Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This is a translation of the page on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Dutch government's Integrated Assessment Framework (IAK).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the leading global framework for sustainable development up to 2030. At the SDG summit on 25 September 2015, the UN member states signed a political declaration in which they adopted the goals. By signing the declaration, the Netherlands made a political commitment to achieve the goals by 2030. The goals present every country with challenges in three dimensions: environmental (planet), social (people) and economic (prosperity). Peace and partnerships are prerequisites for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Cohesion between the themes is a basic principle underpinning the SDGs: policy targeting one dimension may also have unexpected effects on other goals. A core principle of the SDGs is that the most disadvantaged people should benefit: 'leave no one behind' (LNOB).

In accordance with the letter of 18 May 2018 from the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation to the House of Representatives (Parliamentary Papers, House of Representatives, 2017/18, 26458, no. 288), civil servants are now urged to show how new policy and legislation will affect achievement of the SDGs. For this reason, the Integrated Assessment Framework (IAK) now includes this information page and two new quality requirements for assessing positive and negative effects on gender equality – a field in which the Netherlands' performance is below the EU average – and on developing countries. Where relevant, this information page and the quality requirements will help to make the impact on achievement of the SDGs more transparent for parliament and the Dutch public.

The SDGs address the following themes (see the complete description).

SDG 1: Extreme poverty; reduce poverty according to national definitions.
SDG 2: Hunger; malnutrition; nutritious food; stunting and wasting; agricultural productivity; sustainable food production.
SDG 3: Health; maternal and child mortality; epidemics; narcotic drugs; mental health; road deaths; SRHR; health coverage.
SDG 4: Quality of and access to education.

SDG 5: Gender equality, discrimination; gender-related violence; forced marriage; female genital mutilation; women's leadership; SRHR.
SDG 6: Drinking water; sanitation; water quality; water scarcity; ecosystems.
SDG 7: Affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services.
SDG 8: Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; entrepreneurship; SMEs; inclusive finance; youth employment; forced and child labour; tourism; decent work.
SDG 9: Infrastructure; innovation; sustainable industrialisation.
SDG 10: Income equality; social, economic and political inclusion; monitoring of the financial sector; worldwide inequality; migration and mobility.
SDG 11: Inclusive, safe and sustainable cities; housing; cultural and natural heritage; disasters; environmental impact of cities; accessible, green public spaces.
SDG 12: Sustainable consumption and production; food waste; circular economy; sustainability information.
SDG 13: Climate change; natural disasters.
SDG 14: Marine pollution; fishing; coastal areas; tourism; marine biodiversity.
SDG 15: Forest management; desertification; biodiversity on land and in rivers and lakes.
SDG 16: Peace; justice; inclusive institutions; rule of law; corruption; representative decision-making; transparent institutions; protection of rights and freedoms.
SDG 17: International cooperation; public-private partnerships; financing sustainable development; international trade.

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation is responsible for coordinating the Netherlands' efforts to achieve the SDGs, as well as submitting an annual progress report to the House of Representatives. Each ministry is responsible for implementing the SDGs within their own policy fields.

However, if we are to achieve the SDGs more will be needed than the government's commitment alone. The Netherlands is an international leader in working together in partnerships. The SDG Charter brings together actors working to achieve the SDGs, including the private sector, NGOs, knowledge institutions, the National Youth Council, philanthropic organisations and local and provincial government. Go to the SDG Gateway for an extensive network of local initiatives, organisations and communities working to achieve the SDGs.

The partnerships also contribute to the annual progress review on Dutch implementation of the SDGs (see, for example the second progress review, 'The Netherlands Develops Sustainably', annexe to Parliamentary Papers, House of Representatives, 2017/18, 26485, no. 288). Like Statistics Netherlands' report on the SDGs, the review shows that the Netherlands faces challenges in reaching SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDGs 12 and 13 (climate change) in particular.

For more information on individual SDGs, go to the Sustainable Development Goals and Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The compulsory quality requirements 'effects on developing countries' and 'effects on gender equality' both contain extensive information on the SDGs.

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