

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 17 May 2017

Dear Secretary-General,

I refer to our meeting in Geneva on 27 February during which we discussed the Council of Europe's contribution to the implementation of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am pleased to enclose the latest version of our document, which takes into account developments within our Organisation (since the previous version which I addressed to your predecessor on 29 May 2015).

I also enclose a copy of my 2017 Report "State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe". This Report constitutes a very pertinent contribution to the Agenda 2030 process, as it demonstrates that States' performances in 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 these annual reports, we have introduced 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.

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.

By definition, our philosophy is that most, if not all of the organisation's activities are relevant and contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030. In this context, as of the next biennium (2018-2019), the Council of Europe's programme of activities and budget will indicate links, where relevant, to specific Sustainable Development Goals.

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Mr António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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Of the different Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 16 is worth highlighting from a Council of Europe perspective. This is not only where we have the most to contribute in terms of substance, but also through our unique measurable normative framework, which can be used as indicators and benchmarks, as well as our monitoring and follow-up bodies and processes, which I hope can be an inspiration for other parts of the world.

The Council of Europe will continue to follow closely the Agenda 2030 process and will be represented in the various events organised in this framework.

I remain at your disposal for any further information about the Council of Europe's relevance to Agenda 2030. Any suggestions on your part as to our further involvement in the process would, of course, be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland