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AGENDA EUSKADI BASQUE COUNTRY 2030

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Context

The 2030 Agenda is an invitation to work for the common good. It is also, an universal proposal that seeks to reach out and count on all stakeholders involved; public administrations, private actors, civil society or academia, with the aim to ensure that no one is left behind.

2030 Agenda is considered as part of a global scenario, but at the same time, its commitment with the promotion of the territorial dimension and its adaptation on a local and regional scale is one of its ground-breaking characteristics.

Both, the United Nations and the European Commission, have highlighted the important role of Sub-state Governments in its implementation and stipulate that each territory must negotiate this path in due consideration of its own circumstances.

We aim to continue to foster participation by regions or sub-state Governments, of which the Basque Country is one example. We have the proximity and the specific knowledge of society's demands, and also the competences and the resources to guarantee the best possible response to its needs.

A sub-state government that enjoys a broad and singular self-government (high degree of atonomy in policies such as education, industry, culture, health, security and social services). Euskadi - Basque Country is a small country of just over 7,000 km² and close to 2.2 million inhabitants with its own language, culture and identity and a high rate of sustainable human development.

Sub-state governments have contributed towards building this agenda and they have a fundamental role to play locating and achieving the SDGs at the territorial sphere closest to citizens

The Agenda 2030 is a unique opportunity for the Basque Country to build a future project aligned with the challenges of the global scenario.

This Project that we present: the “Agenda Euskadi Basque Country 2030” supposes the territorialization of the Agenda approved on September 25, 2015 and bring it to the social, economic and environmental context of the Basque Country and contribute with the objective of not leaving anyone behind.

Relevance

The Basque Government shares the vision of a world focused on people, committed to protecting our planet and coexisting in peace. A world capable of generating prosperity through a partnership model.

Therefore, aligning our efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals set in the 2030 Agenda is a challenge that the Basque Government is committed to addressing.

The 2030 Agenda is an opportunity for the Basque Country because it coincides with our own priorities:

- Human development that assures essential services for everyone; and
- Sustainable growth that generates high-quality job opportunities on an equal basis.

A glance at the 17 SDGs shows that they tackle matters which are handled by institutions at different levels in decentralised countries: Central Government, Regional Governments and Local Authorities.

This is a unique opportunity, a path to change the world and guarantee human rights for all the people. It comes with a recognition that the development needs are essentially the same for everyone, regardless of where they live. All people need health, education, housing, jobs, energy, equality, peace, healthy ecosystems to live decently, now and in the future.

The main contribution of the “Agenda Basque Country 2030” initiative to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to generate a favorable environment for the appropriation of SDGs to this way make the great objective of "not leaving anyone behind" a reality.

The Agenda Euskadi Basque Country 2030 constitutes the determination of the Basque Government to approach its public policies in light of the challenges of the UN 2030 Agenda but also establishing a link with the strategic approach adopted by the European Commission in the work for sustainable development, which is focused on using instruments to ensure that current and future policies factor in social, environmental and economic aspects.

Effectiveness

We believe that the Basque/Spanish/Global 2030 Agenda must be based on shared leadership and the setting up of partnerships with other public and private actors. It is essential to start from two basic premises; an institutional architecture that involves:

- The political willingness of each institution to work in the framework of SDGs;
- an exercise in true multi-level governance that respects the distribution of competences and which allows to adapt the priorities to each territorial circumstances but also built a partnership network between public administrations/ government authorities and the Basque society.

The Basque Government's commitment to the 2030 Agenda starts with the Basque Premier. (President or Lehendakari in basque language). In his address at his investiture in November 2016 he stated that the 2030 Agenda “offers the Basque Country an opportunity to construct

a project for the future aligned with the challenges of the global scenario. The commitment to leave no-one behind coincides with the firm commitment that I have made to the Basque society”.

From then on, we took on board the task of drawing up an Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda. This task is led by the Office of the Premier which is in charge with ensuring that the SDGs are reflected properly in the strategic planning of the whole Government; and acts as a link with 3rd parties, to capture knowledge, seek out partnerships and disseminate our commitment.

Methodology:

As mentioned, the present mandate began with a public commitment by the Premier to comply with the SDGs.

As a result, it was decided to focus the government action on drawing up the Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda (within the areas of authority of each body).

We do not start from scratch to make reality that our territory and our planet will be a more just, safe, healthy and equitable place in the year 2030. In short, more sustainable for the people. The Basque Country has a long history in transversal policies of environmental sustainability, gender or social cohesion, among others.

Thereby, in 2016 a first analysis of the existing policies and plans of the Basque Government was made in order to obtain a first picture that allowed us to see to what extent our general planning was aligned with the contents, objectives and goals of the 2030 Agenda.

On February 21, 2017, the Basque Government passed its Government Programme for the XI Legislature. It is a document that consists of 4 pillars, 10 axes, 15 country objectives, 175 commitments and 650 initiatives to advance in the Sustainable Human Development. A document in which the commitments acquired with the Basque society for the next four years are collected.

All of them are aimed at fulfilling objectives such as: setting the unemployment rate below 10%; to offer a first work experience to 20,000 young people; to lower the poverty rate by 20%; to increase the aids to families who want to have sons and daughters or meet the objective of the deficit, among others.

Serve as an example, three objectives of the Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda:

- Reduce the economic poverty rate by 20%.
At the beginning of the Legislature (Nov2016) the rate was at 10.9%.
In 2018, it is 9%, the lowest compared to the EU countries.
But in 2020 it should be 8.7% to meet our goal.
- Set the school dropout rate below 8%.
The rate has been reduced by 0.9 points since 2016 and it is currently 7%.
If we cross this data with the school enrollment rate, we can conclude that the system is inclusive, because it integrates practically 100% of the girls and boys, guaranteeing the children's rights; and it is equitable, because it seeks that the highest percentage of students complete their secondary education.
- Reduction of 20% of greenhouse gas emissions.

We have already reduced these emissions up to 26%.

One aspect to underline is that, while the Basque GDP has increased since 2005 by 12%, the emissions have been reduced by 26%. Therefore, economic growth is compatible with reducing the impact on the environment.

It also incorporates a model of governance based on transparency, assessment and accountability.

As we have seen at the beginning, the 2030 Agenda aims to be an instrument for the achievement of sustainable human development throughout the planet and its implementation involves administrations of all levels, private sector, academic sector, organized civil society and citizenship in general. That is why we believe that the best way to demonstrate the commitment of the Basque Government to the 2030 Agenda is through its alignment and approach towards it.

But the commitment does not end here. After a first diagnosis of the alignment between the Basque Government plans and the SDGs, it will be necessary to deepen with the sectoral teams, to:

- Identify additional plans that need to be reviewed
- Integrate the proposals of the 2030 Agenda into the new plans-strategies that will be developed
- Identify and assess areas for improvement, as well as goals that are or are not relevant to the Basque context
- Identify the priority areas of action, in which it is necessary to take more advanced measures.
- Establish the appropriate actions and indicators adapted to the Basque context.

In this way, we can prioritize objectives, as well as define methodologies for their achievement and models to adapt measurement indicators of them.

The main focus of the programme is sustainable human development. Therefore our programme fully shares the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Thus, February 2017 the governmental platform for the 11th mandate was passed.

Our 15 country- goals for the 2016-2020 mandate are centred on the "5 Ps" included by the UN in its SDGs: Prosperity (1-7), People (8-13), Planet (14), Peace (15) and Partnership (across the board).

We are also gradually incorporating the SDGs philosophy into our strategic planning and, subsequent, monitoring system. *For instance:*

- Efforts have been made to include express references to the SDGs prior to the approval of the 15 strategic plans for the mandate .
- We also expect to include an SDG variable into the annual monitoring of the implementation of the programme of government.

We therefore have a programme of government of our own. As a natural result of this process, the Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda was defined and approved on the 10th of April. The Premier (Lehendakari) unveiled our commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Basque contribution to the Sustainable development Goals.

The document was presented to the Basque society and the media, in an event held in Vitoria-Gasteiz on april 11 The event was shared with a representative of the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP). A colloquium was also held with representatives from the academia, NGO, third sector and business sector. The four representatives discussed the need to adapt the universal goals set by the UN to the territorial reality, a task where all stakeholders must contribute from every sector.

The Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda:

Covers all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental).

Is Cross-sectoral: it affects all areas of Basque public-sector policies.

The Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development is a key tool for the success of the 2030 Agenda because it reinforces the idea that we row in the same direction. Along these lines, we must value the Frame of Reference for the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development that we approved in the Council of Government in April of 2016.

And Specific: it focuses on issues and commitments in which we have the capability to act.

The Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda reflects how different Basque sectoral policies help to meet the 17 SDGs. Specifically, the Agenda includes 93 commitments, 80 planning instruments, 19 legislative initiatives and 50 indicators to help us move forward in the 2016-2020 period.

Those are the eight main pillars-bases-stones of our Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda:

- a) Integrational and indivisible: covering three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental issues)
- b) Transversal: it covers all areas of public policy and has an impact on them
- c) Time-based: notwithstanding the foregoing, the initiatives to be developed are divided into 4-year periods, coinciding with the Basque government's legislative period.
- d) Specific: Chiefly focusing on the issues and commitments in respect of which it is able to take action.
- e) Clear: is a simple, clear and user-friendly tool.
- f) Participational: permanently open to multilevel and multiagent participation.
- g) Adaptable: a "live" and adaptable Agenda undertaking any changes within a process of continuous improvement.
- h) International: a universal, global and international scheme.

The document was previously contrasted between the different Departments of the Basque Government and with some actors of the Basque society with whom we were meeting and sharing the steps that we and they were making.

The 1st Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030 covers the period between 2017 and 2020, which matches the Government Programme of the Autonomous Basque Community's 11th Legislature.

This 1st Agenda Euskadi- Basque Country 2030 homes in on the objectives and commitments of the Government Programme most closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, and goals which will be specifically monitored using the governance channels and instruments established by the Agenda.

This means that the 1st Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030 is structured around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals on Agenda 2030, which are linked to the 15 Country Objectives and implemented in 100 Targets; it identifies the commitments of the Euskadi 2020 Government Programme which have the closest links to the 17 SDGs; and it focuses on issues of common interest, ignoring any merely domestic issues which are of no global interest.

Each of the 17 Goals in Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030 is deployed in a total of 100 Targets associated with the commitments of the Euskadi 2020 Government Programme linked to Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

The number of Targets for each Goal varies between 3 and 10 depending on the competences of the Basque Government, and therefore their scope is not the same for each Goal.

When the Targets entail specific planning or the approval of legislative initiatives, the Agenda identifies the Plans and Legislative Initiatives associated with each

Finally, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development stipulates that each country must adapt the global indicators to its own reality, addressing the main social, economic and environmental problems and as well as associating them with specific targets to be met by 2020, 2025 and 2030.

Pursuant to this, the Agenda Euskadi Basque Country 2030 associates result indicators with each of the 17 Goals, to make up a dashboard with 50 Indicators, including the Human Development Index by way of a synthetic international benchmark indicator.

This definition of the indicators is open in the sense that, as the indicators of the United Nations and the European Union develop, so the Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030 indicator dashboard adapts to the modifications.

It is the first Public Administration in Spanish State to reflect its commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

The path laid out enables us to effectively align our public-sector policies with this universal agenda, and highlights the Basque Country's contribution. The Agenda 2030 does not dictate what we have to do, it defines a context to help us set out our priorities, taking into account our territorial reality and help us to improve our public policies

It brings together those actions under our programme which are most directly related to the 2030 agenda. Thus, the Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda is not an add-on but an integral part of the actions of the Basque Government.

Governance and coordination

This approach of localizing or territorializing the Agenda 2030 requires monitoring and assessment mechanisms fully interlinked with those already in place in the territory where it will be implementing, to make use of the systems that are already in operation.

Due to the transversal and integral nature of Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030, this 1st Agenda for all courses of action to be taken by the Government is to be led and coordinated by the Office of the President, specifically in coordinated action with the General Secretariats of the President's Office and the General Secretariat for External Action as a leadership-coordination "cedula" on the Agenda 2030.

The General Secretariat in the President's Office, as part of its function to coordinate action by the Government; the General Secretariat for the External Action department, as part of its function to foster and promote the coordination of external action by the Government in connection with the Euskadi Basque Country Internationalisation Framework Strategy 2020.

An annual monitoring report will be produced on the 1st Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030, which will showcase the Basque Country's contribution to worldwide effort and work to achieve the Agenda 2030, and set out its contribution to the annual report about the progress to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

This report will be submitted to the Basque Parliament.

The various areas of the Government will be involved in the Agenda 2030 governance model through the Basque Government's External Action department's Interdepartmental External Action Committee.

The Institutional participation of the rest of the institutions in the Autonomous Community of Euskadi to manage the Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030 will take place within the External Action Department's Interinstitutional Committee, composed of the Basque Government, the Provincial Councils, the 3 Basque Capital cities and the Association of Basque Municipalities (Eudel). Lastly, the social agents with a projection in the Basque County's External Action will contribute through the External Action Department's Advisory Committee, chaired by the Basque Premier. An example of multilevel governance.

This framework will be completed by the participational framework of social, economic and cultural agents in each of the Government areas responsible for achieving goals and targets on Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030.

Resources

The resources of Agenda Euskadi - Basque Country 2030 will materialise in portions of the Basque Country's General Budgets with direct links to the Sustainable Development Goals.

These items focus on promoting equal opportunities for particularly vulnerable groups (women, children and the migrant population), reducing inequality and improving environmental management and the conservation and restoration of ecosystems; they also address investment in social protection, health, education, nature conservation, the fight against climate change and development cooperation policy.

These budget items will be identified initially in 2018, to enable them to be monitored in the years 2019

Other activities or steps taken.

The steps undertaken from the Basque Government do not end in the contribution of the Government's Programme and public policies to the Agenda 2030.

In order to ensure our ownership and the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in the territory, Basque Government is taking in parallel some other steps:

- Raising-awareness, training and dissemination for the SDG's ownership and commitment of all stakeholders of the basque society. In this respect, we highlight the following activities:
 - a) Communication campaigns, integrating SDGs in public events and areas or spaces managed by Basque Government, using also IREKIA, the tool of the development of Open Government in the Basque Country which is embodied in a tool, a good government practice focused on transparency, participation and collaboration; an open window for citizen participation. Irekia is a direct communication channel between the public and the Administration which, online and using a non-administrative language.
 - b) Training/capacity building
 - Annual on line training course on Agenda 2030 for employees of the Public Administration;
 - Internal sessions on SDG for raising awareness among Directors of different Departments;
 - c) Design and printing dissemination material highlighting good experiences, and translation to basque language (euskera) related documents.
- Setting-up a working group or workshop with all different levels of the Basque Public Administration, through the existing Interinstitutional Commission (comprised of members of all different levels of the Basque Public Administration- 3 provinces, the 3 main municipalities and the Association of the basque municipalities-EUDEL) in order to generate common activities and a common document of the Basque contribution to the Agenda 2030 from the public sector. We are seeking to make this a country-wide agenda.
- Dialogues and attending the meetings of the Spanish Government through the Spanish High-level working group (GAN) and the team of the Ambassador on Special Mission on Agenda 2030 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.
- Participation in meetings or events:
 - a) Multi stakeholders events on Agenda 2030 organized by or in collaboration with Basque NGOs (such as UNESCO Etxea or UNICEF) , Universities (Basque Public University UPV-EHU) or private –sector/enterprises (Auren auditors, Iberdrola) or public-private actors agencies (Innobasque).
 - b) Events organized in Spain by different stakeholders: Spanish Senate, enterprises, academia, Spanish federation of provinces and municipalities-FEMP, NGOs, other Spanish regions (Valencia, Cataluña...) or networks such as REDS index (SDSN) or Global Compact.
 - c) European or International events organized or co-organized by UNDP (LED Local Economic Development Forum), Un Habitat (HABITAT III) , ESDN , or ORU FOGAR and nrg4sd sub-state networks, OECD..

Participation in several webinars held by nrg4sd or OCDE on the sub-national implementation of the SDG.

Participation in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) last 9-18 July 2018, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. This year represented a landmark to the engagement and contribution of local and regional governments, who attended with over 240 representatives, composing the Global Task Force constituency at the HLPF.

The regions reported different efforts and territorial approaches to the implementation and localization of the SDGs.

The participation of the Basque Government was headed by María Ángeles Elorza, Secretary General for External Action of the Basque Country. In the panel about subnational financing systems, the Secretary General shared the initiative of the Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda and the interesting experience of the Sustainable Euskadi Bonds, which combines funds collected through taxes and in the market system to promote and finance projects that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

- The Euskadi Sustainable Bonds: an example that makes visible a concrete contribution to the SDGs and that also covers the three dimensions of Sustainable Development.

The Basque Country has a tax system of its own. The so-called Concierto Económico (Economic Agreement) is a structure of bilateral tax and financial relations between the Basque Country and Spain.

According to it: we have our own internal revenue; we have full power of management, exaction and collection of practically all taxes; we transfer an amount to the central Government called Cupo (Quota) for the services it provides in the Basque Country.

In short, to carry out our public policies, the Basque Government has two financing channels: the collection of taxes and the bond issue that, subsequently, have to be reimbursed to investors.

The "Euskadi Sustainable Bond" promotes the implementation of the Agenda Euskadi – Basque Country 2030. The resources raised through the bond issue (500 million) will be used to finance programs that address some of the social and environmental challenges identified in our Agenda.

This compliance is supported by the external review carried out by one of the three major European environmental, social and governance rating agencies: Sustainalytics.

The agency has rated the bond as a solid, credible and transparent financial product. It has verified that the categories of eligible programs and target populations are aligned with the principles of the green and social bonds. And that both the selection and evaluation of projects that can be financed, as well as the management of income, are in line with good market practices, including the integration of environmental and social criteria into the hiring policies of the Basque administration.

The 500 million raised with the Euskadi Sustainable Bond issuance, 81% will go to social projects and 19% to green projects, which impact on one, another or several SDGs. To name the eligible categories: affordable housing; access to essential services (education and health), income guarantee projects and social inclusion; employment generation; renewable energies, clean transport, prevention and control of pollution, sustainable management of water and wastewaters, energy efficiency; adaptation to climate change.

Transferability

As have been pointed, it is the first Public Administration in the Spanish State to reflect its commitment to the 2030 Agenda. This has meant the interest from other public administrations and public or private stakeholders, as well the civil society, in the initiative pushed by the Basque Government, and how to use it as a model.

We have the intention of encouraging Basque provincial and municipal councils to sign up for the Euskadi Basque Country 2030 Agenda within their respective areas of authority and respective forums or governance bodies.

Enterprises/companies or business confederations have shared their experiences and steps taken on the Agenda 2030; Auren auditors, CEBEK (provincial business confederation) , Mondragon cooperative, among others. This experiences or activities exchanges has contributed to support each other activities and/or co-organise joint activities.

Moreover, we have participated in different activities of exchange of experiences or best practices . We highlight the following:

- Sharing our experience on the UNDP's, UN Habitat and Globaltask Force of local and regional governments: "Toolbox of localizing SDG"
- Sharing our experience on several newsletters: REDS (SDSN Spain) , UNHabitat, nrg4sd, ORU-FOGAR, ESDN...
- Contributing when creating a report or developing a research on subnational implementation of the SDGs, answering questionnaires, collecting information, adding independent research, interviews and follow-ups with regions. Such as nrgs4sd network's "localizing the SDGs: regional governments paving the way " or the 2nd "Global Report on the localization of SDGs" of UCLG, from the sub-state or intermediate government's point of view.

Partnership

Neither the public administration nor the various private actors can attain the goals set alone. We seek to work together, cooperating and setting up partnerships to which each party brings its own specific expertise and added value.

How can this be achieved? Through engagement on two fronts:

- By taking part in the defining and implementing of public-sector policies.
- Through defining specific action plans of the organisations that each party represents (the third sector, business, universities).

It is time for everyone to ask how they can contribute, from their respective organisations, to what must necessarily be a collective effort.

We have included in the debate on the achievement of the SDGs representatives of different sectors of Basque society (business, education, health...). Taking as the core idea the need for convergence among the different agents of civil society that coexist in the Basque Country and in intersectoral forums the need to collaborate if they aim to achieve the SDGs.

For this reason, we have relied on the Interdepartmental Commission within the Basque Government, an inter-institutional Commission with the Provincial Governments and EUDEL (the Association of Basque Municipalities), or the Basque Internationalization Council, to generate open debates on the localizing/implementation of the SDGs.

In addition to the essential contacts with the private sector, academia or the third sector and the NGOs, the organized civil society, the involvement of political parties and the legislative power is essential. In this regard, the Basque Parliament has recently created an intergroup on the 2030 Agenda.

In this objective of strengthening alliances, we have deepened and expanded the work with other organizations, institutions, agents, regions, and networks working on the subject.

As a matter of fact, our participation in networks linked to the 2030 Agenda, networks of other regions, or cooperation with other autonomous communities or European regions, is allowing us to identify implementation strategies.

In conclusion, it is about sharing experiences, making visible our commitment to the 2030 Agenda and generating a favorable environment, an "informal" alliance, for the appropriation of the SDGs, in such a way making reality the great objective of that "no one will be left behind".