

# Now, 2030 Proposal

Make 2023 a global and local  
turning point in fulfilment of the SDGs

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Lehendakaritza – Presidency of the Basque Government

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# Presentation

The Basque Government and Basque institutions have given a commitment to the 2030 Agenda, accepting full responsibility for promoting and localising the SDGs. In 2017, the Basque Country was the first non-state government in the world to present a Voluntary Monitoring Report on the 2030 Agenda.

A practice which it has since then continued each year. In September 2020, the United Nations decided to locate the global headquarters of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat in the Basque city of Bilbao.

Over recent years, our Basque institutions have built “infrastructures” committing themselves and us to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda: creation of an institutional coordination and steering body for the SDGs; development of a strategic planning and driver project definition document; implementation of our own inter-institutional evaluation and indicator system; sustained support for programmes to publicise the global agenda as a new social contract; and the creation of the Basque Country 2030 Agenda Forum, as a platform for multi-level and inter-institutional governance.

This Basque Country 2030 Agenda Forum includes representatives of all Basque institutions, universities, as well as delegates drawn from civil society and public-private partnership. At the fourth plenary session held on 15 March 2023, the President of the Basque Government, Iñigo Urkullu Renteria, presented the *Now, 2030 Proposal*. A proposal addressing the United Nations within the context of the SDG Summit scheduled for September 2023, and which has also been sent to the EU institutions, and to all international institutions and networks involved in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

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# Diagnosis

The **Now, 2030 Proposal** is based on a situational diagnosis which may be summarised in terms of three analytical aspects:

- In 2019 there was clearly a broad international consensus as to the diagnosis of fulfilment of the SDGs: the process of transformation promoted by the 2030 Agenda was not happening quickly enough, nor was it achieving sufficient impact. In fact, for this very reason in September that year during the 74th UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General, António Guterres, called on governments, companies and civil society to intensify their efforts towards the global Goals, declaring the next 10 years to be the Decade of Action.
- Between 2020 and 2023 we suffered a pandemic which has worsened inequality gaps, both internally and between countries. We furthermore remain in the midst of the war caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We feel its unacceptable human and humanitarian consequences, and the whole world suffers its destructive effects in terms of energy, ecology, inflation and the socio-economic situation. If in 2019 it was stated that time was running out and we had not made enough progress, then we must when taking stock in this time of 2023 acknowledge that the difficulties and obstacles have grown and that the forecast fulfilment of the SDGs around the world has worsened, with a worryingly negative perspective.
- There is nonetheless one element in the SDG diagnosis that has remained unchanged since 2015. The 2030 Agenda is both a need and an opportunity. As a planet, we urgently need to progress towards its fulfilment, a challenge which we cannot let to pass us by. Despite the insufficient development of the global goals and the adverse context we currently face, a response is necessary. *The Decade of Action* needs *7 years of Re-Action*, now. A kickstart. A turning point. A practical, shared, positive and constructive commitment is required for the globalisation, localisation and personalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

If we passively allow the current momentum along a track of devaluation to continue unaltered until 2030, the end result will clearly be negative. The **Now, 2030 Proposal** is born out of concern at the insufficient development and global fulfilment of the SDGs. It aims to help make the SDG Summit called by the United Nations for September 2023 a genuine opportunity to promote a turning point, as not to end up as a lost opportunity.

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# Objectives

The general objective of the *Now, 2030 Proposal* is to suggest the need for a major international consensus making 2023 a global and local turning point in the development of the 2030 Agenda and fulfilment of the SDGs.

This proposal has the following specific objectives:

- The first, and most important, to improve progressively and constantly the status of the Agenda goals by 2030, compared with what one might expect right now.
- To mark the UN's SDG Summit scheduled for September 2023, raise the level of demands placed on those institutions that signed up to the 2030 Agenda in 2015.
- Promote institutional and international recognition, based on a critical and self-critical analysis of the insufficient development and fulfilment of the SDGs.
- Help spur a global and local reaction to promote the development and fulfilment of the SDGs during the years that remain up until 2030.
- Heighten the role of local, regional and non-state governments in the localisation of the SDGs and their participation in improved global co-governance of the 2030 Agenda.

Through the **Now, 2030 Proposal**, we suggest that the United Nations and the main international and European institutions committed to the 2030 Agenda take the opportunity of the SDG Summit to be held on 19 and 20 September 2023 to do the following:

- Broaden the format and effects of this Summit so as to mark a genuine turning point in the global and local commitment to the SDGs, by means of a process not confined merely to staging another formal summit of Heads of State and Government.
- Design this process by means of broad-based participation, enabling us to pool our evaluation of the 2030 Agenda, from 2015 up until 2023, along with a definition of urgent priorities for the SDGs, from 2023 until 2030.
- Prepare and present in advance a shared 2015-2023 evaluation format that will be specific and useful both for any government or institution, whether local, regional or national, and for private companies or civil society organisations.
- Prepare and present a clear and straightforward panel of the main priorities up to 2030, with a format allowing the inclusion of globally shared objectives and goals specific to each geographical, social, organisational or institutional reality.
- Lastly, **Now, 2030** proposes preparing and presenting a Declaration of Specific Commitments by institutions and organisations, based on the principle of acknowledging that there is no time for delay, and that the commitment to the SDGs is now or never. **2030 is now.**

The **Now, 2030 Proposal** calls for and offers a commitment. It calls for a global reaction, as a firm commitment in the years that remain up until 2030. It offers and upholds the role and commitment of local, regional and non-state governments in the localisation of the SDGs and their involvement in better global co-governance of the 2030 Agenda.

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# Principle

## Methodological

The **Now, 2030 Proposal** aims to bring about a turning point, or to put it another way, a **Re-Action** to fulfil the call for a Decade of Action.

The pathway linking the content of this proposal to the potential achievement of this objective is set out in a methodological principle:

- The rigorous discipline of an honest appraisal, alongside a committed expression of priorities would be the methodological tool to facilitate this kickstart. A process in which the *methodology of specificity* must furthermore prevail. In the years that remain until 2030, the Agenda needs fewer abstractions and more realisations.

This principle does not, of course, in itself guarantee the achievement of the pursued aim, but is an essential condition if the 2030 Agenda is to move from words to deeds, and constitute a firm commitment.

Following the presentation at the Basque Country 2030 Agenda Forum, the President of the Basque Country, Iñigo Urkullu Renteria, will send the **Now, 2030 Proposal** to the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed.

This proposal to the United Nations will also be passed on to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen; the President of the European Council, Charles Michel; the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola; and the Secretary-General of the OECD, Mathias Cormann.

In parallel, as the representative of the Presidency of the Basque Government, the General Secretariat for External Affairs and the General Secretariat for Social Transition and 2030 Agenda will present this proposal at all international networks and institutions involved in promoting the SDGs where they have a presence or participation.