

## Draft Resolution

Tabled by Miljöpartiet de gröna and Vihreät De Gröna

# 1 **We need ambitious Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty**

## 2 3 **The European Green Party Council in Zagreb sees that**

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

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

18 3. We believe that the seventeen goals proposed by the Open Working Group, as new Sustainable  
19 Development Goals (SDGs), can work much in the same way. However, the broadened assignment and  
20 the time restrictions (some researchers believe that the threshold for keeping climate change within the 2  
21 degree limit has already been exceeded, for example) make the task so much more challenging. We  
22 therefore need to transform our patterns of life, production, and consumption – and not only make mere  
23 adjustments.

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

28 5. Universal human rights must constitute a further basic pillar within the SDG agenda. Here, we see  
29 a need for a broader scope. For instance, women’s rights should be taken into consideration, where the  
30 aim must not only be to empower women, but to also, among others, ensure that their sexual and  
31 reproductive rights are respected.

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

36 7. Violence and fragility have become the largest obstacles to the MDGs. The post-2015 framework  
37 should aim for peace and security.

38 8. The success of the SDGs, and real transformative change, will depend on coherence between  
39 other fields of policy, poverty eradication, and sustainable development. It also depends on the ability of  
40 the SDGs to enhance democratic and effective governance worldwide. All fields of policy must support  
41 the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For the private sector, legally binding rules on  
42 corporate social responsibility should be in place, especially towards human rights and environmental  
43 issues. Trade, agriculture, energy, and migration policy have to be conducted in a way that alleviates  
44 poverty, protects the environment and mitigates the effects of climate change. Agricultural subsidies

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45 within developed countries must be decreased, and the dumping of excess production in developing  
46 countries must stop.

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

54 10. Once and for all, rich countries must live up to their commitments to give 0.7% of their GDP to  
55 development aid. The EU, as one of the major players in international development, should take the lead  
56 and make sure that the 0.7% target is met. Official Development Aid (ODA) should be directed mostly  
57 towards the least developed countries.

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

60 12. International trade needs to be better balanced, in order to reduce poverty. Contributions made  
61 towards sustainable development need to be the foundation for international trade agreements.

62 13. All governments should take an active role in sustainable development. Developing countries  
63 need support in mobilising their domestic resources, e.g. in developing effective taxation and basic social  
64 protection practices.

65 14. An end must be brought to illicit financial flows. Tools to achieve this include country by country  
66 reporting, an automatic exchange of information, and open information on beneficial owners. Tax havens  
67 must be abolished.

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69 15. Research has found that well-functioning public institutions and authorities are very important  
70 entities for poverty eradication. Therefore, all governments must commit themselves to curbing  
71 corruption, and guaranteeing transparency, good governance and rule of law.

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

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77 17. Fossil fuel subsidies must end, directing them towards renewable energy instead.

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79 18. Illegitimate debt has to be cancelled. Governments, international financial institutions, and the  
80 private sector should all endorse and implement the UNCTAD principles on responsible lending and  
81 borrowing.

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