders and measuring their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs.

- One particular obstacle to coherent policies comes from the differences in how we perceive and prioritize sustainable development. Each process creates winners and losers; we must anticipate the wins and compensate the losses.
- Governments can draw up communications platforms and plans to enable multiple stakeholders – from the private sector and civil society, foundations, universities, etc. – to take advantage of their respective roles and skills to promote and support efforts to reinforce PCSD.
- Italy, Switzerland and Luxembourg have carried out work in this area.

Public policies and civil society's resources for the SDGs in relation to services (water, sanitation and energy)

Olivier Bruyeron pointed out that the session would cover basic services in relation to trade and the economy, as well as universal access. Sébastien Treyer stressed that essential services were very present in the MDGs, which predated the SDGs. The session also showcased innovative practices from the angle of the SDGs.

The SDGs as a framework to design a just and effective energy transition the example of Senegal

Sécou Sarr, Managing Director of Enda

ENDA Tiers Monde is an NGO based in Senegal that works to provide clean, low-carbon energy and tackle climate change. The SDGs have provided an appropriate framework for a just and efficient environmental transition, shifting from fossil fuels to decarbonized energy sources. The nature of this transition depends on the context. For example, contexts vary wildly between Europe and Africa, with the latter more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. There is a 38% poverty rate in Senegal, but the country has access to resources such as gas.

The main challenges that Senegal faces are:

- **Universal access to energy services: regional equity and industrialization**
- **Energy sovereignty: the war in Ukraine should be an opportunity to deconstruct the concept of energy security, enabling the discussion of energy sovereignty**
- **Technology transfers and investments**
- **Partnerships that align with the energy transition**

These challenges have been taken into account by the initiative "Co-Construction of a Low-Carbon and Resilient Development Strategy" organized by IDDRI and ENDA Energie, with financing from the AFD. Four types of transition have been evoked: energy, agricultural, urban and infrastructure, and industrial. Each transition is carried out by a thematic group involving multiple stakeholders, e.g. institutional, private sector, civil society and academia.

The energy transition is central to the other transitions; for example, it is fundamental to African agriculture. Energy will enable an urban transition, with different modes of transport, as well as the industrial transition. Considering it from the angle of the SDGs will help to break down barriers between sectors and stakeholders, enabling a dialogue between multiple actors.

Assisting the administration of technical and financial partners will prove important to promote complementarity rather than competition. Lastly, the localization of the SDGs, particularly in Africa, seems especially relevant. The aim is to establish a social pact and a dialogue in order to consult communities' preferences for the transitions.

How is the SDG framework changing initiatives for and with local government bodies and their public services? The example of Barranquilla, Colombia

Lamine Sow, Director AFD Bogota

The SDG approach in the Colombian city of Barranquilla, home to 2 million people and an AFD partner, was presented. The city carried out

extensive diagnostics work, making use of the UN's Urban Inclusion Marker. The city designed and built its initiatives to reduce inequality and protect the environment and biodiversity.

The city defined three pillars:

- Enhancing natural heritage and the environment (e.g. by planting an urban forest);
- Controlling urban development;
- Bolstering the transport network.

The city constructed its 2020-2023 development plan around four focuses:

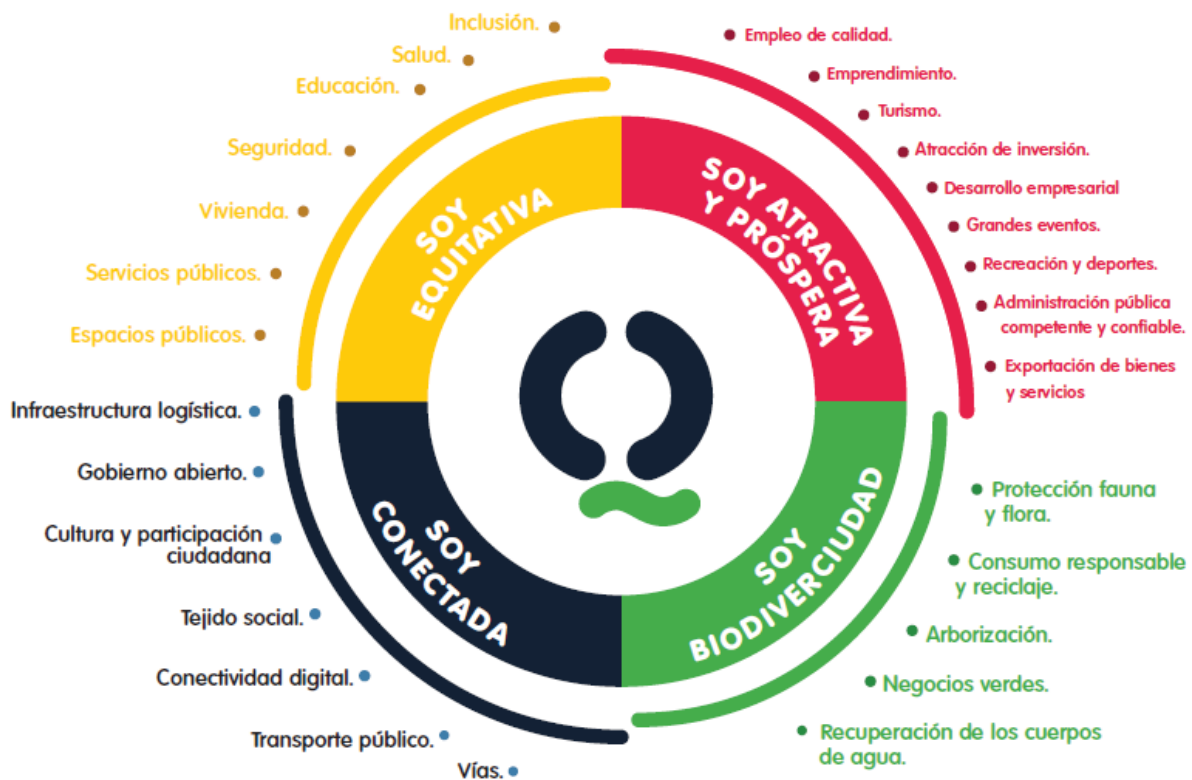
- Biodiversity;
- Fair development (with professional training);
- Appeal;
- Digitization.

The AFD is cooperating with Barranquilla on a technical basis by providing financing of up to €170 million. The city created a matrix based on the SDGs, following the four focuses outlined above. The AFD contributed to the development plan, supporting the "biodiversity" and "just development" focuses. Best practices for creating solutions adapted to Barranquilla were presented.

In conclusion, one of the key factors for success was the city's long-term projections. It is the only city to have projected as far forward as 2100. The framework of the SDGs provided an overall vision, and this process makes a national and international vision possible by mobilizing development banks (e.g. the Inter-American Development Bank) to work on projects.



PLAN DE DESARROLLO SOY BARRANQUILLA 2020-2023



The role of financing water infrastructure in the achievement of the SDGs

Guillaume Aubourg, Deputy Director of pS-Eau

The co-benefits of water-related initiatives, such as the positive effects on well-being and health, are numerous and well-known. Operators take ownership of the SDGs to communicate effectively about the benefit of mobilizing in the water sector. SDG 6 is about universal access to services, but the quality of that access varies widely.

A range of significant financial tools and growing resources (for CSOs and local government bodies, etc.), with incentives to scale-up. Guillaume Aubourg recommends better synergy between state ODA and civil society. He observed that France has had an international water strategy with quantified objectives for a short time, but that the French water ODA is not allocated to its priority countries. The AFD recently decided to focus on rural areas and sanitation; however, steering AFD financing in rural areas is difficult. Finding greater complementarity between "Team France" and local organizations would be positive.

Local government bodies have little capacity to steer public policies and need strong support. Achieving the SDGs at the local level is therefore challenging.

PS-Eau and the AFD are also reflecting on a multi-service approach combining water, sanitation, energy and waste management. Projects focusing on large villages could be effective and affordable.

Dissemination of impact and result indicators among intermediary operators needs to progress. There is great complementarity between high levels of AFD financing in urban areas, such as Barranquilla, and support for CSOs in rural areas. Gaps between both regions are accentuating, raising questions regarding the country's internal tensions.

In reaction to financing difficulties, national public operators mobilize funds when their remit is widened to cities. Some countries such as Senegal manage to raise funds easily because the state strictly regulates fundraising, but others experience a lot of experimentation. International financing does not reach the poorest regions, which offer little profitability.

Infrastructure Challenges of the SDGs

Richard Touroude, Director of International Affairs at The Fédération Nationale des Travaux Publics (FNTP)

Infrastructure is essential to development. It addresses numerous SDGs and is essential for health, housing, the digital transition, water and sanitation, transport and climate change in particular. The SDGs will probably not be reached in 2030 and that their achievement is becoming a more remote prospect due to a growing investment shortfall since 2020. The Global Infrastructure Outlook has estimated the gap at \$3.9 trillion due to a lack of private investment, among other factors.

Although the return on investments in infrastructure from private funds offers certain advantages, it is concentrated in the most developed countries rather than developing countries. There is a risk aversion among private investors and banks, which are responsible for two thirds of infrastructure investment. Asset recycling (stocks) can be mobilized to fund infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure is sometimes paid for by the taxpayer through taxes and levies, but other infrastructure – such as motorways, airports, stadiums, etc. – can be funded by private investments, where some investors see predictability and security. Examples include pension and infrastructure funds, as well as sovereign wealth funds.

The costs of managing infrastructure weigh down the bank sheets of the governments that own them due to operational difficulties. The World Bank's concept of maximizing finance for development (MFD) aims to exclude projects that could be funded by private investments, for example by concession or privatization. Money recovered by the public sector could fund the SDGs that are less appealing to the private sector.

A government-owned company can access better rates for short-term borrowing than a private investor, although the latter can more easily fund existing sites for redevelopment. The 2016 World Economic Forum in Davos defended the unpopular idea of asset recycling. This method offers immense potential for new investments and should become the norm. Moreover, capacity building is a crucial part of developing this method in order to avoid poor implementation.

To conclude, launching poorly built projects is unacceptable. Waste can be avoided by better analysing the situation, such as by ensuring debt sustainability and long-term relevance.

The importance of public education in the generation of co-benefits from the SDGs, and the importance of ensuring the coherence of public policy

Carole Coupez, National Delegate, Solidarité Laïque

Education is a key focus of the 2030 Agenda. It minimizes a rights-based approach, prioritizing an objective-based one with specific targets, rather than just focusing on the resources used. The 2030 Agenda therefore reduces central responsibility for education.

Education has been privatized because investors see a market for it. However, the SDGs have widened rights to education. The framework of the 2030 Agenda is complementary to this, as SDG 4 protects the right to quality education (rather than access), including preschool. There was a risk of education being reduced to a basic aspect of development, but the SDG matrix simplified the development perspective. The SDG framework (see the Incheon Declaration) has increased sector-specific advocacy, but also plays a transformative and pivotal role.

Education presents positive spillover for all of the SDGs (see UNESCO). It is not only important for sustainable development, but also a political tool that enables us to understand contexts, causes, and inequalities, as well as change behaviour. SDG 4, however, was not designed with this in mind. Target 4.7 focuses on a broad range of skills through “education for...” and its transformative ability, but this aspect should be found in all of the SDGs.

Here, a number of recommendations can be made:

- 1. Highlight and support an intersectional approach to the SDGs, bringing together different stakeholders with the mentality of unlocking co-benefits.**
Example: a project to rebuild a school in Haiti also aims to bolster communities’ resilience to climate change.
- 2. Strengthen partnerships. Showcase and encourage work in intersectoral consortiums so that organizations do not close themselves off to one SDG only.**
Example: “Let’s start with the basics” – Coalition Eau (the French water and sanitation sector network), Coalition Éducation (a group of French CSOs in education), Action Santé Mondiale (a French NGO in health) and Oxfam are calling for universal access to basic services.
- 3. Recognize the role of relevant actors and organizations in the design and implementation of policies that concern them.**
Example: A project in Haiti presents school as a driver of social change.
- 4. Consider the correlation and coherence of public policies in France and internationally.**
Examples:
 - **Educational centres in France to combat school dropout, working with local stakeholders, companies and communities.**
 - **PCPA Soyons Actifs/Actives, a multi-actor programme in Tunisia, requires different ministries to work together.**

Annex 1: extract from the voluntary national review incorporating the work of the CNDSI 2030 agenda working group

Summary of work from the 2030 Agenda Working Group of the CNDSI prepared by its co-chairs from Coordination SUD and IDDRI

The 2030 Agenda Working Group of the CNDSI, co-chaired by Coordination SUD, the coordination body for NGOs, and IDDRI, identified, through their discussions, seven priority areas for action to further France's commitment to the SDGs as part of its international solidarity policy, as well as its domestic policies. The summary of the Working Group's contribution, as it emerged from their exchanges, is reproduced below, as a supplement to the Voluntary National Review.

The lack of investment in sustainable development in the least developed and most vulnerable countries is worsening with each crisis, despite overall levels of ODA being maintained by the world's richest countries. Looking beyond the issue of the amounts of ODA, achieving the SDGs in the countries of the global South also depends on key factors that the Working Group reviewed in order to make its proposals.

Promote a holistic approach to The 2030 Agenda

One of the major hurdles to the 2030 Agenda's implementation that was identified is the impulse to act by targeting one or a handful of SDGs, without considering the others. This can result in some SDGs being negatively impacted in the name of improving others. For this reason, the CNDSI's 2030 Agenda Working Group is advocating a systemic approach to the 2030 Agenda that takes due account of any social and economic issues, in addition to the environmental aspect. As illustrated by the practices of French stakeholders (the AFD and civil society), which are to be highlighted in the Voluntary National Review and are the subject of special focus in the other sections, this would

require, in particular, promoting and supporting projects and initiatives through a cross-SDG approach, focusing on long-term approaches and co-benefits so that no funded projects jeopardize any SDGs.

Make French public policies more consistent with the 2030 Agenda and establish a stronger statistical system

During the 2030 Agenda Working Group's discussions, numerous organizations stressed the need for complete and accurate information on France's impact on the 2030 Agenda, both domestically and internationally. The participating organizations therefore recommended systematically incorporating the indicators developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) into the indicators already used by France, in order to measure France's spillovers. The same is true for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) indicators, in order to gauge policy coherence for sustainable development (Target 17.14). These indicators could be used, notably, in the preparation of a VNR every two years, which would also highlight any lessons learned from the experiences of stakeholders at the local level for whom the SDGs facilitated the task of accounting for co-benefits.

Apply the process of policy coherence for sustainable development throughout the policy decision cycle, from planning public policies through to their evaluation

A recurring difficulty highlighted by public authorities when it comes to ensuring public policy coherence regarding the 2030 Agenda is a lack of tools. This is why the Working Group

first proposed mainstreaming the objective of achieving policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) into existing planning tools. The desired coherence could also be achieved by using tools developed by the OECD for guiding policy choices in order to take better account of the 2030 Agenda, such as the matrix or coherence fiche. However, the SDGs need to be steered, if this is to be successful, at the highest level of the State and monitored by Parliament.

Direct funding towards the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda

The need to better align budgets with the 2030 Agenda was repeatedly identified, so as to maximize France's positive impact on the SDGs and give greater consideration to the "leave no one behind" objective and any potential negative impacts of French financing. The Working Group therefore argues for the adoption of cross-cutting rather than piecemeal approaches to SDG funding and for the inclusion of the 2030 Agenda in long-term national (or local/regional) trajectories. This can be done by promoting, in particular, financing for essential services through public financing, by aligning budget programmes with the SDGs and by assessing the contribution of the national budget to the SDGs.

Take action at European and international levels to ensure that the policies, standards and principles negotiated there are consistent with the commitment to achieve the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda Working Group highlighted the crucial role of certain policies dependent on the European Union and the World Trade Organization in achieving the SDGs. Promoting the following was therefore recommended: measures to make EU trade policies and agricultural imports compatible with the SDGs; the establishment of financial measures to promote agroforestry products and/or to combat deforestation; and changes to competition law in order to more effectively prevent the formation of oligopolies in competitive sectors and to authorize horizontal price agreements where they allow the sharing of value that is essential to achieving the SDGs.

Encourage technical and financial partnerships

In order to foster technical and financial partnerships, the 2030 Agenda Working Group recommends expressing long-term and cross-cutting visions for interventions on specific services or sectors, ensuring that these are based on mobilizing local expertise and involve investment plans sequenced over time and at system level rather than project by project. The aim is to ensure, through the intersectoral nature of the approach, greater visibility and stability for public and private investors, and to enhance the co-benefits between SDGs.

Improve consideration of the needs, respect for human rights and aspirations of the people targeted and involved

To ensure that the positions of civil society and local populations directly affected by the implementation of the SDGs are better taken into account, the 2030 Agenda Working Group recommends that the role of stakeholder organizations (including citizens, civil society and populations affected by change) be recognized in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies that concern them. This will entail, in particular, better localization of the SDGs, taking into account the importance of grassroots dynamics, civil society, citizens, local governance and democratic forms, as well as bolstering education and outreach so as to ensure ownership of the SDGs and civic participation in their implementation.

In order to capitalize on these deliberations, it was lastly recommended that the 2030 Agenda Working Group be maintained within the CNDSI, and that organizations in partner countries also be mobilized.

Annex 2: list of acronyms

AFD	Agence Française de Développement	LDC	Least developed country
CAP	Common agricultural policy	LDN	Land degradation neutrality
CEF	Commerce Equitable France	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
CFS	The Committee on World Food Security	MFD	Maximizing Finance for Development
CICID	The Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development	NGO	Non-governmental organization
CSO	Civil society organization	OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
DAC	Development Assistance Committee	PCSD	Policy coherence for sustainable development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
FARM	International Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission	SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
GBFS	Global Business for Food Security coalition	UNCCD	The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
HLPE	The United Nations High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HLPF	The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	UTZ	A certification programme for products from sustainable farming
IDDRI	The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations	VNR	Voluntary National Review
IDFC	International Development Finance Club	WFP	World Food Programme
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	WTO	World Trade Organization

Annex 3: list of participants

- *Rachel Morris, Policy Analyst, Development Co-operation Directorate at the OECD*
- *Philippe Jahshan, Director of Strategy, Foresight and Public Relations at the AFD*
- *Guillaume Lafortune, Vice-President of the SDSN and Head of the Paris Office*
- *Nicolas Bricas, member of CIRAD, researcher at the Montpellier Interdisciplinary Centre on Sustainable Agri-food Systems, and Director of the UNESCO Chair in World Food Systems*
- *Marie Cosquer, Analyst on Food Systems and Climate Crisis at Action Against Hunger*
- *Gautier Queru, Director of the LDN Fund at Mirova*
- *Julie Stoll, Delegate General for Commerce Equitable France*
- *Laurent Lévard, agricultural economist at GRET*
- *Anna Piccinni, Analyst in the PCSD division, OECD*
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This report was produced by the Working Group “2030 Agenda: taking action to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through French foreign policy” established at the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI) under the co-chairs Olivier Bruyeron (Coordination Sud) and Sébastien Treyer (IDDRI).

France presented its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) of July 2023. In line with the recommendations of the UN and the OECD, all of the various actors involved with development and international cooperation helped to create the VNR. The 2030 Agenda Working Group mobilized multiple stakeholders involved in development in order to contribute to Area of Action 6 of the VNR, “Work at European and international levels for sustainable transformation”.

Their findings concluded with a series of seven priority lines of action so that France can further commit to achieving the SDGs through not only its international solidarity strategy, but also its national policies.

The CNDSI is the preferred forum for consultation between non-state actors and the French government on issues related to French policy for international development and cooperation. It contributes to discussions regarding the construction and implementation of the objectives, positioning and resources of French development policy.

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