

NORDIC PROGRAMME FOR AGENDA 2030

Programme Description
2017–2020

Generation 2030



Nordic Council
of Ministers





Declaration of commitment from the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation regarding the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Nordic Region

We the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland:

- 1. Stress** that the international community has a shared responsibility to actively and candidly work towards the realisation of the sustainable development goals. Time is in short supply – the nations of the world must act quickly to take decisive steps towards a sustainable future that offers a good quality of life for current and future generations. Success requires co-operation.
- 2. Recognise** that the Nordic Council of Ministers' activities are already making a significant contribution to the realisation of Agenda 2030, and that the current Nordic sustainability strategy *A Good Life in a Sustainable Nordic Region* coincides with Agenda 2030.
- 3. Are launching** the Generation 2030 programme to underpin and accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030 within Nordic co-operation. The programme shall help to promote knowledge sharing and co-operation between the Nordic countries in relation to Agenda 2030 as a whole, and especially in those areas where the countries face their biggest challenges. Furthermore, the programme shall build on the extensive existing efforts of the Nordic Council of Ministers with regard to sustainable development.
- 4. Confirm** our commitment to the integration of sustainability into the Nordic Council of Ministers' activities as adopted in the strategy *A Good Life in a Sustainable Nordic Region*.
- 5. Emphasise** that Generation 2030 facilitates the creation of Nordic added value and synergies with existing initiatives and projects within the Nordic Council of Ministers, in particular the prime ministerial initiative Nordic Solutions to Global Challenges.
- 6. Stress** that children and young people, as agents of change, play a crucial role in the implementation of Agenda 2030, and that emphasis is placed on active efforts to ensure a sustainable future for today's children and young people, thereby making them an especially important target group and participant in Nordic efforts relating to Agenda 2030.

Generation 2030 – Nordic Programme for Implementation of Agenda 2030

The Nordic countries share a range of challenges regarding fulfilment of the UN Agenda 2030 and the 17 global goals on the home front. Generation 2030 is one part of the work done together by the Nordic countries to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Nordic Region. The programme, which runs until 2020, will build upon and strengthen ongoing work on Agenda 2030 within the Nordic Council of Ministers and promote Nordic co-operation on sustainable development.

The Generation 2030 programme builds on the basic principles that underpin Agenda 2030, including the three dimensions of sustainable development – *economic, social and environmental* – respect for human rights and the principle of leaving no one behind. In line with the Nordic sustainability strategy, it also stresses the role of culture as an important dimension of work on sustainable development.

The programme was developed on the basis of the *Sustainable Development Action - the Nordic Way* (2017) report and as part of a wide-ranging dialogue with all of the Nordic ministerial councils, the Nordic Council, private-sector stakeholders, researchers, youth organisations and civil society in the Region.

Generation 2030 emphasises the importance of involving children and young people as participants in change, now

and in the future, and of incorporating the gender-equality perspective into all of the programme activities. The programme has three overarching priorities with associated action areas. It must:

- 1. Ensure that the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers contributes to the implementation of Agenda 2030 via political focus and relevant projects.** The Council of Ministers must adopt a holistic approach to Agenda 2030. All eleven ministerial councils must relate to and integrate the SDGs into their work in a systematic manner. This will involve ensuring that co-operation programmes, project management and other governance mechanisms within the ministerial councils relate to Agenda 2030. The programme also focuses on areas which require particular attention in the Nordic Region. For the period 2017–2020, “sustainable consumption and production” has been defined as a theme within which the Nordic Region still has a lot to do to achieve the ambitious goals.
- 2. Contribute to engagement and sharing of knowledge on Agenda 2030 in the Nordic Region.** The Nordic Council of Ministers must identify opportunities for sharing knowledge and experiences of sustainable development, involving

appropriate target groups in this work and contributing to political debate on the implementation of Agenda 2030. Particular emphasis will be placed on the involvement of Nordic young people, something that is reflected in the programme title, Generation 2030. Another ambition is to involve the private sector, civil society, research networks and local authorities, which are regarded as having key roles to play in ensuring the success of the agenda.

- 3. Publicise the Nordic Council of Ministers' work on Agenda 2030 within the Nordic Region and at international level.** The Nordic Council of Ministers must create opportunities for national governments to exchange knowledge and experiences of methods of working on Agenda 2030 as a whole across policy areas and sectors. Where relevant the programme should also contribute to international dialogue based on Nordic experiences of pursuing the Agenda 2030 goals.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION AS A PRIORITY THEME 2017–2020

The 2017–2020 programme emphasises the theme "sustainable consumption and production". The thematic focus of the programme means that initiatives under

it must have a specific focus on achieving these goals in the Nordic Region. They should also take account of the global nature of the goals and contribute, to the greatest possible extent, to sustainability beyond the Nordic Region.

This theme was selected on the basis of mapping exercises, analyses and consultations conducted during the preparatory work for the programme.¹ These identified a particular need and commitment in the Region to work on "sustainable consumption and production", which has links to a broad spectrum of Agenda 2030 goals. Work on this theme also accords with Chapter 5 of *A Good Life in a Sustainable Nordic Region* (the sustainability strategy) called *Sustainable use of the Earth's resources* and the specific targets it sets for production and consumption.²

It is important to stress the integrated thinking behind the SDGs, which are to an extent indivisible so that work on one can and should help achieve others. This means that in addition to Goal 12, activities that support "sustainable consumption and production" should also relate to other relevant goals such as, for example,

- Goal 5 (gender equality)
- Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation)
- Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy)
- Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth)

- Goal 13 (climate action)
- Goal 14 (life below water)
- Goal 15 (life on land).

In addition, Goal 17 (partnerships for the goals) is regarded as a way of working in an intersectoral manner on these themes within the framework of Nordic co-operation.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

By the end of the programme period (December 2020), the Nordic Council of Ministers expects to have achieved the following results:

- To have adopted a holistic approach to the Agenda as an organisation, but with the emphasis on goals that require particular attention in the Nordic Region
- To have ensured that all of the ministerial councils have made progress towards bringing their activities in line with Agenda 2030 and that they regularly follow up on implementation of the Agenda
- To have contributed relevant analyses and built up knowledge and methods about implementing the SDGs in the Nordic Region
- To have ensured that the various ministerial councils have launched specific initiatives in areas where they are relevant and generate added Nordic value while implementing the global goals.
- To have shared knowledge and commitment with relevant national and Nordic stakeholders such as politicians and officials, Nordic researchers, the private sector, local authorities and civil society
- To have launched initiatives that focus in particular on involving Nordic young people in the work on Agenda 2030
- To have launched an Agenda 2030 communications campaign to publicise Nordic work on Agenda 2030 and encourage commitment to that work in the Nordic Region
- To have analysed how its strategies and control documents contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 within the framework of Nordic Co-operation and to have made any necessary amendments to them
- To have ensured that all projects and programmes within its areas of activity contribute to the implementation of the global goals
- To have incorporated a gender-equality perspective into every aspect of the programme.

The programme was adopted by the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation on 5 September 2017. The total budget for the programme until 2020 is approximately DKK 12.9 million.

The Nordic Expert Group for Sustainable Development acts as a programme steering group, submitting recommendations about decisions to the Nordic Committee for Co-operation and the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation.

The Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat reports once a year to the co-operation ministers on the progress made by the programme, including what contributions have been made to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the sustainability strategy in the areas covered by the Council of Ministers.

For further information please contact the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

¹ *Sustainable Development Action – The Nordic Way. (2017)*
Bumps on the Road to 2030. (2017)

² *A Good Life in a Sustainable Nordic Region: Nordic Strategy for Sustainable Development. (2013)*



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Programme description based on the document *Generation 2030 – Nordic Programme for Implementation of Agenda 2030*, adopted by the Nordic ministers for co-operation, 5 September 2017.

www.norden.org/generation2030