

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 29 May 2015

Dear ~~Secretary-General~~, *Dear Secretary-General,*

The Council of Europe is following with great interest your important work in the framework of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We underline the paramount importance of this commitment, and the international community, under your guidance, is elaborating the main guidelines for the next 15 years to address the global challenges which our societies face.

I am convinced that we should contribute to this global reflection process with our specific experiences and capacities. It is equally important for the United Nations to build on these elements and implement them, as relevant.

The Council of Europe is an organisation founded on the universal values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Our contribution must therefore focus on these values. They are not only values in their own right, but important factors of sustainability for any societal model.

I am pleased to enclose two documents:

- My 2015 report 'State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe: a shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe'
- The Council of Europe contribution to the UN Intergovernmental Negotiations on the UN Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

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Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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I am convinced that the Report constitutes a very pertinent contribution to the reflection and drafting process as it demonstrates that states' performances concerning a number of sectors relating to human rights, democracy and the rule of law are "measurable". It identifies key parameters of positive performance which have an effective, meaningful, concrete and lasting effect on the compliance with relevant legal standards. Through this Report, we are introducing a method, a 'yardstick', to evaluate developments, as well as our findings based on this method covering the member States of the Council of Europe. I hope that it will be an interesting read, especially in the context of Goal 16.

The specific 'Council of Europe Contribution' document presents our relevant capacities according to the structure of your report, breaking them down into 'Goals'. You will also find some specific capacities relevant to other Goals.

I remain at your disposal for any further information about the Council of Europe's relevance to the post-2015 process. I would also like to assure you that we continue to follow this important undertaking and look forward to contributing to it in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland