



Finland as a Global Actor

Working Together for Sustainable Future



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Global Sustainability Panel co-chaired by President Halonen submits its report

The UN High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, co-chaired by President Tarja Halonen and President of South Africa Jacob Zuma, submitted its report to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the African Union Summit in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on 30 January 2012.

President Halonen was not at the Addis Ababa Summit but she participated in the event via video.

In its report “Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A future worth choosing” the Panel states that the world is on an unsustainable path. What is needed now is a new way forward that will bring equity and sustainable development into mainstream economics.

After its intensive work the Panel came up with a unanimous report that outlines the major challenges

of today, while also pointing out several advances. The report contains 56 recommendations for action towards socially, economically and ecologically sustainable development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATED INTO MAINSTREAM ECONOMICS

The report states that economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability are interdependent, and that welfare depends on how well they are linked.

The Panel is convinced that the concept presented by the Brundtland Commission 25 years ago is not only sound, but now more relevant than ever. Theory must now be put into practice by moving sustainable development into mainstream economics.

According to the report, the long-term vision of the Panel is to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and make growth inclusive and production and consumption more sustainable, while combating climate change and respecting planetary boundaries.

The recommendations of the Panel include the creation of a new indicator beyond GDP for measuring development. Governments should also introduce a set of sustainable development goals as a tool for stimulating action and measuring progress.

The Panel would also like the economic, social and environmental costs of action and inaction to be made transparent through the creation of price signals.

WELFARE THROUGH EQUALITY

Equality is one of the main concerns of the Panel: “Any serious shift towards sustainable development requires gender equality. Half of humankind’s collective intelligence and capacity is a resource we must nurture and develop, for the sake of multiple generations to come.

The next increment of global growth could well come from the full economic empowerment of women.” The promotion of equality is not only just, but also sensible for achieving sustainable welfare and stability.

In its report to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon the Panel presents its vision of sustainable development, and addresses the issue of sustainable development through four main themes: 1) The state of sustainable development, 2) Empowering people to make sustainable choices, 3) Working towards a sustainable economy, and 4) Strengthening institutional governance. Each section presents recommendations for action and illustrative examples. One of the examples

on regional cooperation is the Baltic Sea Action Summit organised in Helsinki in 2010.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability in August



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon poses for a group photo with members of the newly created High Level Panel on Global Sustainability. The Secretary-General is in the front row centre, flanked by the Panel's co-chairs, Tarja Halonen (left), President of Finland, and Ms Lindiwe Zulu of South Africa. UN Photo by: Mark Garten.

2010 and invited President Halonen to co-chair the Panel with President Zuma. In addition to the co-chairs, the Panel comprised 20 appointed members. According to the UN press release, the report of the High-level Panel is a significant and timely contribution

to preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will be held in Brazil in June 2012.







Support for the Rule of Law

Support for the Rule of Law is a central theme running horizontally throughout all activities of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It is also an important tool for achieving the goals of the Ministry.

In Finnish development policy and cooperation, support for the Rule of Law emphasises the creation of democratic and responsible societies which promote human rights. Under the Rule of Law, people can participate in their own development and decision making which affects their own lives.

The United Nations defines the Rule of Law as a principle of governance in which everyone is accountable to and equal before the law. This means the law is the same for everyone, and equal and effective access to justice must be safeguarded for all. The guiding prin-

Finland supports rule of law programmes in several countries, including Afghanistan, Kenya, Laos, and Nepal. Photo: Nepal, by Milma Kettunen.

principle of the Rule of Law is that all human rights must be respected and guaranteed for everyone.

Currently, the Foreign Ministry is involved in supporting the Rule of Law in such sectors as: Women, peace, and security; Access to justice in particular for easily marginalized or vulnerable groups; Post-conflict development with particular attention to victims of conflict and Rule of Law aspects in security sector reforms; Ending impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community; and strengthening International Courts and justice. Finland will organize a side-event on women's access to justice during the High Level Segment of the 67th UN General Assembly in New York in September.

Finland cooperates with the UN, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, and the World Bank to support Rule of Law. In addition, Finland supports Rule of Law programmes in various countries, such as Afghanistan, Kenya, Laos and Nepal.

GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE RULE OF LAW

Concerning women, peace, and security, Finland supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 which calls for the inclusion of a gender perspective when dealing with the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Finland also provides financial support to the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, which has experts from UNDP (UN Development Programme), DPKO (UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations), and OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights).

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS

Finland supports activities which seek to provide individuals and groups that are in easily marginalized or vulnerable situations with access to justice and better information about their rights. Finland also emphasises the situation of victims during peace talks and wants to make sure that human rights and the Rule of Law are respected.

In 2011, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs launched a program "Equal before the Law: Access to Justice", which aims both at strengthening links between international norms and national law and improving the way national laws are experienced by vulnerable citizens in Central Asia. In line with the Finnish development policy, the program is focused on promoting the rights and equality of women and girls and the rights of people who are easily excluded, particularly children at risk and persons with disabilities. Targeting interventions simultaneously at the state and citizen levels will ensure that the program delivers concrete results in the lives of vulnerable people while assisting governments in the region to meet the needs of citizens and fulfil obligations under international conventions. At the grassroots level, it aims to reach more than 100.000 people through legal consultations, outreach activities and community-based trainings.

The Venice Commission experts are providing training of best practices related to the implementation of the international conventions. The Conference of Central Asian Ombudsmen arranged in Helsinki in March 2012 is a part of the regional activities within the program, which has a budget of 5 million Euros for 30 months.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND BETTER SECURITY

Security and Justice Sector reforms in fragile states and states recovering from conflict include a broader Rule of Law support approach. This kind of reforms are not just about strengthening the effectiveness of key security sector actors and institutions, such as the army, police, justice system, prisons, and border guards. They are also concerned with ensuring the capability of the security sector to carry out its responsibilities, and they contain the promotion of good governance as part of the foundation of a strong, secure society.

NO CRIME UNPUNISHED

The principles of preventing impunity for the most serious international crimes, such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and ensuring that all perpetrators of such crimes are punished form the core of the Finnish support for the Rule of Law. Ending impunity and prosecuting those responsible, including for crimes of sexual and other violence against women and girls, is one of the main elements of UNSCR 1325. This is what Finland emphasises in its foreign policy, including development policy.

One of the primary channels for the Finnish Foreign Ministry support for the Rule of Law at the international level is through the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is an independent international tribunal funded primarily by its States Parties. This Court is governed by the Rome Statute. Its seat is at The Hague in the Netherlands.

The jurisdiction of the ICC is complementary: the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute for the Rome Statute crimes lies with states themselves. It is however not always possible to investigate and

prosecute for such crimes at the national level. In these situations the ICC has an important role in fulfilling the gap at the international level. It is also consistent with the Statute that the international community recognizes the role of national proceedings. To this end, states should provide assistance to strengthen the rule of law structures at the national level, which would support the national implementation of the Rule of Law. Finland also promotes the ratification of the Rome Statute worldwide.

Finland gives as well support to the activities of other international tribunals such as the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the completion of the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Finland's financial contribution for ending impunity for the most serious international crimes reaches some 500 000 Euros every year.

HEARING THE VOICES OF VICTIMS

In fighting impunity, Finland emphasises the rights and status of victims of the ICC crimes. It is important to ensure that the voices of the victims are heard in the Court proceedings. Finland also supports the work of the Victims' Trust Fund of the ICC, which has a central role in efforts to bring justice to the victims.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

A strong international justice system is an important component in maintaining peace and security. In the fight against terrorism, Finland underlines that all measures against terrorism must comply with international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law.

Skills in Knowledge Society for African Leaders

African Leaders in ICT Programme funded by Finland becomes a university accredited programme.

The Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI) and Dublin City University (DCU) Ireland signed recently a Memorandum of Understanding to bring world-class professional development programmes to Africa's leaders and policy makers.

Under the partnership between GESCI and DCU, participants undertaking the African Leaders in ICT (ALICT) course will be eligible for the award of a Graduate Diploma or Masters in *Leadership in ICT and the Knowledge Society*. Further programmes will be jointly developed by GESCI and DCU targeting leaders, policy makers and the youth in areas critical to development such as science, technology and innovation, education and vocational training and skills development.

This African leadership programme is an initiative of the African Union Commission and is funded by the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland in the context of Finland's vision for Knowledge Society development in Africa.

The core focus of the programme is building the leadership capacities of present and future African Leaders to enable them to become change makers in government and to participate in and influence the kind of central policy making necessary for socio-economic development in a Knowledge Society context.

At the moment, the ALICT course is running in 5 countries with 84 participants due to successfully complete the programme - Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, South Africa and Mauritius. Another seven countries are expected to commence in October 2012 with 200 participants: Malawi, Botswana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Namibia and Mozambique.

"Collaboration with DCU will give the government leaders participating in the programme an internationally-recognized university qualification as well as the practical knowledge underpinning policy and strategy development as African countries work towards becoming knowledge societies", said Jerome Morrissey, CEO of GESCI.

Demand for the programme is very strong from middle to high level managers from ministries and government agencies in charge of planning, science and technology, innovation and research, education and applied technology. The course is delivered in a blended way over seven months with participants completing most of the course online and some face to face workshop sessions during the seven months. The blended nature of the course means that full-time working professionals have the opportunity to undertake the course no matter where they

are without having to travel outside their respective countries or even offices and homes.

“This partnership shows clearly what the DCU mission ‘to transform lives and societies through education, research and innovation’ is all about. The initiative with the Global eSchools and Communities

Initiative will clearly show that mission in action across Africa”, the DCU President, Brian MacCraith, stated.

Finland provides technical assistance to the ALICT – Helena Tapper is the Program Manager and Juho Mikkonen is the blended learning Expert of the program.



Finnish and African leaders have longstanding relations. Former President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari, and the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, met in Finland during April 2011. Photo by: Eero Kuosmanen.



Finland Combating Climate Change in the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean

Finland has been co-operating with the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) on various environmental and climate change projects in the recent years. Issues that have been on the agenda are especially related to sustainable development through renewable energy projects and disaster mitigation.

The populations of PSIDS are vulnerable to climate change and environmental disasters, and therefore it is vital to look for solutions to combat climate change sooner rather than later. Finland promotes energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy by financing the Energy and Environment Partnership in Central America, including some Caribbean island states.

In 2012 Finland is planning to sponsor a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) conference on sustainable energy.

Finland is providing support to national meteorological development in the Caribbean SIDS.
Photo: Antiqua, by Matti Nummelin.

Finland has funded a legal advisor for the PSIDS. The advisor has helped in the implementation of the Climate Change and Gender Empowerment Work Plan and assisted the PSIDS with the UNFCCC negotiation processes. The funding has been allocated to the chair of the PSIDS, latest post being the Permanent Mission of Nauru to the UN in New York.

DISASTER MITIGATION

Disaster mitigation needs to be incorporated into the Building Back Better project in Haiti, in order to reduce the damage caused by natural disasters. Finland is currently supporting a project for building hurricane and earthquake proof schools in Haiti.

Since 2001 Finland has provided support to national meteorological development in the Caribbean SIDS. The aim has been to improve national disaster mitigation, preparedness and early-warning capacity. There have been several bilateral and regional projects led by the Finnish Meteorological Institute. Activities are ongoing and expanding.

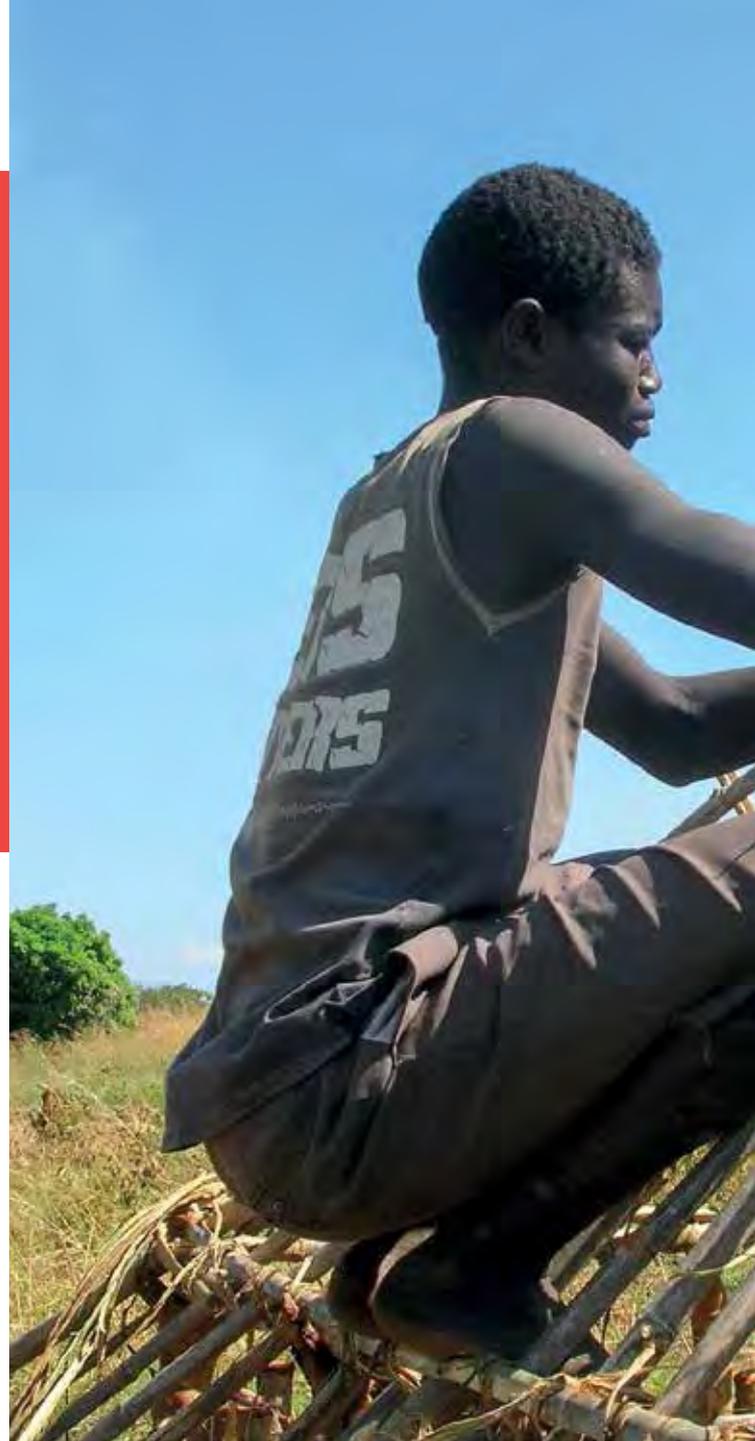
In 2011 there was another International Conference for CARICOM countries on Sharing Good Practices in Education, which was held in Jamaica. Finland was financing the conference.

Finland Financed an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Conference Held by UNHCR and ECOWAS

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNHCR were holding the first ministerial conference on humanitarian assistance and internal displacement in West Africa. The conference was held in Abuja, Nigeria, between the 5th and 7th of July, 2011.

Finland was financing the whole 420 000 USD conference. The first two days of the conference was meant for ECOWAS member state experts, and the final day was a ministerial conference.

The aim of the IDP Conference was to push forward ratifications for the Kampala Convention, which was accepted by the African Union in 2009.





The Kampala Convention stands for the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The name was adopted after the Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, held in Kampala, Uganda, in October 2009.

The Kampala Convention was the first international legal instrument on internal displacement with continental scope. In order for the convention to take effect, at least 15 member states of the African Union have to ratify the convention. So far, only two countries in West Africa have ratified the convention: Sierra Leone and Gambia. Senegal, Niger, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau for example have not yet ratified the convention.

“One of the main aims of the Finnish humanitarian aid, besides practical aid work, is to develop the legal framework of humanitarian assistance”, says Director Ulla-Maija Finskas from the Unit for Humanitarian Assistance.

Finland also financed a similar seminar in 2010, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The “Kampala Convention” is shorthand for the “African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa”. A camp of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern Uganda is being run under the Kampala Convention, which is partially supported by Finland. Photo by: Timo Karmakallio.



Finland Cooperates with Central America in Eradicating Poverty

Finland is engaged with the SICA (Sistema de la integración centroamericana, Central American Integration System) countries in Central America in ongoing dialogues on the eradication of poverty. This is one of the central themes in Finland's regional development cooperation.

This cooperation follows a SICA – Nordic countries meeting hosted by Finland in New York during the 2011 UN General Assembly. Foreign Ministers of Central American countries attended the meeting, at which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Erkki Tuomioja, represented the host country, Finland. State officials from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, Nicaragua, and Panama, as well as all the Nordic countries, were present at the meeting.

Additionally, Finland has been involved in cooperation between SICA and the Nordic countries in the SICA Energy and Environmental Partnership, funded by Finland, Austria, and the EU.

Finland also participates in SICA-Nordic dialogues seeking solutions to the challenges posed by climate change and economic integration, in addition to the social agendas of social inclusion and the eradication of poverty. These dialogues were initiated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Hugo Martinez, at the meeting in August. Building institutions related to these challenges are also discussed.

The New York meeting also resulted in an agreement between the SICA and Nordic countries that they should have conferences annually during the United Nations General Assembly sessions.

In the remote village of Los Bejucos in Nicaragua, 60 families now have electricity, provided by the water power plant built with the help of the Energy and Environment Programme supported by Finland. Photo by: Outi Einola-Head

Strong Support from Finland in LDC Conference in Istanbul

Goal: Half of the 48 LDC countries to start graduating from LDC status within next ten years.

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held in Istanbul, Turkey, between in May 2011. A programme of action to improve the position of LDCs was approved in the conference.

The programme of action places heavy emphasis on strengthening production capacity and developing agriculture in the least developed countries. The LDCs set a goal for themselves to halve the amount of countries with a LDC status within the next ten years.

Finland played a central role in negotiations concerning the programme of action. The Finnish UN Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen led the negotiations concerning the programme of action, as well as the preparatory committee's meetings in New York prior to the conference. Finland also supported LDCs and

NGOs from the respective countries to participate in the planning of the conference, as well as attending the conference.

"It is very important that NGOs from the South are attending the conference, and can join the discussions", commented Oumou Zé from CNCD, a Belgian umbrella organisation of NGOs.

The Finnish delegation at the conference was led by President of the Republic Tarja Halonen. The delegation consisted of the Minister of Communications, Suvi Lindén, and delegates from government ministries, civil society and business.

THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

President Halonen called for balance between economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainable development.

"Growth must be green, equitable and inclusive. It must promote opportunities for decent work and a better life for everyone. Democracy, human rights, the rule of law and good governance are essential. Special attention must be paid to women and youth", said President Halonen in her speech.

"Guided by our Programme of Action, increased efforts are needed by us all in order to achieve social justice and concrete improvements in the lives of the 880 million women, men, youth and children in the LDCs", added President Halonen.

Under-Secretary of State for Development Policy and Cooperation, Ritva Koukku-Ronde, cochaired the High-Level Interactive Thematic Debate; enhancing productive capacities and the role of the private sector in least developed countries. Under-Secretary

Koukku-Ronde also participated in a panel organised by UNFPA, concerning population dynamics and poverty reduction in LDCs.

“Poverty reduction and population issues are the core of Finnish development policy. Finland has doubled its’ support to UNFPA. We are the organisation’s 6th largest donor”, says Koukku-Ronde.

Under the 2001 Brussels programme of action, the world’s top aid donors agreed to give between 0.15%

and 0.20% of gross national income in aid to LDCs by 2010. By 2009, nine countries had already met their commitments: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Finland directs more than a third of the country’s public development aid to the least developed countries. Finnish bilateral support to LDCs has increased four-fold in the past ten years.



In Istanbul, Finland’s Under-Secretary of State for Development Policy and Cooperation, Ritva Koukku-Ronde, co-chaired the High Level Interactive Thematic Debate on enhancing productive capacities and the role of the private sector in least developed countries. Photo by: Outi Einola-Head.

Finland works actively for sustainable development all over the world.

This brochure is a collection of articles
on Finland's international development cooperation
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Finland to the UN Security Council in 2013–2014



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