



## Sustainable Development Goals - Relevance for Climate and Energy

Last week, the UN General Assembly launched and adopted Agenda 2030 which includes the Sustainable Development Goals which will succeed the MDGs and cover a timeframe of another 15 years from 2016 to 2030. *Agenda 2030* outlines the need and reason for the SDGs and it signals the next era of sustainable development where tackling climate change will be a prerequisite to achieving the SDGs.

The Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, are a set of 17 global goals with 169 targets to guide the world's 7 billion citizens and their governments on a path towards more equitable and sustainable development within the planet's boundaries. The goals have been chosen to drive solutions to the key challenges of our time, including the persistence of extreme poverty, rising inequality, social injustice, accelerating climate change, unsustainable use of natural resources and conflict and insecurity.

The SDGs present global goals that are universally applicable to all countries, both developed and developing. In the EU, a framework for implementation will be needed, both towards domestic EU policy and towards its international cooperation with third countries. While subject to a long debate on whether tackling climate change should be a free-standing Goal on its own or whether it should be integrated across all of the Goals, the final document provides both a separate Goal on climate change and integrates climate action in many targets of the other Goals. It also recognises the primacy of the UNFCCC. The climate change Goal is number 13:

### **Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts \***

\*Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

13.1 strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.2 integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

13.3 improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

13.a implement the commitment undertaken by developed country Parties to the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities.

Other important Goals and Targets related to action on climate change:

*On “Sustainable Energy” - Renewables and energy efficiency:*

**Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all**

7.1 by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services.

7.2 increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030

7.3 double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

7.a by 2030 enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies.

*On fossil fuel subsidies:*

**Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

12.1 implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP), all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

12.c rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

*On adaptation:*

**Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture**

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

**Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

*On finance:*

**Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments.

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

Goal 17 is the 'binding' goal, addressing the means of implementation for all the goals. It is also relevant for climate finance where the targets pertain to overseas development aid and mobilizing finance (17.2 & 17.3 respectively).

*A potential inconsistency with the climate and energy related goals and targets:*

**Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

Little reference is made to low-carbon efforts or ensuring that current and future economic growth and industrialization patterns (some of the key causes of climate change) do not hinder the other goals and targets. Indeed it is important to promote inclusive and sustainable industry, so long as Goal 9 and its targets do not indirectly promote continued exploration and production of polluting fossil fuels.

To view the full text, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, please see [here](#).