



Strengthen the means of implementation and global partnership

That the world community could agree together on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was surely an important step ahead. But the true challenge will be to implement them. To do this presupposes a deep commitment for the global common good beyond national interests, a strong political will and sufficient financial means. World summits tend to produce impressive papers, but often fail to provide the needed means to realise the proposals. The financial needs of developing countries for development of infrastructure and effective institutions, for education and health services, are enormous, not to mention the huge cost of adapting to climate change. Only if the richer countries are ready to live more frugally and to share from their abundance can the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 be realised over the next 15 years.

What do the SDGs call for?

The last SDG looks at the implementation of all others goals. It will be necessary to provide the requisite financial means and create effective structures and institutions. The SDGs suggest various means:

- Fulfil the promised target of devoting 0.7% of the Gross National income to development
- Address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries
- Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system
- Enhance global macro-economic stability and policy coherence



What can we do?

Religious congregations have from the beginning contributed to a transfer of knowledge and technology through the educational and health facilities as well as through building and agricultural projects. The numerous partnerships between parishes and dioceses in Europe and Africa promote social projects and cultural exchange.

The Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN) is engaged in a regular exchange of information and experiences with members and partners in Africa. In joined actions we have campaigned for the 0.7 % target of development aid, for debt relief and an international debt frame work for sovereign states, and for the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) to be used for development and climate projects.

Words to challenge us

- Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. (Laudato Si' 165)
- I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us. (LS 14)
- We must regain the conviction that we need one another that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. We have had enough of immorality and the mockery of ethics, goodness, faith and honesty. It is time to acknowledge that light-hearted superficiality has done us no good. When the foundations of social life are corroded, what ensues are battles over conflicting interests, new forms of violence and brutality, and obstacles to the growth of a genuine culture of care for the environment. (LS 229)