To the attention of: First Vice-President Frans Timmermans
European Commission, Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

RE: 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

9th February 2016

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,

From June 2015 onwards, a considerable number of EU-based civil society organisations from the sustainability, development, environment and social sectors have been meeting to consider what we can do together to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both in Europe and beyond. As European Civil Society we want to make the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda a reality, and our common ambition is to ensure that the EU achieves all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and strongly supports low and middle income countries around the world in equally achieving it.

Our diverse expertise means that we are well-positioned to serve as an important interlocutor for the EU and its Member States in relation to the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We call on the EU and each of its Member States to **develop an overarching Sustainable Development Strategy with a timeline of 2030** and a **concrete implementation plan which coordinates the achievement of the 17 goals, 169 targets** and their indicators. The EU must ensure that it does not cherry-pick the easiest or preferred goals and must **go beyond policy-as-usual** by aiming for the highest level of ambition in all the targets, guaranteeing that no-one is left behind and that planetary boundaries are fully respected.

The implementation plan should be based on the results of the European Commission's on-going gap analysis, where existing EU policies and processes should be scrutinised in light of the need to achieve the 2030 Agenda in its entirety, including all the goals and targets, and they should be adapted where appropriate. Detected gaps should be filled with new actions.

The new EU Sustainable Development Strategy and associated implementation policies should be subject to **broad consultation with all stakeholders** through an institutionalised and inclusive process. For this to be a meaningful and transparent exercise, it is critical that the results of the gap analysis are made public and sufficient notice is given of the means and timing of the consultation.

Furthermore, the EU will need to take full advantage of the upcoming mid-term review of the MFF in the framework to ensure that **funding mechanisms and budget lines for civil society organisations are aligned with the new needs** of the global and European challenges, and with open windows for more process work and holistic approaches.

Lastly, the European Commission should urgently consider designing **strong monitoring, review and accountability mechanisms**. Recognising that sustainable development challenges and solutions rarely sit within national borders, the EU must develop a means to differentiate between the parts of the 2030 Agenda for which Member States are primarily responsible versus those for which an EU lead is necessary and for which the EU must be held to account. Accountability must also **incorporate the concept of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.**

Senior representatives of our organisations would be pleased to meet with you in the near future to discuss these proposals further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Leida Rijnhout
Director Global Policies and Sustainability EEB (leida.rijnhout@eeb.org)

on behalf of the following EU based-networks and organisations working in areas such as environment, development, accountability, governance, equality, culture, public health, poverty eradication, social inclusion, human rights, agriculture, animal rights, policy coherence for sustainable development, global economic justice, global citizenship education, lifelong learning, youth ... are endorsing this letter.





























































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