



Tabled by Miljöpartiet de gröna and Vihreät De Gröna

1 | [We need ambitious Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, give all the same rights and save the planet](#)

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5 | **The European Green Party Council in Zagreb sees that**

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7 | 1. Never before in the history of politics has the often-misused metaphor “we are standing at a  
8 | crossroads” been more relevant than today, when we take into consideration the new UN Sustainable  
9 | Development Goals. We, the European Greens, fully agree with the UN Secretary General when he  
10 | underlines the fact that the task before us is one not only of changing path, but also of creating a thorough  
11 | transformation in the way we humans act and make use of our only planet. No generation before us has  
12 | faced the same challenge. And at the same time, never have the opportunities been better for a true  
13 | transformation. Or in the words of the Secretary General: “We are the first generation that can eradicate  
14 | poverty, and the last generation that can save the planet”.

15 | 2. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have succeeded to varying degrees. Even though not  
16 | all of the eight goals have been met, they have shown that it is possible to make a global change by jointly  
17 | setting ambitious and universal goals. Furthermore, the unfinished business with MDGs needs to be  
18 | concluded. We need, for example, to provide safe drinking water, sanitation and health, while also ending  
19 | hunger, offering sexual and reproductive rights, and providing quality education to all.

20 | [Official Development Aid \(ODA\) should be directed mostly towards the least developed countries;](#)  
21 | [and debt sustainability, restructuring and relief should be ensured where necessary.](#)

22 | 3. We believe that the seventeen goals proposed by the Open Working Group, as new Sustainable  
23 | Development Goals (SDGs), [are an essential continuation of the MDG's towards global change](#). However,  
24 | the broadened assignment and the time restrictions (some researchers believe that the threshold for  
25 | keeping climate change within the 2 degree limit has already been exceeded, for example) make the task  
26 | so much more challenging. We therefore need to [radically](#) transform our patterns of life, production, and  
27 | consumption – and not only make mere adjustments.

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28 | 4. In order to become a tool for the transformation that is needed, the SDG agenda must be based  
29 | on the following insight: It is our planet, and the boundaries of its ecosystems, that set the limits for  
30 | human activities. Overall, economic growth must be de-coupled from the overuse of natural resources.  
31 | For this and other reasons, development needs to be measured with means other than GDP.

32 | 5. Universal human rights must constitute a further basic pillar within the SDG agenda. Here, we see  
33 | a need for a broader scope. For instance, women’s rights should be taken into consideration, where the  
34 | aim must not only be to empower women, but to also, among others, ensure that [sexual and reproductive rights of girls and women](#) are respected.

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36 | 6. In order for the SDGs to be successful, it is essential that all governments seriously address the  
37 | rampant and accelerating inequalities. This is as important between countries, as it is within countries. For  
38 | as long as the 85 most affluent individuals in the world own more than the poorest half of the global  
39 | population, no socially sustainable development can be possible.

40 | 7. Violence and fragility have become the largest obstacles to the MDGs. The post-2015 framework  
41 | should aim for peace and security [by addressing, for example discrimination, intolerance and dis-](#)  
42 | [functioning state institutions.](#)

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49 | 8. The success of the SDGs, and hence real transformative change, will depend on coherence between  
50 other fields of policy, poverty eradication, and sustainable development. It also depends on the ability of  
51 the SDGs to enhance democratic and effective governance worldwide. All fields of policy must support  
52 the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For the private sector, legally binding rules on  
53 corporate social responsibility should be put in place, especially towards human rights and environmental  
54 issues. Trade, agriculture, energy, and migration policy have to be conducted in a way that alleviates  
55 poverty, protects the environment and mitigates the effects of climate change. Agricultural subsidies  
56 within high income countries must be decreased, and the dumping of excess food production in low  
57 income countries must stop.

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58 | 9. As important as they might be, ambitious development goals will not deliver the desired effect  
59 unless sufficient financing is put in place for their successful implementation. The outcome of the UN  
60 financing summit, to be held in Addis Ababa in July, will be crucial for the SDGs to become a tool for real  
61 transformation. Several financial instruments that have been proposed will also be vital tools for achieving  
62 further equality and less unsustainable production and consumption. The resources needed to fulfil all of  
63 the SDGs do exist, but they are unequally distributed throughout the world. Heavy responsibility rests  
64 upon political leaders, to put in place instruments that distribute wealth more equally.

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65 | 10. Once and for all, rich countries must live up to their commitments to give 0.7% of their GDP to  
66 development aid. The EU, as one of the major players in international development, should take the lead  
67 and make sure that the 0.7% target is met.

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68 | 11. ODA should not only be targeted at alleviating poverty, but also at reducing inequality. Resources  
69 should also be mobilised to combat climate change. These funds should be in addition to ODA.

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70 | 12. International Trade needs to be restructured in order to eradicate poverty. Contributions made  
71 towards sustainable development need to be the foundation for international trade agreements.

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72 | 13. All governments should take an active role in sustainable development. Developed countries  
73 should take up their responsibility in being frontrunners in this. Developing countries  
74 need support in mobilising their domestic resources, e.g. in developing effective taxation and basic social  
75 protection practices. (merged 2 paragraphs) An end must be brought to illicit financial flows. Tools to  
76 achieve this include country by country reporting, an automatic exchange of information, and open  
77 information on beneficial owners. Tax havens must be abolished.

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78 | 14. Research has found that well-functioning public institutions and authorities are very important  
79 entities for poverty eradication. Therefore, all governments must commit themselves to curbing  
80 corruption, and guaranteeing transparency, democracy, good governance and rule of law.

81 | 15. New financial mechanisms need to be put in place in order to raise funds for the SDG agenda, and  
82 to reduce unsustainable practices. Some examples of these include a financial transaction tax, levy on air  
83 tickets, efficient carbon trade systems, and lower costs for remittances.

84 | 16. Fossil fuel subsidies and fossil fuel favoring tax mechanisms must end, directing them  
85 towards renewable energy instead.

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86 | 17. Illegitimate debt has to be cancelled. Governments, international financial institutions, and the  
87 private sector should all endorse and implement the UNCTAD principles on responsible lending and  
88 borrowing.



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104 | 18. We, the Greens of Europe, believe that the year 2015 is a crucial one. Two comprehensive  
105 agendas that can spur the real transformation of human societies are possible, with a UN summit in  
106 September that will hopefully decide upon ambitious SDGs, and the COP 21 summit in December that  
107 | will hopefully agree to curb global warming. These decisions are very urgently needed, if we in this  
108 generation are to hand over a prosperous future to our children. This is an opportunity that must be  
109 seized, and we commit ourselves to working together, with all progressive forces, to make the coming  
110 fifteen years the beginning of a new era.

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