

## **INTRODUCTION: THE 2030 AGENDA ROADMAP SETS THE COURSE FOR NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY WORK**

Finland is one of the most successful countries in the world when it comes to citizens' wellbeing. Finland's development over the past hundred years has shown that a country can advance with great strides. This development has been the result of conscious decisions seeking to foster gender equality, education, equity and equal opportunities for participation and to ensure good operating conditions for businesses. Finland's success is built on competence and innovation. Finland's natural resources have also played an integral role in increasing economic wellbeing.

In recent decades, climate change and biodiversity loss have made the people of Finland aware that there are limits to the carrying capacity of nature. We also need to make determined, far-reaching decisions to ensure the wellbeing of Finland and its people in the future. To ensure the wellbeing of people in Finland, we must work continuously to assess and strengthen ecological, social and economic sustainability.

The activities of society are sustainable when they safeguard people's present and future wellbeing in a way that respects the limited carrying capacity of the planet and takes into account impacts on wellbeing and the sustainable use of natural resources also outside Finland's borders. Sustainable activities in society must seek to ensure a safe and stable operating environment, reduce conflicts in society and continuously reinforce social cohesion.

The global action programme for sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda, was adopted at the UN in 2015. It guides the work of the UN member states in promoting sustainable development and sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals that extend until 2030 and are common to all countries.

In Finland, responsibility for achieving the goals set in the 2030 Agenda rests with the national government. The Government's work is guided by the 2030 Agenda implementation plan, which is based on the Government Programme and is submitted to Parliament each government term as a government report.

Although the Government bears the main responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda, achieving the goals is not possible without the contribution and participation of the whole society. The task of the National Commission on Sustainable Development is to get all of Finnish society involved in the work on sustainable development.

In 2021, the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development drew up a national roadmap for the 2030 Agenda. The roadmap is a plan detailing the measures that Finnish society will take to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The roadmap was motivated by the desire to achieve all of the goals set in the 2030 Agenda. This is Finland's way to honour its international commitments and show that they are achievable.

That said, achieving the goals set in the 2030 Agenda is not enough to secure people's wellbeing within the limits of the planet's carrying capacity. This will require significant changes in the systems of society and in ways of thinking. We need to take a cultural leap towards a society with more sustainable consumption, activities and lifestyles.

We cannot take this leap by solving individual sustainability problems one by one. We need to adopt a holistic view and understanding of the clusters of functions and interactions in which – and through which – the activities of society are built. In other words, we need to adopt a systemic way of thinking.

The commission's roadmap for the 2030 Agenda takes a systemic approach to tackling Finland's sustainability challenges. It identifies six areas – areas of change – where changes will advance people's wellbeing within the limits of the planet's carrying capacity. In addition to six areas of change, the roadmap outlines measures Finland is taking to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in other parts of the world.

## THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROMOTES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP

***We, the members of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development,*** want to ensure that the wellbeing of Finns is realised and strengthened in the future within the limits of nature's carrying capacity, while also safeguarding global wellbeing and the sustainable use of natural resources.

In 2016, the commission updated its vision of a prosperous and globally responsible Finland that protects the carrying capacity of nature. The committee is continuing its work to make this vision a reality.

*A prosperous and globally responsible Finland that protects the carrying capacity of nature:*

*"In Finland, every person is a valuable and equal member of society. Finland is a skilled welfare society that renews itself flexibly as the world changes. Safeguarding a sustainable economy and employment will allow for further development of the welfare society. Together, we will create the foundation and prerequisites for the sustainable activities of all people, communities and businesses. We will not exceed the carrying capacity of nature and will use resources in a sustainable manner. Finland promotes peace, gender equality, equity and justice."*

**The commission's strategy for 2022–2030, which aims to realise this vision, is based on the six areas of change identified in the 2030 Agenda roadmap and seeks to support other countries in advancing sustainable development as described in the roadmap.**



We, the members of the National Commission on Sustainable Development, undertake to work in our own activities and networks to bring about the changes described in each of the roadmap's areas of change. We will promote the objectives identified in the areas of change and implement the measures identified for each area within the scope of our authority and resources in line with the implementing principles and in cooperation with others. We can achieve change in society through the sum of our actions. The General Secretariat for Sustainable Development has the overall responsibility for coordination and maintains an understanding of the progress made in implementing the strategy.

**The cross-cutting principles described in the roadmap guide our work to promote the necessary changes.** We are responsible for ensuring that the changes outlined in the roadmap are promoted in line with these cross-cutting principles:

- promoting fairness, equity and gender equality
- facilitating the inclusion and participation of society at large
- taking into account the most vulnerable (leaving no one behind)
- ensuring long-term commitment and policy coherence
- bearing global responsibility

The commission's strategy serves as a ***long-term target framework and tool for policy coherence*** in the strategic and programme work of different administrative branches and stakeholders in society. We, the members of the National Commission on Sustainable Development, will work to ensure that this strategy and its areas of change support and guide the sustainability work of the present and future Governments.

## THE COMMISSION'S WORKING METHODS AND STRUCTURES SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION WORK

The working methods and structures of the National Commission on Sustainable Development must support the implementation of the strategy. In implementing the strategy, it is important to remember and note that this is a network strategy without hierarchically managed resources. The implementation of the strategy depends on how the measures described in each area of change can be linked to the work of different operators in society.

The national **monitoring system** for sustainable development is being updated to provide information that supports implementation work and makes it possible to assess the progress of implementation in each area of change. The commission will monitor the progress of the work in each area of change on an annual basis.

The **Commitment2050 service** will be developed and utilised in implementing the strategy. The Commitment2050 service is an excellent tool that inspires organisations to take action, gathers together measures by different operators and helps them report on their progress.

The **structure and operating methods of the National Commission** on Sustainable Development will be developed to best support the implementation of the strategy.

The **mid-term review of the strategy** will be carried out in 2025 to examine how the implementation work has proceeded as a whole and whether the areas of change and the measures recorded for each area are still relevant, for instance. The interim review will utilise Finland's 2030 Agenda Voluntary National Review (VNR), a progress report to be drawn up for the UN in 2025. The assessment of Finland's national sustainable development policy, to be carried out once every government term, will also provide information on the progress of the strategy.

***This strategy replaces Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, last updated in 2016***, which served as the national strategy for sustainable development in 2013–2022.

# 1 Areas of change at the heart of the strategy

The six areas of change defined while drawing up the 2030 Agenda roadmap in 2021 form the core of the commission's strategy. In addition to six areas of change, Finland's actions to support the global implementation of 2030 Agenda form an essential part of the strategy.

The areas of change approach sustainability challenges from a systemic perspective. Instead of solving individual sustainability problems one at a time, this is about attempting to understand the larger phenomena behind the problems and to change them in a way that solves and eliminates individual problems. In other words, the goals and sub-goals of the 2030 Agenda should be approached from a systemic perspective. The goals are interlinked and are always part of a larger whole, which often involves social, environmental and economic aspects.

The areas of change focus mainly on Finland and Finland's needs for change. That said, Finland must also shoulder its share of the global responsibility and support other countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development in all countries is in Finland's best interest. Finland's actions to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda in the rest of the world and to promote goals 16 and 17 (peace, justice and strong institutions; partnership for the goals) are discussed after the six areas of change in a section entitled "Supporting the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda".

In six areas of change, global responsibility and global impacts are primarily approached from the footprint perspective: the main idea is that actions at home must not cause damage elsewhere in the world or transfer negative impacts to other countries. In the section "Supporting the global implementation of Agenda 2030", the main focus is on Finland's handprint: how can we generate positive impacts that support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in other parts of the world, especially in developing countries?

The areas of change are largely defined through the goals and sub-goals of the 2030 Agenda that Finland has not yet achieved or for which recent developments give cause for concern. For this reason, the areas of change do not address very well-functioning aspects of Finnish society, which are manifold and which must also be safeguarded in the future. Finland is one of the most successful countries in the world when it comes to citizens' wellbeing. The purpose of the areas of change and the measures described for them is to ensure that this will also be the case in the future.



## 1.1 Economy and work promoting wellbeing and sustainable consumption



### 1.1.1 Vision and goals for change

Economy and work promoting wellbeing and sustainable consumption was defined as an area of change because the Commission considered it important to examine the connections between economic growth and wellbeing, as well as the economy's impact on natural resource use. Encouraging sustainable consumption choices is closely linked to the need to reduce the global use of natural resources. The overconsumption of global natural resources is a challenge that cuts across all of society and concerns the economy, production and consumption. Forms of work, changes in professional structures, access to the job market and job-related competence are all inherently related to economic change.

Questions related to economy and work promoting wellbeing and sustainable consumption are linked to the 2030 Agenda goals and targets that have proved to be challenging to Finland and that concern, for example, the economy and work, sustainable consumption and production (see the figure on the areas of change and the targets of the 2030 Agenda).

Early in the preparation of the roadmap, the Commission defined the following vision for the 2030s for this area of change:

“Finland is a frontrunner and Finnish companies have a strong handprint in solutions that bolster overall sustainability and are related to climate change, such as the bioeconomy and circular economy, industrial innovation and digital services. Companies generate wellbeing and added value through business models that aim for economic, ecological and social sustainability. The wellbeing economy approach has now been mainstreamed, and the economy strengthens ecological and social capital. Public finances are on a solid basis. Work is meaningful and of a high quality. Innovations, entrepreneurship and business activities that promote sustainability are supported and appreciated. Changes in competence needs are anticipated in education and companies, and competence is updated continuously. Finland is getting closer to operating within Earth's limits. The domestic use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and resource efficient, and the domestic use of non-renewable natural resources is decreasing rapidly. Consumption and production are being made more sustainable through good and consistent regulation, which provides a framework for market-based and customer-oriented operations.”



To make the vision more concrete, the National Commission on Sustainable Development defined the following **goals for this area of change**:

1. Bioeconomy and circular economy solutions, industrial and other innovations, as well as digital and intangible products and services that generate sustainable added value and build a carbon neutral society are emphasised in the creation of economic value, business operations, new jobs and export operations.
2. Economic activities strive to produce and distribute human wellbeing, strengthen social capital and invest in wellbeing.
3. A long-term overarching vision has been defined for the concurrent achievement of ecological, social and economic sustainability and for the funding of the public sector. A development path to which key social stakeholders are committed has been drawn up.
4. Work life is of a high quality, workplaces are fair, healthy and safe, people feel good at work, and employment as well as the work capacity of entrepreneurs is at a high level. Progress has been made in gender equality and non-discrimination in the workplace. People with poor employment prospects have been successfully incorporated into the workplace.
5. Research, development, innovation and competence inputs into solutions promoting sustainability and into corporate development are at a high level.
6. Environmental damage from production is identified and reduced, and the related costs are passed on to prices across the life cycle.
7. The domestic use of non-renewable natural resources has declined. Meanwhile, more is obtained from less: resource productivity and the rate of materials recovery have increased thanks to various circular economy solutions. Finland's global handprint as an exporter of resource smart solutions has improved. (cf. the government resolution on the strategic programme for circular economy 30 March 2021)
8. Good, consistent regulation, a broad set of indicators, public procurement, a predictable investment environment, as well as a market-based and customer-oriented approach guide consumption and production.

### 1.1.2 How to effect change

he vision and goals specified by the National Commission on Sustainable Development will be reached by shifting attention from economic flows to economic assets, adopting and mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production methods, ensuring the achievement of a good work life and meeting the competence needs of a changing society.

We must undo structures that cause overconsumption in order to create human wellbeing within Earth's limits, and thus achieve the goals of sustainable development. To do so, we must place natural capital and human capital at the heart of economic thinking and adopt impactful measures to adopt and mainstream more sustainable consumption and production methods.

### Natural capital and human capital at the heart of economic thinking

Capital encompasses all our human, ecological and economic resources. These resources draw up the framework – the constraints and opportunities – for society's sustainable economic activity. The wellbeing economy and circular economy define how our economy operates within this framework. The wellbeing economy specifically determines how people – individuals, communities and organisations – use human capital sustainably in their economic activities and how economic activities produce economic and human wellbeing. In turn, the circular economy determines how natural resources are used for economic purposes in an ecologically and economically sustainable way and how the economy can ensure the preservation of natural capital and strengthen it.

To strengthen the management of different forms of capital, environmental accounting (incl. the climate, national resources and biodiversity) and the assessment of human capital, social sustainability and citizens' wellbeing must be integrally incorporated into policymaking, for example through national accounts and fiscal planning. It would therefore be useful to evaluate the need to create a special procedure for assessing and managing human and natural capital.

The analysis of impacts on natural capital and human capital should also be included in industrial, employment and business policy planning to accelerate change and the seizing of opportunities. The government must continue the ongoing sustainability roadmap work, intended to span more than one parliamentary term, as well as the analysis of all three dimensions of sustainability as part of fiscal planning. Scholarly guidance and advice must be provided to the present and future governments to support the implementation of a long-term sustainability policy and sustainability transitions. The Sustainability Panel should focus on this task, and the establishment of a special council for the assessment of sustainable transitions should be considered.

### Adopting and mainstreaming more sustainable consumption and production methods

The government and public sector have access to a wide range of methods for mainstreaming more sustainable consumption and production methods. **Economic instruments** should be actively used to promote the circular and wellbeing economies, as well as more sustainable consumption and production methods. Such instruments

include increasing inputs into RDI and reviewing the sustainability of subsidy policies, shifting the focus of taxation to environmental taxes, adopting low-carbon tax incentives, developing and using emissions trading mechanisms, promoting industry-specific voluntary agreements, as well as adopting a tax and subsidy policy that encourages social justice and sustainable work and export. Finland is a frontrunner in the development of sustainable development budgeting, and this work must continue.

**Public procurement** accounts for many of the decisions that strengthen the circular economy and the wellbeing economy. Ecological and social sustainability and innovations must be emphasised in public procurement. Consistent criteria must be defined for responsible procurement, with an eye on ecological, social and ethical sustainability as well as other dimensions of sustainability. Innovative acquisitions, a systemic approach and exploratory co-creation will be spurred jointly with science and research, businesses and the third sector. The prerequisites of procurement, and the required competence and mindset will be promoted through a national programme.

The wellbeing economy and circular economy can be boosted by **supporting sustainable choices**. Cutting the consumption of non-renewable natural resources must be encouraged. Information must be produced about the wellbeing, environmental and other beneficial impacts of investments into sustainable development. Information is also needed to support sustainable decision-making (e.g. environmental labels and calculators), and the required digital platforms must be constructed. More resources are needed for producing and communicating information to consumers, municipalities and companies and their experiments. The impact of advertising on ecological and social sustainability must be reviewed, and regulation on advertising must be developed, as required. The impacts of advertising should be studied and regulation developed internationally and across the EU, ensuring that the obligations remain the same regardless of the advertising channel. Support must be provided for the testing and deployment of innovations and services that reduce the unnecessary use of disposable products and boost sharing and the circular economy.

**Product regulation** that emphasises sustainability also leads consumption and production methods towards greater sustainability. Regulation must be reviewed and developed internationally and across the EU as part of the overall approach to an ecologically and socially sustainable economy, ensuring that the obligations are the same in all sales channels.

Long-term measures pertaining to the wellbeing and circular economies create a predictable operating environment for **companies providing solutions**. The goal is for companies to make their handprint more sustainable and, through renewal, become providers of solutions for a carbon neutral world and sustainable change. Predictable and

consistent RDI investments, the development of a competitive operating environment, regulation, taxation, smooth permit processes and information-based guidance promote carbon neutral, socially sustainable business that promotes biodiversity and builds on the circular economy. Sustainable business strengthens our shared capital and secures a sustainable funding base for Finland's public finances. Government-owned companies should show the way in adopting and implementing operating methods that promote sustainability.

The way companies **operate and take responsibility in global value chains** is key to the mainstreaming of more sustainable consumption and production methods. It is important to comply with international, jointly recognised rules for workplaces and sustainability. Sustainability criteria must be developed as part of EU-level and global influencing work, and the adoption of sustainable operating methods must be promoted (e.g. environmental labels, fair trade, criteria for social justice). Global, international EU-wide and national efforts that promote human rights and are also binding on companies must continue to ensure the enforcement of human rights (including labour rights). Stricter sustainability criteria for investors, funders and consumers support change. The environmental impacts that Finnish import and export activities have in developing countries must be monitored more emphatically. Future corporate social responsibility regulation in the EU (by directive or regulation) will be adopted in Finland, and it will be monitored in both Finland and the EU. Finland and Finnish companies should be frontrunners in corporate social responsibility, determinedly promoting corporate social responsibility regulation and participating in its development in international and national contexts. Efforts to combat the shadow economy must be strengthened.

### Ensuring a good work life and a competent workforce

A society that strives to increase wellbeing and bolster the conditions for a good life lies at the core of the wellbeing economy. A good work life and a competent workforce contribute to a solid foundation for these efforts.

Sustainable development calls for substantial structural changes in the economy and workplace. Employees, the management, entrepreneurs and policymakers must be offered **support for implementing change sustainably and fairly**. Such support comprises a wide range of measures, including training, continuous learning, competence development, diverse careers, flexible work, a good work-life balance, demographic policy and support for RDI.

Regarding climate measures and the green transition, the **employment impacts and competence needs in different sectors must be anticipated** and future competence needs must be addressed. It is also important to improve employees' and entrepreneurs'

opportunities to actively participate in the discussion and changes related to the sustainability shift. The updating of competence required for the changes must be seen as an investment, not an expense.

Special attention must be placed on strengthening diversity in the workplace and on eradicating any discrimination experienced in the workplace community. The Non-discrimination Act and Act on Equality between Women and Men require the authorities, education providers and employers to assess and promote equality in their operations, as well as to promote the achievement of gender equality.

**Equal** pay is a fundamental and human right. Under the Act on Equality between Women and Men, people performing the same or equivalent work must receive the same pay, regardless of gender. Reducing gender-based pay gaps is the prerequisite for a high-quality, fair work life and a key question in terms of gender equality. Gender-based pay gaps can be bridged through support for a more equal distribution of family leave, statutory gender equality plans and pay surveys, contract and pay policies, the development of remuneration systems and the elimination of gender segregation in the workplace. Pay transparency supports the achievement of equal remuneration.

A **modern demographic policy** promotes wellbeing and balanced demographic development by supporting human resources throughout life and by setting goals for population renewal, birth rate and migration. Workplaces must support well-balanced demographic development and a good work-life balance. Increased immigration or higher birth rates, higher levels of education and improved productivity, or healthier ageing cannot alone meet the challenges arising from the drive to ensure a good work life and a competent workforce. Instead, they are all needed.



## 1.2 Education, competence and sustainable lifestyles

### 1.2.1 Vision and goals for change

This theme was chosen as one of the areas of change because the shift towards a more sustainable society is made possible by changes in our worldview, a broader and deeper understanding, as well as new skills and knowledge. Learning and education are keys to social change. Education shows and has an influence in the form of competence, creativity and an intergenerational sense of responsibility. It does not involve only thinking and reflection but also practical measures. Education and cultural change lead towards more sustainable lifestyles and comprehensive wellbeing. The value base for sustainable lifestyles builds on the notion of humans being part of nature and depending on the vitality of ecosystems. Education, science, culture and the arts maintain and renew the



identities of individuals and communities, providing tools to better understand the human-nature relationship and interaction.

This area of change is linked to the 2030 Agenda targets identified as being challenging for Finland. They involve securing high-quality early childhood education and care and pre-school education, reducing inequality between genders and special groups, boosting literacy and numeracy, and providing the skills and knowledge required to promote sustainable development.

The National Commission on Sustainable Development formulated the **following vision for this area of change**:

“An increasingly strong value base and competence that promote sustainable development add significance to people’s lives and boost competence that supports the creation of new knowledge, new ways of working and solutions for global sustainability problems. Knowledge and education are available to everyone. Continuous learning offers everyone the opportunity to expand their understanding and competence, learn new skills and knowledge needed in our changing world, both in and out of the workplace. Our education system provides knowledge promoting the sustainability shift to all population groups equally and accessibly. The educational attainment of the population has improved, and educational and competence gaps have been closed. Society supports sustainable lifestyle choices, and the general attitude towards and opportunities to make sustainable choices have improved. Although Finns consume less and more sustainably, their wellbeing has improved.”

To make the vision more concrete, the National Commission on Sustainable Development defined the following **goals for this area of change**:

1. People experience their own lives as being more meaningful. Everyone feels they have the opportunity and skills to influence the direction of social development.
2. Everyone, regardless of their place of residence and family background, has equal access to education and the same opportunities to continue their studies. Education and the opportunity to learn new skills is equally available and accessible to all age and demographic groups. The rate of participation in adult education continues to increase.
3. The lifestyle footprint has decreased. The carbon footprint of Finns has decreased to a level that enables compliance with international agreements and obligations.
4. The goals and practical implementation of education generate competence and values that promote sustainable development, starting from early

childhood education and care and spanning the entire education system and all fields. Education and science provide competence and skills for developing and using solutions and operating models based on innovation.

### 1.2.2 How to effect change

According to the Commission, to achieve the vision and goals we must revise society's value base and mainstream sustainable lifestyles, as well strengthen our understanding and competence supporting sustainable development. This calls for cooperation among formal, non-formal and informal education, which is also important for continuous learning. The change in the value base paves the way for a future that is worth striving towards and that gives hope. The concept of eco-social education is one of the tools used for this change.

## Revising society's value base and mainstreaming sustainable lifestyles

The following methods will be used to revise society's value base and mainstream sustainable lifestyles:

### *A shift in the education paradigm towards eco-social education*

To date, humankind has mainly sought wellbeing through economic growth. However, economic growth is closely linked to increasing environmental damage and accelerated climate change. On the other hand, economic growth has helped scores of people escape poverty, which in turn, has reduced child mortality substantially. Nevertheless, the sources of a meaningful and purposeful life have become increasingly immaterial and unfettered from economy-centred thinking.

Sustainable development is an inherent part of the core curricula from early childhood education and care to upper secondary education, as well as of the vocational qualifications frameworks. **Eco-social education** is a concept incorporated into the value base of the core curriculum for early childhood education and the core curriculum for basic education. Eco-social education departs from the notion that humans should act within the limits set by the resilience of ecosystems. The goal of progress and development is to enable all current and future generations to have a humane and meaningful life within the limits of our planet.<sup>1</sup>

According to the eco-social approach, safeguarding nature's wellbeing also improves human wellbeing. This insight can be strengthened through systemic thinking, which encourages us to examine interactions between nature, humans and society.

According to the eco-social approach, a good life boils down to two things: the vitality of nature and the experience of a valuable life. We can make production and consumption habits more sustainable by increasing and advancing eco-social education, knowledge and critical thinking and by adopting policy instruments that promote sustainable development.

The themes and presentation methods familiar from the arts and culture can be employed to better understand and process methods and needs for change related to sustainable development. Topics related to the behaviour of people and society and the development of their values lie at the core of culture and the arts. Culture helps us expand our understanding of alternative futures and operating models and gives rise

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1 <https://koulujaymparisto.fi/tukea-kestavan-kehityksen-tyohon/kestavan-tulevaisuuden-indikaattoreiden-taustamateriaali/ekososiaalinen-sivistys-kestavan-tulevaisuuden-rakentajana/>



to new interpretations and meanings for objects and things Culture and the arts can make nascent phenomena visible. Securing the operating conditions for the culture and arts sector is part of the overarching support for eco-social education and sustainable development.

### *Values and competence promoting sustainable development in education and upbringing*

To change society's value base and promote eco-social education, both formal and non-formal education and cooperation within education must be promoted and attention to sustainable development aspects must be further enhanced in education. The diversity of learners must be taken into consideration at all levels and support must be provided for study guidance. The operating culture and learning environments must support the adoption of eco-social education and sustainable lifestyles.

We can learn the values of sustainable development throughout and across all spheres of life. Early childhood education and care, hobbies and the media all influence the development of values.

### *Mainstreaming the change towards sustainable lifestyles*

A sustainable lifestyle builds on the adoption of the eco-social education concept, sustainable consumption and operating methods and social responsibility. Eco-social education reforms our understanding of the foundations of a good life. Its values – sustainability, moderation and an interpersonal approach – steer us from the pursuit of material of wellbeing towards the improvement of the quality of life. Instead of consuming more and more, we can find sustainable meaning in life from exercise, art, culture, interpersonal relationships and connection with nature.

Early childhood education and care, educational institutions, higher education institutions, the culture sector, sports clubs, youth work, leisure activities and organisational activities, libraries and many other parties carry out valuable work to mainstream ecologically and socially sustainable lifestyles.

The mainstreaming of sustainable lifestyles calls for the development of people's lifestyles and consumption habits and the examination of the social structures that define the opportunities and impacts of choices. Examples brought up during the preparation of this roadmap included public guidance through various taxes and incentives, good examples and experiments concerning personal carbon budgets, as well as the important work of local governments in enabling sustainable lifestyles and creating the necessary preconditions. Various organisations and other social stakeholders offer guidance and advice to help people adopt sustainable lifestyles. The mainstreaming of sustainable lifestyles calls for similar transitions towards a sustainable society in each area of change.

Changes are needed especially in housing, food, mobility and travel, as well as other forms of consumption. Among other things, this calls for an up-to-date, unbiased and consistent knowledge base and coordinated guidance at the national level. To ensure the sustainability of our lifestyles, we must make it easy, inexpensive and inspiring for individuals to opt for sustainable choices.

## **Strengthening understanding and competence that support sustainable development**

### ***Targeting education and promoting competence to achieve a sustainability shift***

Competence is a form of human capital that creates meaning and wellbeing for people and ties them to society. Education is based on research that provides new knowledge and solutions for sustainability shifts. To achieve a sustainability shift, many of our current premises and operating methods must be reassessed: there will be a need for unlearning and constructive questioning. New knowledge is adopted in business, industry and society especially through competent individuals.

It is impossible to achieve a sustainability shift without research-based knowledge and competence, new technologies and innovative solutions and experimentation. As outlined by the Parliamentary Working Group on Research, Development and Innovation and the National Roadmap for Research, Development and Innovation, active measures are needed to raise the share of RDI expenditure to four per cent of GDP by 2030<sup>2</sup> and to develop the RDI operating environment. These measures provide guidelines for increasing the volume and ambition of RDI activities and for achieving sustainable growth and wellbeing.

Research and research-based knowledge serve as a basis for anticipating and identifying competence needs. A key question is what kinds of skills and knowledge are needed to solve future sustainability issues. It is also important to anticipate quantitative competence needs in different fields and determine the size of student intake accordingly. We must also recognise and anticipate how degree structures, open learning and continuous learning can better satisfy changing competence needs.

Life involves continuous learning and development, and this trend will only become stronger in the future. The profiles of future professionals, both in the workplace and in other spheres of life, may differ in terms of sustainable development from what present conditions and knowledge may lead us to expect. A rapidly progressing sustainability shift may make some fields and professional duties superfluous, forcing people to move into new careers. On the other hand, we may see a growing need for new professional groups.

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2 In 2021, Finland's RDI expenditure accounted for 2.9 per cent of GDP.

By anticipating competence needs, we can spread understanding and insight widely, enabling higher education, liberal adult education, vocational education and continuous learning to better meet the needs of society and the future workplace – especially in terms of the skills and values related to sustainable development. Changes in the workplace also call for flexible study paths and increased opportunities for career change. Volunteer, leisure and organisational activities, as well as youth work play an important part in this, as they reach a large group of people outside the formal education system.

Entrepreneurs, companies and other employees have an important role in anticipating competence needs and promoting on-the-job learning. Research-based knowledge and cooperation are required to support predictions and anticipation among education providers, the workplace, higher education institutions, research institutions and other organisations. To promote the green transition, we must also see to the basic skills (literacy, numeracy and ICT skills) of all citizens. They lay the foundation for more advanced competence – whatever the competence needs arising from change.

#### *Monitoring, assessing and developing competence*

Ideally, changes in competence development and the progress of the sustainability shift should be monitored throughout the process. This calls for instruments and indicators for observing how learning changes the world. The results and impacts of education development projects should be surveyed in practice.

Topics to examine include, for example, how sustainable development is incorporated into teaching and education throughout the education system, including in liberal adult education, and how the concept of ecosocial education mentioned in the core curricula has been adopted in the activities and teaching of education providers. Monitoring and assessment should be linked to the education system's existing agreement and monitoring processes.

#### *Bridging gaps in learning, providing support for guidance and learning*

Everyone must have equal access to early childhood education and care, education, competence development and active agency in the sustainability shift. This requires comprehensive guidance and support for learning across the education system. It is particularly important to increase guidance and target it to different types of learners, as well as to provide support to those at risk of dropping out. Support and attention are also required at the transition stages in education, when moving from education into the workplace and later in work life, in connection with career change and continuing education, for example. Regarding adults, attention must be focused on developing the competence of those not active in the labour market, such as the long-term unemployed and under-represented groups, who do not seek training and education at their own initiative. Senior citizens must also be offered learning opportunities and adequate

support. This offers a way to support individuals at all stages of life, which is important for achieving a sustainability shift in society.

Active measures are needed to bridge learning gaps, especially to prevent segregation at school. In Finland, differences between schools are among the smallest of the countries participating in PISA. Nevertheless, regional differences exist and have been observed in national assessments of learning outcomes for quite a while. Differences are also increasing within cities. Positive-action funding enables teachers and assistants to be hired to schools facing the risk of a negative spiral in learning outcomes. Finnish studies have found that positive action has a favourable impact on study progress. Learning differences emerge in early childhood education and care and continue way into higher education. Two-year pre-primary education is one way to reduce learning differences that originate in childhood.

### *Educational, organisational and leisure activities supporting competence and sustainable lifestyles*

In terms of the sustainability shift, education and competence must be interpreted broadly, including participation in cultural, exercise, youth, organisational, club, leisure and voluntary activities. Leisure and recreational activities offer a key environment for informal learning, and participation in such activities boosts wellbeing and inclusion and influences our lifestyles and environment. The competence and experiences acquired from and through various parties develop people's resources and ability to contribute to the sustainability shift. Support for organisations and communities involved in, for example, culture, exercise, youth and educational activities will continue to be needed as part of the overall efforts. Religious and spiritual communities also play an important role in promoting ecosocial education and sustainable lifestyles.

### *Cultural heritage as a resource for sustainable development and wellbeing*

Cultural heritage and cultural environments are a significant resource in effecting the changes required for the sustainability shift. Museums, archives and other cultural heritage operators possess considerable information resources, and much of the material is available in digital format through information networks. The diversity of cultural heritage and the related knowledge and traditions serve as a resource that supports society's creativity and renewal, enabling individuals and communities to develop their self-esteem and identity. Culture and cultural heritage also play a significant role in promoting wellbeing.

### *The influence of the media and the importance of media literacy*

The media are some of the parties and channels that promote citizens' informal skills and education, as they play a key role in conveying information and news. They can also contribute to boosting citizens' learning and education. Moreover, both traditional

and social media are important drivers and enablers of change related to sustainable lifestyles. Media content offers low-threshold learning opportunities that are independent of time and place, but it also fuels operating methods that may be problematic for sustainable development. The media face challenges from a polarised dialogue and the potential spread of disinformation. To counteract these threats, we need to involve media companies in the efforts and increase citizens' media literacy and multiliteracy. The role and methods of the media must be further emphasised in the support provided to the roadmap's goals. We must engage in more open dialogue about media content and emphasise the responsibility of the media for their choice of content.

### **Promoting cooperation between formal and nonformal/informal education**

#### ***Support and cooperation to promote sustainable development competence and the shift in the education paradigm***

Important work has been carried out throughout the education system to include skills and knowledge related to sustainable development in teaching and education. Sustainable development is an inherent part of the core curricula from early childhood education and care to upper secondary education, as well as of the vocational qualifications frameworks. For example, the UN 2030 Agenda goals have been incorporated into the national core curricula to provide the necessary resources for creating global citizenship and a sustainable society for current and future generations. To ensure a skilled workforce that has the competence and ability to deal with sustainable development in the workplace, study modules including these themes can be integrated into vocational education. Higher education institutions have also drawn up sustainability targets to which they are committed. The sustainability measures adopted in education have prepared the sector for a paradigm change.

Support for changes in competence and the education paradigm originate in the shared views of and cooperation among stakeholders in the education sector. It is valuable as such that different parties engage in dialogue, learn from one another and work towards a common understanding of the role of cooperation in helping everyone participate in society harmoniously. Current policy instruments and documents will be developed on a needs basis to promote change.

A common view among different stakeholders can be produced by bringing together tried and tested, research-based models and solutions for promoting sustainable lifestyles that have been prepared in the exercise, youth, art and culture sectors and in the education system. Dialogue among the different parties can also be encouraged to ensure that information is spread as widely as possible and that it can be used in different sectors and connections. Attention will be focused on developing current policy instruments and documents and reviewing the legislative structures that enable sustainable development.

### *Continuous learning*

The only way to achieve a sustainability shift is by ensuring that learning also takes place in environments other than the formal education system. Cooperation is required among all players in the education sector so that the idea of continuous learning and the goals of the area of change can be realised. Citizens must be made aware of all the possible places for learning and growth. Learning and education are lifelong processes, and they must be supported in various ways. New paths of learning and creative experiments are made possible by both nonformal and informal learning. The latter is made possible in the workplace, liberal adult education, culture, exercise and youth services, as well as other leisure, organisational and voluntary activities that can reach and activate different groups of the population. This ensures that individual learning accumulates through different participants and communities as lifelong learning – and occasionally as the unlearning of concepts and attitudes.

### *The message of hope – a future worth striving towards*

The change in society's value base, sustainable development, ecosocial education and a socially just green transition pave the way for a future that is worth striving towards and that gives hope. Parliament, for one, has highlighted the need for societal speech and debate that fosters hope. The message of hope should especially run through sectors that work with children and adolescents. Everyone should assume responsibility for creating a positive narrative and communication. This 2030 Agenda roadmap is one of the instruments fostering hope. This roadmap offers a real chance to influence things and proposes concrete measures that different players can adopt. Being involved in change gives meaning to life. Especially children's and adolescents' concerns about the future must be heard. We must show future generations that we assume responsibility through concrete action. The message of hope and concrete measures also help the adult population believe in a sustainable future and take action to achieve it. We want to change the world and make it better in cooperation with children and adolescents, using existing solutions and developing new ones.



## 1.3 Wellbeing, health and social inclusion

### 1.3.1 Vision and goals for change

This theme was chosen as an area of change because, while Finland is doing better than ever in terms of wellbeing, not everyone has been able to benefit from the positive trend. Social deprivation transfers across stages of life but also across generations. The risk of poverty and exclusion is especially high among those with a low income and those living alone. There are notable inequalities in health and wellbeing among different population groups and regions. Work capacity issues, mental strain and mental health problems have



become more common among the working age population, as have disabilities among the ageing population. Mental health problems and mental strain have also become more prevalent among young people. For the majority, everyday life is safer than ever, but domestic violence and violence against women remain persistent problems. Finland is one of Europe's most dangerous countries for women, and gendered online harassment and violence threaten the safety of women and minorities. Discrimination and hate crimes primarily target various minorities.

This area of change is linked especially to the targets of the 2030 Agenda that pose a challenge to Finland, namely those related to gender equality, health and wellbeing, reducing inequality and promoting peace and justice.

In its roadmap work, the National Commission on Sustainable Development formulated the **following vision for this area of change**:

"In the 2030s, more people will consider their quality of life to be good. People are healthier and enjoy better wellbeing, and health inequalities have decreased. Finland is a world leader when it comes to preventing health and social problems and in supporting health and wellbeing. Demographic trends are sustainable. Gender equality and equality within and among different population groups have been achieved. Poverty and deprivation have declined, and more and more people have decent employment. Finland is a safe country for all its residents and groups of people, and trust among different social stakeholders has improved. Loneliness has declined. Everyone has a sense of belonging to a community and can experience meaningfulness and participate equally in social activities. The civil society is active and helps keep everyone on board. Sustainable lifestyles contribute to the wellbeing of everyone globally, within nature's carrying capacity."

To make the vision more concrete, the National Commission on Sustainable Development defined the following **goals for this area of change**:

1. Services that support health and wellbeing and prevent and care for illnesses and social problems have been resourced and targeted equally. They reduce inequality, are low-threshold, equally accessible and easy to use.
2. Health inequalities among population groups have decreased, and experienced wellbeing has improved. Substance abuse and mental health problems, as well as lifestyle diseases have declined.
3. There is less violence in society. Violence targeting women and girls, in particular, has declined substantially.
4. Demographic trends are sustainable (including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and support for intended pregnancy)

5. Homelessness has been eradicated, and reasonably priced living is available to all.
6. Marginalisation has declined significantly. Society has secured the operating conditions of the free civil society. More and more people actively participate in society's operations. Everyone has a sense of belonging to a community.
7. Non-discrimination and gender equality are achieved widely in society. Everyone must have the opportunity to educate themselves, participate and have their say, regardless of aspects such as gender, colour, capability, age or wealth.

### 1.3.2 How to effect change

According to the Commission, the move towards the vision and goals will progress in the following way: **The wellbeing of Finns** in all population and age groups will have been achieved when people feel good both physically and mentally, have good work, study and functional ability, and feel they can influence their own matters. **In terms of inclusion**, the key change measures are related to the realisation of fundamental rights and strengthening of inclusivity, reduction of poverty, as well as reasonably priced housing that promotes wellbeing. Inequality can be reduced through accessible general services and by targeting services to people with existing health and wellbeing challenges or groups that are at a higher risk and by designing services that serve different population groups. In health and social services and internal security services, the **focus must be shifted to prevention**. Health and wellbeing can be boosted and widely promoted outside health and social services; for example, in all municipal activities and in cooperation with other stakeholders in the field. Reducing poverty, bridging inequality and achieving social justice are the core themes in this area of change, creating a foundation for good safety and security in daily life.



### *Preventive structures and accessible services*

**A major shift towards a preventive approach** is taking place in the social **structures and services** related to health, wellbeing and social inclusion. The shift will be carried out taking into consideration fundamental rights, gender equality and the eradication of structural racism<sup>3</sup> and discrimination. It is especially important to improve the conditions of disabled persons and minorities who are in a disadvantaged position.

### *Wellbeing and health*

#### *Wellbeing services counties run smoothly*

**Preventive services and structures and accessible services** are at the core of the **health and social services reform**. Change will come about when the future **wellbeing services counties** and their partners jointly describe and implement the goals and measures for promoting health, wellbeing and security, as well as the related services and service chains (such as lifestyle guidance, exercise guidance and culture and wellbeing services). Everyone's right and equal access to high-quality health and social services have been secured.

#### *Information flows between different parties*

Information about the population's and the individual's wellbeing and health flows smoothly between different parties.

#### *Family centres run smoothly in municipalities*

After the reform, **family centres** will operate throughout the country, and their operations will be based on the needs of children, young people and families. Different types of families are identified and supported.

#### *Mental health services are available and accessible*

The standard and availability of **mental health services** are being improved. Low-threshold mental health services are available.

#### *Outreach work reaches people*

**Outreach work** that helps reach at-risk people has spread to all the wellbeing services counties and municipalities, and it is being conducted among all age groups.

#### *Providing opportunities to all population groups*

Local authorities continue to promote residents' wellbeing, health and safety in many ways, **providing opportunities to all population groups** (including exercise, culture and

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3 Structural racism is latent racism found in society's practices, legislation and institutions.

youth services, schools, parks, streets, libraries, inexpensive, safe and adaptable housing, and other aspects of the living environment) and **taking those in a disadvantaged position into consideration in their service offering**. For example, **services can be made accessible** (offered both locally and through mobile service points).

### *Generating wellbeing with attention to the ecological limits*

Ecological limits are considered when generating wellbeing at the state level. For example, **nutrition guidelines** adhere to the planetary diet<sup>4</sup>, and **price incentives** have been set for healthy and ecological food. **Indicators for sustainable wellbeing** are used in the government's policymaking.

Promoting sustainable wellbeing requires a long-term policy that spans several parliamentary terms: an **advisory council for the promotion of health and wellbeing** will be set up.

### *Promoting inclusion*

#### *Reducing poverty*

The goal is to reduce poverty. The social security reform has improved the situation of people on low income, and the coordination of work and social security is possible. Basic security is being improved. Concrete measures for preventing debt problems are being developed.

#### *Housing and living environments that promote wellbeing*

Cities add more reasonably priced housing options and maintain an adaptable and flexible housing stock, as well as an adequate volume of homes. Ecological aspects are considered widely in housing development and repair construction. The safety, comfort and healthiness of neighbourhoods and homes are taken care of. Health security and the potential impacts of climate change are considered in the plans for residential areas. Municipalities are supported in building energy-efficient and ecological housing and infrastructure that ensure easy and accessible mobility.

Community structures that encourage physical activity and exercise opportunities, as well as quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and accessible nature sites are a focus of attention regarding living environments. Spending time in nature has positive impacts

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4 The planetary diet is a scientific proposal for a global food system that could secure healthy food for everyone, that is, for nearly 10 billion people, by 2050. The EAT-Lancet Commission that presented it comprised 37 researchers working in different fields around the world. [https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/07/EAT-Lancet\\_Commission\\_Summary\\_Report.pdf](https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/07/EAT-Lancet_Commission_Summary_Report.pdf)

on people's physical and mental health. Lifestyle guidance and living environments that support activity encourage people to be physically active. Improving conditions for exercise and outdoor activities is one of the most cost-effective ways to promote health and wellbeing. Exercise and outdoor activities are key measures in the preventive approach.

#### *Employing people partially incapacitated for work*

**Workplaces recruit partially incapacitated people.** Employers and workplaces are offered measures and incentives to employ people who are disadvantaged in the labour market. **Employers actively promote wellbeing, health and safety.**

#### *Promoting digital inclusion*

More and more of society's services and operations are digital. Remote connections improve access to operations and services, but they also call for accessible, safe and user-friendly digital environments. It is important to ensure that no one is marginalised as a result of digitalisation and that everyone has **adequate digital and basic skills, as well as the opportunity to learn them, if required.**

#### *Ensuring access to hobbies*

**Diverse opportunities for leisure and hobby activities have been ensured for all age groups,** and equal accessibility has been taken into consideration. To support the wellbeing of children and young people, every child and adolescent can participate in a fun and cost-free hobby organised in connection with the school day (known as the Finnish model for leisure activities). The range of hobbies offered is adapted on the basis of the wishes of children and young people. The operating model is planned, set up and tested jointly with parties organising hobbies.

### **Enablers and creators of preconditions**

#### *An active civil society*

The **role of organisations and other civil society participants** in promoting health and wellbeing is widely recognised, and the competence of organisations is employed in education and the provision of peer support. The civil society works actively: **inclusive budgeting,** for example, is in wide use. **Different population and age groups, as well as their representatives and other parties are heard and included in preparations and decision-making.** The state contributes to securing the civil society's operating resources. Civil society operators (such as organisations) offer everyone an opportunity for meaningful activities that reduce loneliness and boost the sense of community and purpose.

### *Demographic trends and immigration*

**A sustainable demographic trend**, achieved especially by increasing immigration and enabling good integration, secures the future of the wellbeing state facing a changing age structure. Migrant workers' rights in Finland must be secured and their realisation monitored. Sustainable demographic trends must also be ensured by supporting cultural and linguistic cohesion and birth rate.

### *Reducing structural racism, discrimination and violence*

**Bullying, discrimination and inappropriate behaviour are prevented and addressed in early childhood education and care**, schools, educational institutions and workplaces, as well as in leisure and recreational activities. Fundamental and human rights, including the rights of the disabled, are safeguarded by, for example, organising training in accessibility and human rights and by improving physical accessibility. **Peace education and non-violence education** is provided. **Mental health checklists and Kaikukortti cards giving access to cultural services to people of limited means** have been adopted in municipalities. To combat structural discrimination, segregation in the workplace and studies is reduced by means such as increasing multicultural skills, providing effective and equal study guidance, and increasing awareness of the benefits of multiculturalism. **Violence and hate speech targeting women, sexual and gender minorities, the disabled, seniors and ethnic minorities are actively prevented and fought**, and those who have experienced violence are identified and offered help. Places in refuges are available to everyone in need of one. Efforts targeting the drug culture have made drug use less attractive, access to treatment has improved and drug-related harm is on the decrease. In health and social services, offenders are identified and treated as a special group. Efforts are made to prevent repeat crime.

### *Promoting gender equality*

Gender equality is promoted broadly, from early childhood education and care onward. The gender perspective is mainstreamed and made a permanent part of preparations and decision-making. **Pay transparency is promoted** in municipal, state, private and third-sector workplaces to reduce pay gaps. **Legislation is amended to support and secure the rights of minorities**. A more equal **distribution of unpaid care work** is supported through various means. Everyone's right to bodily integrity is emphasised.

### *Promoting children's rights and implementing the child strategy spanning several parliamentary terms*

The Child Strategy prepared by Parliament and spanning several electoral terms supports measures in this area of change. The strategy addresses ways to take children in a vulnerable position into consideration in society. The Child Strategy envisions a Finland where the rights of the child are fully and equally realised in all spheres of society.

**The wellbeing economy approach** links together all the elements of the “Wellbeing, health and social inclusion” area of change. It also connects the area to that of “Economy and work promoting wellbeing and sustainable consumption”.



## 1.4 Food system promoting wellbeing

### 1.4.1 Vision and goals for change

This theme was chosen as an area of change because the food system influences the use of natural resources, the climate, environmental load, land use, biodiversity, as well as the health and wellbeing of humans and animals. It is closely linked to the energy system and the circular economy, for example.



This area of change is connected to the themes of the 2030 Agenda that have been identified as being challenging for Finland: the sustainability of food, food production and the food system (incl. waste), biodiversity, the climate, water use and consumption, as well as the goals and targets related to the consumption of natural resources.

In its roadmap work, the National Commission on Sustainable Development formulated the **following vision for this area of change**:

“In the 2030s, the Finnish food system offers healthy and safe food that has been produced competitively, ethically and sustainably and that is appreciated by consumers. The Finnish food system is profitable, socially just and friendly to the climate and environment. It also operates within our planetary limits. The food system operators (incl. consumers) have collaboratively adapted to the changes in society, nature and the climate.

To make the vision more concrete, the National Commission on Sustainable Development defined the following **goals for this area of change**:

1. The food system's harmful impacts on the climate and environment have reduced, and resource efficiency has improved. Food waste will be halved by 2030<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> The reference year is 2020. The legally binding target for EU Member States will be determined by the end of 2023. Whether the target is common to the entire EU or one allocated to each country (-50%, etc.) will also be specified at this time.

2. The Finnish food system is profitable and competitive. The subsidy and taxation system, as well as public procurement promote the overall sustainability of the food system.
3. Finns follow nutrition guidelines, and the guidelines are in line with the one planet sustainability goals. The food environment, and institutional catering in particular, promote sustainable and healthy diets. Everyone can enjoy meals that are healthy and good for the environment.
4. Food safety and security remain among the world's best and are based on domestic production and domestic resources, including raw materials and energy. The food system also makes sustainable use of other strengths of the Finnish production and operating environment, such as the substantial water reserves.
5. Innovations in the Finnish food system have contributed to the Finnish environmental handprint increasing globally. Research and innovations in the sustainable food system are supported and used to improve global food security.

### 1.4.2 How to effect change

According to the Commission, the move towards the vision and goals will take place through changes that are required to enable a sustainable food system that generates wellbeing and to improve the sustainability of production and consumption. Change will be enabled by research and development, innovations and investments, digitalisation, guidance and education.

## Improving environmental sustainability in the food supply chain

Improving the environmental sustainability of the food supply chain involves all the chain's participants. Key aspects in mitigating negative environmental impacts include reducing climate emissions, focusing on the circular economy of nutrients and materials, managing the strain on water bodies (eutrophication) and increasing biodiversity. Primary production has a considerable impact on environmental impacts due to biological processes and inputs.

### *Reducing climate emissions*

Solutions to the **climate challenges of the entire food system are sought from the measures specified in low-carbon roadmaps**. Low-carbon roadmaps related to sustainable food systems, have been prepared at least by the agricultural sector, the food industry, the commerce sector, as well as the tourism and restaurant sector. Apart from these, the food sector is also influenced by the low-carbon roadmaps of the energy industry, technology industry, transport and logistics, as well as the bioenergy sector. The **sustainability goals** and the quality and sustainability systems of the daily consumer goods trade and the **food industry** also have a major impact on the measures adopted in primary production to achieve environmental sustainability. The food system's climate emissions and the impacts of climate solutions are measured globally and in Finnish conditions.

Most of the climate impacts of food are caused by the soil or directly by animals. More than half of the climate emissions from agriculture come from peatland farming. The fastest reductions could be achieved by focusing on peatland fields. This requires a **broad range of measures to be implemented in peatland fields**, including cultivation techniques, the discontinuance of cultivation in peatlands that have a poor yield, the restoration of peatland fields, the adoption of paludiculture and the afforestation of segments. Solutions that reduce the need to clear ground for new peatland fields are also required. **Climate emissions from farmed animal production must also be reduced**. The carbon sequestration potential of perennial grasslands, animal breeding, the development of feed and feeding, manure storage and utilisation, as well as the further improvement of yield per animal are ways to achieve this. In terms of fish farming, promoting methods and technologies that make efficient use of water and nutrients contribute to a reduction in emissions.

The shift towards a plant-based diet and the continuously growing demand for plant protein influence the production structure of domestic primary production and the processing industry. Ley farming is becoming more diverse through green manuring and biogasification, and the cultivation of other plants is increasing. Attention must be focused on **crop rotation, a diverse selection of plants and soil fertility**, which is promoted by an optimal balance between plant production and livestock farming.

**The EU's common agricultural policy (CAP)** and **the national strategic plan** enable and guide the implementation of measures favourable to the environment and climate in primary production. In addition to CAP, other funding instruments, such as the EU's Just Transition Fund, are needed to ensure that the change is fair.

#### *Promoting biodiversity*

Many of the goals of the EU's biodiversity strategy are related to food production and the field and pasture environment. To support the achievement of biodiversity goals, inputs are needed in the development of biological plant protection, conservation of heritage environments and promotion of the use of targeted and recycled fertilisers. In addition, research is needed to develop biodiversity measurements and include biodiversity in footprint calculations. Apart from primary production, biodiversity must be considered in the sustainability goals and programmes of the processing industry.

#### *Reducing the strain on water bodies*

Measures and investments related to the soil condition and water resources management play a key role in efforts **to reduce the strain on water bodies**. In addition, **water use** must be environmentally sustainable, as well as socially and culturally just. **Responsible water use** must be implemented across the food system and value chains, and concrete instruments such as the voluntary Water Stewardship Commitment can contribute to this.

#### *Shift towards renewable energy, extensive electrification*

The domestic food production chain is dependent on imported energy, which is largely non-renewable. The increased **production and adoption of domestic renewable energy** calls for investments, policy guidance and research to establish distributed production systems (with primary production, processors, commerce, and possibly consumers as energy producers). Cooperation among the chain's operators, farmer networks and the sharing of best practices are increasingly important. The **entire food supply chain** is being electrified rapidly, highlighting the need to secure electricity production. In primary production, **biogas production** is also important to promoting nutrient cycling and the utilisation of manure.

#### *Increasing material and resource efficiency and promoting the circular economy*

Efforts to **improve the material and resource efficiency** of the food system and **to promote the circular economy** are being pursued, such as through voluntary agreements (the food industry's material efficiency commitment and energy efficiency agreements), surveys of estates and the implementation of the food waste roadmap. The utilisation of side streams, related research and new innovations and technologies, as well as the drive towards greater self-sufficiency regarding production inputs boost efficiency and also improve security of supply (food security) and the profitability of production.



Renewable energy consumption and efficient resource use reduce climate emissions and build climate resilience.

#### *New value chains based on domestic protein production*

The creation of **new value chains** (farmers, industry, commerce) based on domestic plant (and fish) protein, coupled with favourable subsidy policy decisions help improve profitability throughout the food supply chain. The education and guidance system will be developed to support the transition and ensure the profitability of value chains.

*Appropriate management and verification of the value chain's environmental and social impacts secure the market access and competitiveness of Finnish food, as well as the **food supply chain's profitability**.*

### **Sustainability shift in food consumption and consumption patterns**

#### *Updated nutrition guidelines reflect the planetary diet*

Changes must also target consumption and consumption patterns. We must update our nutrition guidelines and adapt our eating habits to reflect the planetary diet (increasingly plant-based consumption and reduced consumption of meat) in order to make food consumption and consumption patterns healthier and more sustainable. Public procurement plays an important role in putting nutrition guidelines into practice. The strengths and characteristics of local food supply systems, as well as our food culture, must be considered when implementing nutrition guidelines and providing public food services.

#### *Sustainability goals and criteria for public food services and procurement*

The national procurement strategy sets goals for the public procurement of food and food services. Related criteria have been developed and are being updated. These goals and criteria must be implemented widely in public food services. To improve the sustainability of procurement, we need more information, for example to develop labelling (industry, commerce, parties that manage labelling). Private operators (such as restaurants) also play an important part in promoting sustainable options.

#### *Implementation of the food waste roadmap*

Consumer food waste can be reduced by implementing the measures laid out in the food waste **roadmap**.

#### *Encouraging the agency of consumers*

**Consumers are encouraged to assume an active role by promoting home economics instruction, school meals, as well as consumer and food education among children and young people** as part of the operating culture and guidance of learning

environments. The parties responsible for these activities include early childhood education and care, schools and educational institutions, which cooperate with homes, as well as other public operators, non-profit corporations and companies. Methods and activities are developed as part of the core tasks of education providers, organisations and guidance suppliers, as well as through their cooperation.

### *Product development*

**Product development** (processors, commerce, tourism, restaurants and leisure services) helps create sustainable, healthy and tasty food for different consumer groups. Local food traditions are also introduced into product development. These efforts need support from investments, innovations, marketing communications and campaigns throughout the food supply chain and in the tourism and restaurant sector, for example.

### *Steering consumption towards sustainable choices with taxation and pricing*

**Taxation and pricing** help steer consumption towards sustainable – and healthy – choices. Healthy and sustainably produced food should be accessible to everyone. The food environment at large should support sustainable and healthy eating habits. Attention should be focused on, for example, advertisements of unhealthy foods targeting children and the placement of unhealthy products in stores.

### *Fair value distribution in the food supply chain*

By ensuring a **fair distribution of value throughout the food supply chain**, we promote social and ecological sustainability. Sustainable price formation and the promotion of a fair value distribution call for transparency throughout the food supply chain, equal negotiation positions and close cooperation among the different players (producers, industry, commerce, consumers).

### *Research, innovation, investment, digitalisation and education as enablers*

**Research, innovation and various development measures enable the implementation of these steps of change.** The development of healthy and sustainable food from Finnish protein sources helps satisfy domestic demand, as well as create new export products and improve protein self-sufficiency. What is needed is whole new value chains (research, profitability), product development (processors, commerce, private labels), as well as the development and wide deployment of circular economy solutions. This calls for RDI investments, new funding instruments (e.g. private investment funds) and secure research funding.

**Digitalisation is one of the tools used to carry out change.** The Digital Europe Programme is central to the implementation of smart agriculture and the construction of a smart food supply chain. Data and digital solutions will become increasingly

important, and the rules for distributing data produced in the food supply chain play an important role. The data produced can be utilised, for example, to monitor food safety, environmental sustainability, authenticity and traceability throughout the food system. Technology related to digitalisation is also an export product.

**Guidance and education have an important role** in putting research results into practice. The education and guidance system will be developed to meet the needs of change. Education and guidance strengthen the human capital of participants in the food supply chain. Campaigns, product and other marketing communication (organisations, commerce, industry) are used to provide more information to consumers. Good practices, networks, pilot projects and cooperation in the chain are essential for implementing change, carrying out research projects and distributing information.



## 1.5 Forest, water and land use promoting biodiversity and carbon neutrality



### 1.5.1 Vision and goals for change

Forest, water and land use that promotes diversity and carbon neutrality was chosen as an area of change because the loss of biodiversity endangers the wellbeing of both nature and humans. Finland has not succeeded in stopping the loss of biodiversity despite national and international goals and the efforts made to secure biodiversity. The root causes for biodiversity loss include population growth and increased consumption, which have led to intensive land use and climate change, among other things. In terms of biodiversity, the direction in which consumption habits and production methods develop globally, including in Finland, is of primary concern.

Forest, water and land use that promotes biodiversity and carbon neutrality is linked especially to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda that are challenging to Finland. These are related to freshwater ecosystems and their sustainable use, sustainable forest management, biodiversity, the protection of biodiversity, the integration of biodiversity into planning, as well as the securing of sustainable food systems.

During the early stages of roadmap preparations, the National Commission on Sustainable Development formulated the **following vision for this area of change**:

“In the 2030s, forest, water and land use lies on a sustainable foundation that supports carbon neutrality, the bioeconomy, the circular economy and biodiversity, and nature is on the path to recovery. Finns possess extensive knowledge about nature, and Finland is well positioned in terms of innovative practices, competence and education that support the

wellbeing of nature and people. This is supported by inputs into research, development and innovations. Principles and practices supporting biodiversity, carbon neutrality and adaptation to climate change have been integrated into all public decision-making. The green transition has been implemented in an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable manner. Biodiversity and the sustainable management and use of natural resources have been promoted through cooperation involving various parties by, for example, developing new instruments for coordinating and promoting the protection of biodiversity and the parallel operation of different activities, instead of opting for exclusion and confrontation.”

To make the vision more concrete, the National Commission on Sustainable Development defined the following **goals for this area of change**:

1. Biodiversity is promoted comprehensively, taking different perspectives into consideration in public decision-making. The national transition is implemented jointly with regional and sectoral operators, and the goals and operation have been widely approved. Environmental education and people's nature awareness have been increased, and information campaigns, reports and projects support the bioeconomy and circular economy, carbon neutrality, nutrient recycling, nature conservation, regional biodiversity and residents' experiences of their local nature. Operating conditions have been ensured for education and research related to biodiversity, carbon neutrality and climate change adaptation.
2. Biodiversity aspects are considered alongside other sustainability aspects in all regional and land use planning. Compensation for changes in land use is taken into consideration in the assessment of large projects (including infrastructure, mining, factories). Deforestation has been minimised and carbon is sequestered and stored in forests and the soil, taking biodiversity and water bodies into consideration (e.g. nature management). Nutrient emissions into water bodies are mitigated in line with regional water management plans.
3. The adequacy and continuity of measures to secure biodiversity, such as conservation programmes, has been ensured, and their scope has been increased in accordance with international agreements. Connections between the areas have been strengthened in cooperation with landowners. Funding for existing conservation programmes (Metso, Helmi) has been expanded, and new impactful and cost-effective voluntary measures have been introduced to promote biodiversity. Biodiversity is also promoted with other impactful measures such as nature management.

### 1.5.2 How to effect change

The vision and goals specified by the National Commission on Sustainable Development will be achieved by consistently and comprehensively employing public policy measures, by boosting efforts to curb and adapt to climate change and by increasing knowledge, competence and education related to land use. Forest, water and land use is guided and determined by many different parties in society. What is needed is a strong, joint commitment from cities and municipalities, trade and industry, policymakers and landowners.

## Consistent and comprehensive employment of public policy measures

**Diverse, flexible and adequately comprehensive measures with cost-effective impacts** are required to secure biodiversity. The securing of biodiversity and the drive towards carbon neutrality should be considered as cross-cutting goals in all legislative work. In addition to protection based on legislation, **a multi-objective approach should be applied more emphatically in land use planning** to ensure that the various impacts of land use on, for example, the protection of species, sustainable forest use, bioeconomy and state of habitats, are considered in policymaking. Nature management and restoration measures targeting different habitats and the sustainable development of the cultural environment also contribute to strengthening and ensuring the preconditions for biodiversity. **Connections between natural environments, built environments and cultural environments must be identified** and considered across the board in land use planning and construction, for example.

Alongside legislation and other binding guidance, existing and proven **incentives, as well as practices and models for voluntary protection, nature management and restoration**, such as the Helmi and Metso programmes, should be continued and further strengthened. Measures for promoting biodiversity and voluntary protection should be expanded, and rules should be drawn up for voluntary compensation to ensure the overall benefits from the model. Biodiversity indicators and methods for determining the economic value of nature must be developed so that biodiversity can be better taken into consideration in fiscal planning and impact assessment. The opportunities provided by digitalisation and geospatial data must be seized to promote biodiversity, as well as mitigate and adapt to climate change.

**The impact that subsidies to trade and industry** have on the climate, for example handprint, biodiversity and international competitiveness, must be reviewed regularly and systematically. If required, subsidies and taxation must be reallocated to reduce harmful and boost positive impacts.

**Public procurement** can support the achievement of carbon neutrality and strengthen biodiversity. The impact of public procurement on biodiversity must be further explored and public procurement guidelines and competence strengthened so that positive impacts on biodiversity (handprint) can be achieved through procurement.

**Cities and municipalities** play a key role in regional decision-making and guidance concerning forest, water and land use. The state must provide municipalities with adequate support for successful biodiversity and carbon neutrality efforts. It is also important to ensure that the policy mechanisms between municipalities and the state, as well as the regulatory environment support municipalities' work.

## Strengthening knowledge, competence and education

**Research on the state of biodiversity and impact mechanisms**, as well as research-based decision-making, are prerequisites for promoting biodiversity and carbon neutrality. Decision-making must be supported by research-based knowledge to ensure the achievement of a good ecological state and the biodiversity goals in different habitats and populations, such as forests and water bodies, and to determine the impacts on human wellbeing, education and food security. It is also important to evaluate natural capital for decision-making purposes. Research related to renewable natural resource use and funding for long-term environmental follow-up must be secured.

To ensure that land use promotes biodiversity and carbon neutrality, additional information and research is needed on **the biodiversity and climate impacts of different forms of land use**. This is important for ensuring that public policy measures promote and encourage the adoption of methods with the greatest impact and cost-effectiveness in terms of biodiversity and carbon neutrality, for example in agriculture and forestry.

**As part of education promoting sustainable development, focus must also be placed on environmental education**, which should be strengthened throughout the education system, starting from early childhood education and care. The implementation of curricula items related to education promoting sustainable development must also be supported by providing education as equally as possible throughout Finland. The economy's dependence on well-functioning ecosystems must be further underlined. The concept of ecosocial education is one of the tools used. Knowledge and competence concerning links between biodiversity, the built environment and climate change must also be strengthened.

**The development programme for sustainable development and green transition** (2022–2023) will help vocational education move towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable future. The goal is to draw up a sustainability roadmap for vocational education, providing a framework for the definition of local goals and measures.

## Joint commitment

Through their land use planning, traffic planning and construction, **cities and municipalities** can substantially influence the local achievement of biodiversity and carbon neutrality. Forest, water and land use that promotes biodiversity and carbon neutrality calls for a strong commitment from cities and municipalities and adequate support for the adoption of solutions and methods that boost carbon neutrality and biodiversity. Cities and municipalities have an important responsibility and a challenging

task in coordinating various land use needs and ensuring a clear, transparent and predictable operating environment and decision-making procedure.

**Trade and industry** can actively support the achievement of biodiversity and carbon neutrality in their operations. The low-carbon roadmaps of different sectors have demonstrated the success of voluntary planning carried out by operators themselves. When updating the low-carbon roadmaps, it is worth considering whether the biodiversity perspective could be integrated into them or whether industry-specific roadmaps should be drawn up to identify the impacts on nature and to strengthen biodiversity. Sustainability programmes have also proved to be a good way to examine and strengthen biodiversity and carbon neutrality efforts in individual industries.

Biodiversity, carbon neutrality and land use are also addressed in many strategies and acts under preparation (e.g. the Mining Act, Nature Conservation Act, Climate Act and forest strategy). The biodiversity and carbon neutrality impacts of legislation should be systematically examined during the drafting of bills and their review in Parliament. Strong **parliamentary commitment** is required to put a stop to biodiversity loss and to take this goal into consideration in all policymaking.



## 1.6 Sustainable energy system

### 1.6.1 Vision and goals for change



This theme was chosen as an area of change because the energy sector accounts for approximately 75% of Finland's greenhouse gas emissions. A quarter of the energy sector's emissions originate in electricity and heat production, where greenhouse gas emissions were halved in the 2010s. Another quarter comes from transport. These emissions have not seen much of a decrease. Peat use has considerable impacts on the climate and environment. Bioenergy is renewable and improves security of supply, but it also affects biodiversity. In addition to the move towards carbon neutrality, the energy system is undergoing other significant changes, which include new opportunities for producing and storing energy, improved energy efficiency of buildings and a rapidly rising share of electricity in energy use. Changes in energy production and use have societal impacts, which can lead to changes in trade and industry, as well as energy prices. Changes in trade and industry are linked to changes in employment and employees' new competence and training needs. Compliance with the principle of a just transition improves the social sustainability of the energy transition. In addition, consumers are expected to be more competent in energy issues and to show greater involvement.



This area of change is linked especially to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda that are challenging to Finland. They concern the mitigation of climate change, sustainable natural resource use, sustainable business operations, the development and renewal of a sustainable infrastructure, an increase in the share of renewable energy, and a safe and sustainable transport system.

In its roadmap work, the National Commission on Sustainable Development formulated the following vision for this area of change:

“Finland has adopted renewable and emissions-free energy and largely given up the use of fossil-based energy. Sectoral integration, improved energy efficiency, well-functioning energy markets, as well as the development of stocks and demand response secure adequate self-sufficiency as part of the European system and ensure the security of supply and delivery reliability of energy in all of Finland and to all population groups. Finland is a proactive frontrunner that offers cutting-edge solutions to global energy-sector challenges and the commercialisation and export of new technologies, as well as for supporting developing countries. Finland continues to develop its competence and seizes the opportunities offered by digital services, the participation of citizens and the latest research.”

To make the vision more concrete, the National Commission on Sustainable Development defined the following **goals for this area of change**:

1. Finland no longer uses any coal in its energy production and consumption, and it has substantially reduced its consumption of fossil oil and gas, including in transport. Energy efficiency and energy conservation have been improved markedly. In 2030, the energy system's greenhouse gas emissions have been cut to half compared with 2020.
2. The production of wind and solar electricity, as well as environmental and geothermal energy has multiplied, and most of the final energy consumption is based on renewable energy. Renewable energy is used to produce hydrogen and synthetic fuels.
3. Finland is adequately self-sufficient in energy production and distribution as part of the European energy system and markets, and energy transfer and storage (including heat) meet the changing needs of energy production and use.
4. Energy users play an increasingly big part in flexible energy supply and are also taking on a bigger role as producers and storers. Social inclusion and justice can be seen in the citizens' opportunities to actively participate in the energy system.

5. Finland is a stable and predictable environment for investments that generate climate benefits. Adequate RDI investments support new innovations and technologies, and the development of competence and education also incorporates the management of new energy systems.

### 1.6.2 How to effect change

According to the Commission, the move towards the vision and goals will happen through the implementation of technologies supporting the energy transition, the renewal of regulation and taxation, the facilitation of emissions-free transport and increased support for innovation and RDI. The EU's climate package (Fit for 55) contains a host of measures that support the energy transition, and its goals also spur the national work carried out in Finland. A sustainable energy system promotes equality among citizens and strengthens their role as energy producers and storers. The package also encourages companies to continue to invest in low-carbon energy systems and pursue their climate goals. Attention must be focused on the employees in fields affected by the sustainability transition in the energy system. To ensure that the transition is socially sustainable, the employees must be provided with adequate training and support for dealing with changes in the industry and job descriptions.

## **Current technology paths will ensure a successful energy transition**

### ***Changes in the use of energy sources***

The production of wind and solar power as well as ambient and geothermal energy will increase substantially throughout the 2030s, replacing carbon, fossil gas and oil, and peat as energy sources. The fifth nuclear power plant will be connected to the grid, and existing hydroelectric power will be enhanced.

### ***Changes in energy systems***

The improved competitiveness of new solutions will accelerate change. Major changes will take place in consumption: Demand response systems and services will be mainstreamed after the current piloting and startup phase in electricity and heat consumption. People will increasingly generate energy for their own use. Automation and remote control will become more common in the energy use of buildings, and district and zone heating systems will be renewed. The use of biomass for energy will decline, even though bioenergy will continue to play an important role in the energy system until 2030. It is crucial to secure the adequacy of biomass and its resource-efficient use in the bioeconomy and in energy production. To secure its adequacy, forms of heat production that are not based on combustion must be developed.

### ***Emissions-free transport will be achieved through the transport infrastructure's renewal***

The expanding charging infrastructure and the positive international trends in the availability and pricing of electric vehicles will enable the speed and range of public transport, especially rail transport, to be increased and the passenger car fleet to be rapidly electrified. The acquisition and use of emissions-free vehicles and work machinery in urban environments will be promoted with subsidies and policy measures. Heavy traffic, maritime and air transports will be provided with renewable-fuel and electrical solutions, and the charging and distribution infrastructure will be strengthened. The need for private vehicle traffic will be reduced through programmes focusing on pedestrian and bicycle traffic, public transport options and innovative distribution services and other services.

### ***Finland contributes to the implementation of the EU's climate package (Fit for 55)***

The legislative proposals in the EU climate package (Fit for 55) will have a considerable impact on the Finnish energy sector in this decade. They will affect the structure of the emissions trading, effort sharing and LULUCF sectors and will raise the price of carbon substantially. The package contains 12 legislative proposals on climate, transport, energy and taxation matters. To enhance the steering effect of climate legislation, amendments are proposed to the EU emissions trading scheme, the Effort Sharing Regulation and the LULUCF Regulation concerning the land use sector. In the field of energy legislation, amendments are proposed to the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive. Transport legislation will be revised as concerns the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive and the regulation on CO<sub>2</sub> emission performance standards for

passenger cars and vans. The Commission also proposes a revision of the Energy Taxation Directive. New initiatives include the proposed carbon border adjustment mechanism, the proposals to boost renewable fuels in aviation and maritime transport, as well as the proposed establishment of a social climate fund.

### The role of research, innovation and consumers

*Funding for research, development and innovation will be raised to four per cent of GDP, and RDI programmes will support especially the low-carbon efforts carried out in different sectors.*

Corporate funding and the potential of higher education institutions and research institutes will be taken into consideration in the allocation of RDI funding. Funding must be as flexible as possible, also including instruments to support intelligent control systems, digitalisation and new technologies (such as power-to-x) and develop their export potential. New initiatives, such as demonstrations of synthetic fuels, small-scale nuclear energy and carbon-negative technologies are embraced with an open mind. The opportunities provided by international RDI programmes (including those of the EU) will be seized in operations, and participation in such programmes will be enabled by removing any national obstacles in place.

### Active role of energy users

Energy users will be encouraged to participate more actively in small-scale production, flexible services, energy efficiency investments and the funding of investments required for the energy shift, both as individuals and as part of energy communities.

### Public guidance and advice

*Energy taxation will be revised and energy efficiency requirements will be made more stringent*

**Energy taxation will be revised** to enable profitable electrification of energy, flexible markets and storage, as well as encourage citizens, municipalities and trade and industry to generate renewable energy. Energy efficiency requirements will be tightened, and the relevant incentives improved.

### *Harmonisation of regional and municipal regulation and permit procedures*

**Regulation concerning energy production will be developed** to eliminate regional and municipal differences in regulation and permit procedures. All parties will have timely access to transparent information regarding the transfer and pricing of electricity, and pricing will be fair to everyone. Regulation on renewable energy production will be relaxed, and the main grid will prepare for new technology and electrification.

### *Active guidance and communication*

In the rapidly progressing energy shift, it is important that citizens and policymakers base their actions on accurate information and the best available estimates of future development, also in the medium and long term. This requires information collection to be developed and resourced. **Active guidance and communications, and the distribution of topical and unbiased information to users and policymakers** ensure a well-balanced discussion of energy matters in politics and the media.

### *Stable and predictable environment for investments generating climate benefits*

All the topics and measures discussed in this section help create a stable, predictable and encouraging operating environment. The operating environment must be attractive to various companies, investors and public entities and encourage them to invest in Finland to provide services and solutions that promote climate benefits.



## 2 Support for the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda



The six areas of change discussed in this roadmap address Finland's national sustainability challenges. However, Finland is in many ways also part of the global system and community. Our shared natural systems (such as the climate system and ecosystems) function across state borders, and our global economic structures require a cross-border approach to many questions concerning the economy and wellbeing. By entering into international agreements, we have shown our commitment to promoting multilateral cooperation in the world. Therefore, it is impossible to limit the discussion on solutions and problems related to sustainable development to Finland alone.

In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, each country contributes to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. The goals can be achieved globally if each country achieves them nationally. Finland emphasises the importance of every country moving towards this goal. For the same reason, Finland strives to credibly achieve the goals. It is all about assuming global responsibility.

It is also in Finland's interests to be part of international cooperation aimed at solving sustainability challenges. By allocating Finnish competence and resources to solving global problems we can also strengthen the competence and operating conditions of Finnish players. Finland is known as a competent, practical, solutions-oriented country and a frontrunner in sustainable development. By being part of the global solutions to sustainability challenges we will continue to boost our international position.

## 2.1 The vision and linkage to the 2030 Agenda goals

During the 2016 revision of “The Finland we want by 2050 – Society’s Commitment to Sustainable Development”, the Commission on Sustainable Development formulated Finland’s global responsibility in the following way:

“Finland is in a position to assume a pioneering role in the efforts to solve shared global problems. By offering sustainable solutions across the world and ensuring, for its own part, that sustainable procedures are duly complied with in global production chains, Finland can make a major contribution to sustainable development. The effect of this contribution will be more far-reaching than if it was limited to Finland alone. Global responsibility calls for a sense of fairness: through its actions, Finland must ensure that others retain their potential for sustainable development and the resulting security and peace. In the international context, we will focus on the forms of cooperation that create demand for Finland’s expertise and that allow us to make a difference and generate added value also locally. Finland honours its obligations under international conventions and commitments.”

This vision from 2016 is still relevant.

Support for the global achievement of the 2030 Agenda is linked to all the sustainable development goals. Special attention should be given to goals 16 and 17, concerning the promotion of peaceful societies and stable and accountable institutions, access to justice, support for the implementation of sustainable development and the promotion of global partnership.

## 2.2 Practical implementation

Finland’s support to the global achievement of the 2030 Agenda builds on an impactful foreign and security policy, successful development policy and development cooperation, influencing through the EU, as well as activities that promote the development and regulation of the private sector. The activities of NGOs and the civil society have a big impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### *Foreign and Security Policy and influencing through the EU*

Through its foreign and security policy, Finland provides safety and security, answers global challenges and works for a safe and just world, taking a broad perspective on safety and security. Finland participates in international cooperation to preserve peace, safeguard human rights and develop societies. The goal is to make the world a safer, more stable and predictable place. Finland also promotes the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the EU's common foreign and security policy, development policy and trade policy.

### *Foreign and security policy that strengthens development and a multilateral approach*

According to the Government Report on Finnish Foreign and Security Policy, Finland's goals in this field include promoting foreign and security policy cooperation, strengthening multilateral cooperation, sharing global responsibilities and building peace. Finland emphasises the importance of human rights, climate change mitigation, global health security, sustainable development and migration questions.

### *Influencing the EU's common foreign and security policy, development policy and trade policy*

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union seeks to protect the EU's common values, preserve peace, strengthen democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, as well as reinforce the EU's internal and external security.

The European Consensus on Development, adopted in 2017, primarily aims to reduce poverty. The Consensus is structured around the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Active participation in the EU's development policymaking offers Finland greater opportunities than its size alone would merit to influence the future of international development policy and development work around the world. EU Member States, including Finland, also invest in development efforts at the country level with the Commission's Representations to improve the success and impact of the EU's development cooperation.

Finland seeks to influence trade policy through the EU's trade policy. The Commission issued a communication on trade policy in February 2021 (an open, sustainable and assertive trade policy), in which it proposes the following medium-term objectives for trade policy: the recovery of the EU economy and its transformation in line with the goals of the green and digital transitions, strengthening the multilateral trade system and supporting sustainable development goals, as well as increasing the EU's capacity to pursue its interests and enforce its rights. Finland wants to reinforce the binding nature of the sustainable development goals included in the EU's trade agreements. Trade and investment agreements must not prevent Member States from drafting non-discriminatory legislation on the protection of health, consumer protection, social protection, the protection of workers or environmental protection.



According to the Government Report on EU Policy, the EU must maintain its central role in development policy and humanitarian aid, as well as global leadership in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. The role of the EU's development policy must be acknowledged better in the EU's external action, and the coordination of the Member States' development policy should be improved by adopting the Team Europe approach. The EU's common external action financing instrument (Global Europe) should be linked to the EU's external action more strongly.

### *International cooperation in different administrative branches*

In accordance with the Government Rules of Procedure, each ministry handles the international matters concerning its branch. Several administrative branches engage in active international cooperation, contributing to the international achievement of sustainable development goals and the 2030 Agenda.

### *Successful development policy and development cooperation*

According to the Report on Development Policy Across Parliamentary Terms, development policy refers to Finland's consistent activities in all the sectors of international cooperation and national policy that have an impact on the status of developing countries. Eradicating poverty and reducing inequality are the internationally agreed key goals of development cooperation.

### *Effectiveness in the development policy priorities and cross-cutting objectives*

The Report on Development Policy Across Parliamentary Terms specifies the following areas as Finland's development policy priorities: the rights of women and girls; training and education; sustainable economy and decent work; peaceful, democratic societies; and climate change, biodiversity and sustainable management and use of natural resources. The cross-cutting objectives that Finland promotes in its development policy are gender equality, non-discrimination, climate resilience and low emission development, as well as protection of the environment, with an emphasis on safeguarding biodiversity. Effective action in the development policy priorities and cross-cutting objectives help developing countries achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Development policy also helps Finland achieve its own 2030 Agenda goals, such as those related to strengthening a fair transition in global food supply chains.

### *Mobilising the resources of developing countries, taxation competence and support*

The goal of Finnish development policy and development cooperation is to strengthen developing countries' own capacity and resilience. The countries' ownership, needs and national plans play a key role in this. Finland allocates resources to achieving systemic changes that strengthen the partner country's, as well as its society's and communities'

opportunities and ability to secure the wellbeing and income of people better and more sustainably. Finland's Taxation for Development Action Programme (2020–2023) supports developing countries' efforts to strengthen their tax systems and have a say in global tax policy negotiations. Another goal is to ensure that companies supported with development cooperation funding comply with the criteria for tax responsibility and transparency.

### *Actions based on partnership*

Finland strives to play a bigger role than its size suggests by strengthening domestic and foreign partnerships and actively seeking complementarity and synergies between the various forms of policy, action and support. All activities involve assessments of how Finnish competencies and strengths can generate added value in development cooperation. Key domestic partners in development policy and cooperation include civil society, the private sector and companies, higher education institutions, institutions in the education sector and research institutes. In turn, key international partners include partner countries in bilateral development cooperation, the Nordic countries, the EU, the UN and multilateral organisations, as well as international development finance institutions.

### *Cooperation in the private sector, harnessing of technology and innovation*

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs supports Finnish companies' partnerships and business opportunities in developing countries. The goal is to promote economic, social and environmental development in the partner countries. Various forms of funding for companies are available. The main funding providers are Finnfund, a development funding company, Finnpartnership, a business partnership programme, and the public sector investment facility (PIF) for developing countries. The Developing Markets Platform (DevPlat) a joint platform of Business Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, provides innovation funding for business operations that comply with the UN's sustainable development goals. Finland develops funding instruments and cooperation models that support cooperation involving companies, research and the civil society (in Finland and globally) aimed at achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries.

Technology and innovations offer significant opportunities for promoting development. According to a report (TuVJ 5/2020) by the Committee for the Future, a standing committee of the Finnish Parliament, all the goals of the 2030 Agenda offer considerable technological opportunities. Finland should ensure that new and radical technologies also support developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Finland has worked actively to strengthen links between digital activities, innovations and sustainable development. The increasing efforts of UN actors in Finland also offer opportunities to support developing countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### *Level of development cooperation funding*

Achieving the sustainable development goals requires finance inputs many times greater than those enabled by public financing for development cooperation. Nevertheless, official development assistance is an important component of overall development financing. It can help solve some of the most complex development challenges where no other financing is available. It can also be used to promote the allocation of other financial flows to sustainable development and enable sustainable investments in more challenging circumstances. In the UN, Finland is committed to allocating 0.7% of GNI to development cooperation and 0.2% of GNI to the least developed countries. According to the Report on Development Policy Across Parliamentary Terms, Finland's development cooperation funding must be increased systematically and gradually over several parliamentary terms to achieve the UN objective. The target year for achieving the 0.7% level is 2030. The goal is to achieve the 0.2% target for the least developed countries as soon as possible.

### *Operations of the private sector*

The private sector and companies have a significant impact on the global achievement of the sustainable development goals in the 2030 Agenda. This impact emerges primarily through global value chains and through companies' own operations.

### *Identifying the impacts of global value chains and increasing the handprint*

Global value chains are exceptionally important in the domestic and international operations of Finnish companies. Most Finnish companies operate sustainably in international comparison. They can improve and strengthen the sustainability of global value chains through their presence and cooperation. Companies increasingly consider sustainability to be a competitive advantage and a prerequisite for long-term successful business. More and more stakeholders, including customers, employees and investors, demand that companies operate sustainably. This encourages Finnish companies to address sustainability in the global value chains. Sustainable operations must also be promoted through regulation: the drafting of corporate responsibility legislation based on due diligence is of primary importance in boosting the sustainability of global value chains.

### *Accumulating value in developing countries*

Finnish companies play an important role in the social stability and economic development of developing countries. Companies promote the economic activities of developing countries by engaging in foreign trade and investing locally. Promoting private sustainable investments in developing countries is key to creating effective, modern development policy and financing and decent jobs, reducing poverty, improving equality and mitigating the consequences of climate change. For example, solutions for clean

energy production, as well as climate financing that advances such solutions are crucial to the climate efforts of developing markets. From the perspective of developing countries, it is important to boost the role of development financing that promotes Finnish private investments as part of development policy at large. In terms of the progress of developing countries and the operating conditions of Finnish companies, developing countries' own business must also be strengthened.

### Activities of non-governmental organisations and the civil society

Through their activities, non-governmental organisations help solve development problems and reduce poverty and inequality in developing countries. Their local and field knowledge are an important part of Finnish development policy and Finland's support for the global achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

A free, independent civil society and freedom of speech are key elements of a peaceful, stable and wellbeing society, also in developing countries. Civil society's ability to highlight problems and propose solutions is an important prerequisite for the wellbeing and democratic development of societies. This gives Finnish non-governmental organisations a particularly important role in supporting the status and operating conditions of civil society in developing countries, as well as in promoting universal human rights in the countries.

## 3 Cross-cutting principles guiding implementation

The areas of change discussed in this roadmap describe how we can achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. They approach concrete measures and steps of change from a systemic perspective.

We also need a shared understanding of how we implement the measures identified in each area of change.

In Finland, sustainability efforts have been guided by the policy principles included in the present strategy of the National Commission on Sustainable Development. The government has also adopted largely the same principles in its implementation plan (the 2030 Agenda reports for 2017 and 2020). These policy principles depict the Finnish approach: how Finnish society promotes the sustainable development goals.

### 3.1 Five cross-cutting principles

The following principles that cut across all six areas of change were chosen to guide implementation in this 2030 Agenda roadmap.

#### 3.1.1 Ensuring justice, equal treatment and gender equality

Experienced justice is a prerequisite for long-term decision-making that relies on inclusion. The experience of justice is based on a good balance of rights, responsibilities and obligations and on being equally acknowledged in decision-making. Equal treatment means that everyone is equal in value, regardless of individual characteristics. In an equal society, genders have the same rights and opportunities, and power and resources are distributed equitably.

To ensure justice, equal treatment and gender equality when implementing sustainability shifts means decisions must be prepared equally and inclusively. People can experience the decisions resulting from such an approach to be fair even though they have different impacts on different people or groups.

A persistent, proactive and systematic approach to decision-making supports the achievement of justice. Sustainable development requires fairness and solidarity across generations. To achieve intergenerational justice, we must focus on protecting nature and the environment and on respecting the limits of the world's carrying capacity.

### **3.1.2 Fostering inclusion throughout society**

To successfully implement systemic sustainability shifts, we must examine sustainability issues from a systemic perspective, the key players must gain a shared understanding of the problems and potential solutions, and we must engage in social dialogue to encourage a sense of ownership and a drive to be part of the solution. Inclusion emerges from the drive to be part of the solution, which builds on a sense of ownership, and from the ability to carry out practical measures promoting the solution.

### **3.1.3 Focusing attention on those in a weaker position (Leave no one behind, LNOB)**

Special attention on the most vulnerable is one of the main principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This means identifying the groups and individuals who will suffer particular disadvantages or who are at risk of being left behind in development due to the implementation of sustainability shifts, as well as agreeing on the appropriate special measures to support these groups and individuals. The LNOB principle must be taken into consideration in both national and global sustainable development efforts.

Globally, the LNOB principle means focusing special attention on developing countries and the poorest and most vulnerable people there, including children and adolescents.

### **3.1.4 Safeguarding perseverance and policy coherence**

Carrying out sustainability shifts calls for persistent, long-term policymaking. In politics, this means reaching a consensus on the key sustainability questions and the related goals through democratic processes, spanning several parliamentary terms. Long-term policies set the field for decisions and actions that promote sustainability in society at large.

Policy coherence helps ensure synergies between different policy sectors, identify (and solve) conflicts, as well as coordinate national and international goals. The impacts of national policies on other countries and future generations are also considered.

### 3.1.5 Shouldering global responsibility

Global responsibility must be ensured when implementing sustainability shifts. This means minimising the negative external impacts (footprint) and maximising the positive external impacts (handprint) from Finland's activities. Global responsibility requires decision-making and operations to be assessed from this perspective. The goal is to ensure that solving sustainability challenges in Finland also strengthens other countries' abilities and resources to solve similar challenges, or at least does not undermine them.

Finland shoulders its global responsibility in different ways and throughout society. One of the key ways is to help developing countries, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, build their ability to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda through a coherent development policy and development cooperation, as well as partnerships that straddle several administrative branches. Finnish participants provide models for sustainable solutions, comply with the principles of corporate social responsibility and make sustainable investments in developing markets.

## 3.2 Examples of the practical application of cross-cutting principles

During the roadmap's preparation, discussions were conducted on the importance of the cross-cutting principles for the areas of change and on the concrete questions arising from their adoption in each area of change.

These questions and observations will be discussed next. The examples described on the following pages highlight the aspects to be considered when implementing the roadmap to ensure compliance with the cross-cutting principles. However, this is not an exhaustive list. Each operator is responsible for continuously assessing whether changes are being carried out in accordance with the cross-cutting principles and what aspects adherence to the principles concretely focuses on.

### Economy and work promoting wellbeing and sustainable consumption

**Ensuring justice, equal treatment and gender equality in this area requires that:**

- Policymakers and large employers actively communicate the impacts of sustainability shifts in society and at workplaces so that citizens, entrepreneurs and employees can adapt to the changes.

- Special attention is focused on equal treatment and gender equality in the workplace, and these aspects are promoted through various measures, such as anonymous recruiting and pay transparency.
- The external impacts of production are made visible in the economy, and environmental impacts are taken into consideration in the price of products and services.

**Fostering inclusion throughout society in this area requires that:**

- Companies, employees and citizens understand the impacts that structural changes in the economy have on their activities and possess the required knowledge and financial means to prepare for changes.
- Citizens can participate in the development of their neighbourhoods, such as through inclusive budgeting.
- Special attention is placed on the integration and employment of immigrants.

**Complying with the “leave no one behind” principle in this area requires that:**

- The ability of employees and entrepreneurs to deal with changes in the workplace and economic structure brought about by sustainability shifts are ensured.
- The financial impacts of guidance aimed at ensuring sustainable consumption and reducing environmental load and overconsumption do not excessively target those in the weakest position.

**Safeguarding perseverance and policy coherence in this area requires that:**

- The wellbeing economy and circular economy are developed with a long-term approach across several parliamentary terms.
- Economic policy instruments are employed consistently and the appropriateness of, for example, subsidies harmful to the environment is assessed continuously.
- Political decisions and communication build a stable and predictable operating environment for different sectors and industries.
- The perspective of sustainable development is emphasised in Budget preparations.
- Trade, investment, financial, and tax policies take into consideration the impact that Finland's stance has on developing countries and the achievement of development goals.



**Shouldering global responsibility in this area requires that:**

- Societal dialogue is encouraged concerning consumption and the ensuing global impacts, as well as conflicts between these. The ability to measure such impacts is strengthened.
- More attention is focused on the global value chains of production and consumption, as well as on the resulting negative impacts, and measures are adopted to reduce them (footprint, corporate social responsibility legislation).
- Positive impacts are generated through global value chains and made visible (handprint) through certified environmental labels, for example.
- The rule-based international system is reinforced, and the accumulation of value in developing countries is boosted.

**Education, competence and sustainable lifestyles**

**Ensuring justice, equal treatment and gender equality in this area requires that:**

- Equal access to education and training is ensured in society and the workplace.
- Everyone can educate themselves and increase their competence through the education system, as well as through hobbies and civic activities.

**Fostering inclusion throughout society in this area requires that:**

- Sustainability shifts and the future are described in a positive vein, encouraging people to contribute to a more sustainable society.
- Systematic policy measures are adopted to help people favour sustainable lifestyles and make sustainable choices. People's experience of a meaningful life and their experienced wellbeing are linked to sustainable lifestyles.
- Support is offered to cultural, exercise, youth, education, leisure and civic activities, which increase the opportunities for participation on a wide scale.
- The competence of the art and culture sector is used widely in different fields of society.
- Social innovations and peer activities are supported to strengthen the civil society.
- Greater use is made of inclusive planning processes that help integrate, commit and inspire residents to engage in local activities.

**Complying with the “leave no one behind” principle in this area requires that:**

- Special support is provided to those in the weakest position in both the education system and hobbies and leisure activities.
- The segregation trend in learning is brought to an end in the formal education system (including gendered learning differences and segregation among schools).
- Attention is focused on the educational needs of the ageing population.

**Safeguarding perseverance and policy coherence in this area requires that:**

- Guidance in the education system is long-term in nature. The contents of curricula and other education are prepared and implemented in the long term and in cooperation with other stakeholders in society (including trade and industry).
- The autonomy and freedom of education system participants and education providers (e.g. higher education institutions) are preserved.
- RDI funding is strengthened.
- Adequate resources are secured for early childhood education and care, teaching, education and the third sector.
- Continuous learning is strengthened and supported at different levels of education and in civic activities.

**Shouldering global responsibility in this area requires that:**

- The importance of global responsibility and the global impacts of operations are emphasised in early childhood education and care, teaching and education. The concept of ecosocial education is used as a tool in this.
- Support is provided for science and research in developing countries.
- The media handles global questions broadly and from various perspectives.

**Wellbeing, health and social inclusion****Ensuring justice, equal treatment and gender equality in this area requires that:**

- People have equal access to health and wellbeing services regardless of their place of residence.
- Equal opportunities to participate in leisure and civic activities are supported across Finland.
- People's capacity for change is supported (e.g. by offering practical assistance for shifting to a plant-based diet).

- Efforts are made to ensure non-discrimination in health and wellbeing services and in social participation.
- Accessibility is ensured.
- Support is offered to secure a diverse and pluralistic civil society, which is linked to peace and democratic development.

**Fostering inclusion throughout society in this area requires that:**

- Emphasis is placed on efforts to prevent exclusion, starting from early childhood education and care.
- Experiments and processes promoting participation are increased in municipalities and cities.
- Local civic activism and grassroots activities are supported, and the general operating conditions of the civil society are strengthened. More opportunities are offered for people to participate in decision-making (e.g. the hearing of citizens in law drafting). Equal opportunities to participate are ensured, taking into consideration special groups and special needs. Among other things, this means working actively to eradicate structural racism and preventing exclusion. The earnest inclusion of younger generations is of particular importance in this respect. This calls for structures and operating methods that encourage the hearing of children and adolescents and boost their participation.
- Everyone has an adequate understanding of the democratic system and its institutions. More and more citizens participate in regional (e.g. the county elections in wellbeing services counties) and national decision-making.

**Complying with the “leave no one behind” principle in this area requires that:**

- The intergenerational cycle of inequality is broken to ensure that everyone can participate in societal activities and decision-making.
- Services are targeted to groups and individuals at a special risk of being left behind in development.
- People on low incomes are also provided with opportunities for carbon-neutral housing, transport and eating, enabling them to participate in the transition.
- Special attention is placed on securing the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of disabled people, sexual and gender minorities, seniors, indigenous people, asylum seekers and migrants.
- The digital inclusion of all population groups is secured.

**Safeguarding perseverance and policy coherence in this area requires that:**

- New indicators and methods for measuring wellbeing are developed.
- The practical implementation of the health and social services reform and the social security reform is ensured.
- The sustainability of public finances is secured so that health and wellbeing services can also be provided in the future.

**Shouldering global responsibility in this area requires that:**

- The health and wellbeing of those globally in the most vulnerable position as well as their right to participate in decisions concerning their health and body are strengthened by means of international cooperation and foreign, security and development policy.
- Preparations for major challenges affecting health, the economy and societies, such as health security threats, are made in multilateral cooperation involving the various sectors of society. Global health security requires adequate preparation and response capacity everywhere.
- The significance of health, wellbeing and social security as elements of a well-functioning society and stable democracy is considered, where possible, in investments and prioritisations related to development cooperation.
- The status and fundamental and human rights of women, children and other vulnerable people are improved by strengthening the basic healthcare system and increasing the services offered.
- The operating conditions of the civil society are boosted internationally.

**Food system promoting wellbeing**

**Ensuring justice, equal treatment and gender equality in this area requires that:**

- The adequate livelihood of parties linked to the food system is ensured.
- Measures are adopted to ensure that the jobs created in response to changes in the food system are fair to all parties involved and that local food production is profitable.
- The financial incentives to agriculture, information guidance and the development of RDI activities in agricultural technology can help strengthen a just transition in agriculture.

**Fostering inclusion throughout society in this area requires that:**

- Information about the origins and production of food is available to consumers so that consumers can make sustainable food-related choices.

**Complying with the “leave no one behind” principle in this area requires that:**

- Sustainable food choices are available to everyone. For example, the pricing of plant-based products must take into account everybody's chances of buying healthy, sustainably produced food, and the appropriate policy instruments must be adopted to promote this goal.
- The entire food environment supports the transition to more sustainable and healthier eating habits.
- Food knowledge and appreciation are strengthened so that everyone is well versed in eating and nutrition that promote wellbeing.
- The EU's trade and agricultural policies support food security in developing countries.

**Safeguarding perseverance and policy coherence in this area requires that:**

- A stable and predictable food (and agricultural) policy, legislation and incentive mechanisms are developed.
- Long-term (and flexible) agreements are in place for primary production, the food industry and trade, and the participants are committed to them.
- Domestic food security is maintained (high degree of self-sufficiency, security of supply).

**Shouldering global responsibility in this area requires that:**

- The achievement of food self-sufficiency is supported and developing countries' dependence on imported food is reduced.
- The global ecological footprint of food production is reduced to stay within the limits of the world's carrying capacity.
- The use of quality and responsibility systems is promoted in company operations throughout the production chain, and such systems are taken into consideration in trade agreements and legislation.

## Forest, water and land use promoting biodiversity and carbon neutrality

### **Ensuring justice, equal treatment and gender equality in this area requires that:**

- Landowners' rights are safeguarded in connection with land use planning.
- Open discussions are conducted concerning the right to land and the responsibility to maintain nature's ecosystem services.
- The rights of the Sámi and their opportunities to exercise their culture and pursue their livelihood are secured.

### **Fostering inclusion throughout society in this area requires that:**

- Residents are included in the processes concerning their neighbourhood and surroundings.
- Landowners experience a sense of ownership that arises from the opportunity to participate in and influence the preparation of land-use measures that support biodiversity and carbon neutrality.
- Previous biodiversity measures in agriculture and forestry are highlighted.
- People are offered the opportunity to participate in work promoting biodiversity, such as the collection of nature information (nature surveys).

### **Complying with the "leave no one behind" principle in this area requires that:**

- The opportunities of the Sámi to pursue their traditional livelihoods are secured.
- Guidance and training are offered to ensure that landowners have the required competence and resources to use methods promoting biodiversity and carbon neutrality in farming and forestry, for example.

### **Safeguarding perseverance and policy coherence in this area requires that:**

- Carbon neutrality and the safeguarding of biodiversity are addressed comprehensively and consistently in legislative preparations.
- Attention is focused on reinforcing ecological sustainability in all decision-making concerning land use.
- Land use is planned and carried out with a long-term approach across administrative branches.

**Shouldering global responsibility in this area requires that:**

- Awareness is increased about the global impacts of land use on the climate, environment and water resources (e.g. the role of production in eroding soil quality and in desertification).
- The national implementation of the UN Biodiversity Convention and the achievement of its goals are ensured.
- Further emphasis is placed on the joint examination of biodiversity, climate change and human rights in both Finnish and international cooperation.

**Sustainable energy system**

**Ensuring justice, equal treatment and gender equality in this area requires that:**

- The enforcement of the rights of the Sámi is ensured and attention is given to local communities in infrastructure projects.
- The impacts that changes in the energy system have on employment and jobs are communicated clearly and in a timely manner, and the change readiness of companies and employees is supported.

**Fostering inclusion throughout society in this area requires that:**

- Different stakeholders are consulted widely and equally in decision-making related to energy policies. Solutions are sought and developed in cooperation with different stakeholders.
- Society's competence supporting the adoption of a sustainable energy system is strengthened, for example, by anticipating competence needs and providing related learning modules at different levels of education and in the workplace.
- People are provided with more opportunities to influence their own energy production.

**Complying with the "leave no one behind" principle in this area requires that:**

- Everyone is provided with opportunities and competence related to the adoption and utilisation of new energy technologies.
- Preparations are made to address the energy vulnerability caused by a rise in energy prices. The state of energy poverty in Finland is surveyed and related monitoring is set up.
- Impartial energy guidance is made available to everyone, and the capacity of people to make use of energy subsidies is ensured.

**Safeguarding perseverance and policy coherence in this area requires that:**

- The operating environment is predictable, enabling long-term energy investments.
- The energy policy is consistent and investment-oriented, promoting social, economic and ecological sustainability and the achievement of carbon neutrality in 2035.

**Shouldering global responsibility in this area requires that:**

- Fairness and transparency are ensured in the supply chains of minerals for the electrification of transport and for battery technology, and the recycling of minerals must be developed.
- A significant share of the impacts from Finnish companies' operations are generated outside Finland. Globally operating companies are encouraged to assess their raw material supply chains and the related social and environmental impacts. This will also be promoted through legislation.
- Finnish energy solutions must be globally interoperable. Understanding must be increased about global and national linkages.
- The enforcement of the rights of indigenous people is ensured and local communities are considered in energy projects.



The background is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on this are three thin, light blue lines that intersect to form a large 'X' shape. One line is a straight diagonal from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The other two lines are curved, starting from the top and bottom edges and meeting at a point near the center, creating a circular or elliptical shape in the middle.

SNELLMANINKATU 1, HELSINKI  
PO BOX 23, 00023 GOVERNMENT, FINLAND  
Tel. +358 295 16001  
[info@vnk.fi](mailto:info@vnk.fi)  
[vnk.fi/en](http://vnk.fi/en)

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