

Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)

WORKING GROUP: Strategy for sustainable development of the European regions

PROJECT: Canarian strategy for sustainable development within the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda

(First Draft)



The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)¹' recent approval of a new working group called *Strategy for sustainable development of the European regions*, to be chaired by the Canary Islands Parliament, certainly poses a significant institutional challenge.

Over the coming two years (2018-2019) the Canary Islands Parliament will assume the responsibility of providing the European regions with a useful reference on the way in which they can contribute to the achievement of the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* approved by the United Nations Assembly on 25 September 2015.

Since the signing of its founding declaration in Oviedo in 1997, CALRE's mission has been to expand upon democratic and participatory principles within the framework of the European Union; to defend the values and principles of regional democracy; and to strengthen the ties between the Regional Legislative Assemblies.

CALRE contributes to the democratic participation of the Regional Legislative Assemblies via the strengthening of relations between the regional assemblies and, in particular, via the exchange of good practices.

The Canary Islands Parliament is aware of the great importance CALRE has as a framework for partnership, and seeks to proactively contribute to ensuring that the commitments acquired in the most recent institutional declaration become a reality, in particular the commitment to ensuring that the European regions can define their own strategy to facilitate roll-out of the 2030 Agenda in every territory.

This new institutional commitment also offers a new opportunity to continue bringing the Canary Islands Parliament closer to society (*taking the Parliament to the people*) and to reinforce the strong connection that the previous project enabled us to establish with many organizations.

¹ The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) is formed by 75 regional assemblies from eight European Union countries: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Finland, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

By means of this project the Canary Islands Parliament is proposes its roadmap for responding to this new institutional challenge. It has been largely conceived as the **convergence** of two overarching strategic initiatives: **the European 2020 Strategy and the 2030 SDGs**. To such an extent that there is truth aplenty in the statement that this project is the **bridge between two major development strategies**.

The European 2020 Strategy (2020 ES) defined five goals which set the tone for the European integration process and its response to the severe economic crisis of 2008. These five goals, which had to be adapted to each of the countries and regions, were: employment, research and innovation, climate change and energy, education and combatting poverty.

The 2020 ES set three mutually-reinforcing priorities:

- ❑ Smart growth: development of an innovation and knowledge-based economy.
- ❑ Sustainable growth: promotion of a more resource-efficient economy that would be greener and more competitive.
- ❑ Inclusive growth: development of a high-employment economy fostering social and territorial cohesion.

These three priorities facilitated the definition of a set of specific goals which marked the horizon for the development of the European Union. The goals were as follows:

- ❑ 75 % of people aged 20-64 to be in work.
- ❑ 3 % of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D.
- ❑ The «20/20/20» goal should be achieved for climate and energy (including achieving a 30 % reduction in emissions given the right conditions).
- ❑ Rates of early school leavers below 10% and at least 40 % of people aged 30–34 having completed higher education.
- ❑ 20 million fewer people in – or at risk of – poverty.

The Canary Islands responded to the 2020 ES by setting their own strategy, called the Canary Islands Smart Specialization Strategy (*Estrategia de especialización inteligente de Canarias*) (2014-2020), which was approved by the government in December 2013. This strategic framework enabled adaptation of the EU priorities and goals and set the goals that the Canary Islands had to assume as their own (see Table at Annex 1)

And just as the Canarian strategy is about to conclude, there is now the need to respond to a new challenge, a global challenge: a new agenda for sustainable development signed up to by the 193 United Nations (UN) countries.

The new agenda - which will take up the baton from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a document signed in the year 2000 by the UN member states - establishes 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030 (See Annex II).

The Sustainable Development Goals define a new common for all countries worldwide, and thereby represent the positive face of globalization: the SDGs are a groundbreaking universal social contract.

Features of the project

Aim

To define a Canarian strategy which contributes to achievement of the SDGs and which, as an example of good practice, can serve as a reference for other European regions.

This strategy has a firm focus on the particularities of the Canaries, especially the region's commitment to other EU ultra-peripheral regions and, most particularly, to the regions which make up Macaronesia. Accordingly, the Canarian strategy should include orientations for both development and co-development.

The strategy prioritise use of four smart tools: an Agenda, a Guide, a Network and a Map.

For this project, smart usage shall be taken to mean respect for the four principles held to be the binding principles of any strategic action: conditionality, contextualization, sequencing and attention to minorities.

Goals

- a) Disseminate the 2030 Agenda amongst the citizens of the Canary Islands and the regions participating in the project, and promote their participation and collaboration in the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- b) Discover, analyse and evaluate examples of good practices in achieving the SDGs
- c) *Facilitate linkage between the SDGs and the goals of the Canary Islands Smart Specialisation Strategy (2014-2020)*
- d) *Define a set of goals to enable adaptation and apply the SDGs to the specific context of the Canaries.*
- e) *Identify a set of resources, available in each of the territories, to be used in contributing to effective action by each of the organizations committed to achieving the SDGs.*

- f) *To drive forward partnership projects between public administrations and private entities in relation to each of the SDGs.*
- g) Analyse the current singularities of the regions participating in the project and assess their current circumstances and their commitments to achievement of the SDGs.
- h) *Create the conditions for constituting a development and co-development network between the institutions, organizations and social and economic stakeholders of the Canary Islands and the four regions participating in the project (see Annex III)*
- i) Understand and assess the normative bases of the «European social model» and assess their possibilities and limitations for offering a response to the challenges faced in producing a sustainable development strategy for the European regions.

Working agenda

The project will run for two years (2018 and 2019). There will be a focus on different SDGs in each of the years. The participating parliaments will set the priority for each goal.

Each of the proposed work streams will cover varied activities featuring the participation of a range of both public and private entities and institutions.

Planned activities shall include conferences, roundtables, seminars, exhibitions of work...etc.

The Canary Islands Parliament will submit a report to CALRE on all of the activities undertaken, as well as an end-of-year report with conclusions at the end of the first year and at the end of the second year.

In view of the breadth and complexity of the SDGs, the work agenda will consist of two phases.

Phase one. This phase will focus on the following nine goals:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 11. Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts *

Goal 15. Protect, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

Goal 17. Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Second phase. This phase will focus on the following eight goals (as well as on the improvement of the goals formulated in the first phase, if necessary):

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 6. Ensure access to water and its sustainable management and sanitation for all

Goal 8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Actions

The project is based on the simultaneous and parallel development of different work streams.

- ❑ **Stream A:** Dissemination of the 2030 Agenda in each of the territories. This action stream will feature an edition of the **school competition** in collaboration with the Education Department and Universities and the Island Councils (*Cabildos Insulares*).
- ❑ **Stream B:** Creation of a **Canarian Sustainable Development Agenda** to include an adaptation of the SDGs and three five-yearly sequencing milestones: 2020 (starting point), 2025 (first, interim evaluation) and 2030 (final evaluation).
- ❑ **Stream C.** Drive forward the creation of a **Canarian Sustainable Development Network**, drawing on the good practice observed in networks already created, both nationally and internationally.
- ❑ **Stream D:** Production of a **Participation Guide** to enable both public administrations and non-governmental organizations to define their own contribution to the SDGs, as well as their role in the regional project. This Guide will be produced via meetings on institutional collaboration between public administrations and private organizations. The Guide will focus on guidelines for running development and co-development projects.
- ❑ **Stream D:** Production of a **Resource Map** as an aid to the achievement of the SDGs in the Canaries. It will highlight the resources available to the organizations interested in proactively contributing to the achievement of the goals.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I. Goals and indicators set in the Canary Islands Smart Specialisation Strategy

1. Employment for:

EU: 75 % of people aged 20-64

Spain: 74%

Canaries (2011 figure): 51.4 %

2. Investment in R&D:

EU: 3 % of GDP

Spain: 3%

Canaries (2011 figure): 0.58%

3. Climate change and energy sustainability:

EU: «20/20/20» for climate and energy (including augmenting the emissions reduction (ER) to 30 % if the right conditions prevail).

Spain: 10% (CO2 reduction), 20% (ER), 20.5% (efficiency/reduction in consumption)

4. Education:

EU: early school leaving rate below 10%, and at least 40% of young people (aged 30-34) to have completed higher education.

Spain: 15% (early school leaving rate) and 44% (higher-level studies)

Canaries (2011 figure): 31.5% (early school leaving rate) and 23.8% (higher education)

5. Combat poverty and social exclusion:

EU: reduce by 20 million the number of people at risk of poverty

Spain: 1,400,000 – 1,500,000 People

Canaries (2011 figure): 812,426 People

ANNEX II. The Sustainable Development Goals. Transforming our world. 2030 Agenda

Preamble

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free humanity from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



These 17 goals may be grouped around four areas or axes (as they are termed by the UN Secretary General)



The main **features** of the SDGs may be summarised as follows:

- **A Comprehensive Agenda:** one of the most noteworthy features of the new Agenda is that for the first time the global goals focus not only on overcoming poverty and hunger, but also on solving problems linked to violence, discrimination, environmental degradation and sustainability, justice, human rights and good governance. The Agenda takes into account Amartya Sen's concept of human development, which seeks freedom in the face of fear and in providing for basic needs and human dignity.
- **A Universal Agenda:** it is described as a universal agenda because a call to action is made to the entire international community, to all countries, and to all individuals. One which comprises a collective, shared and balanced effort towards the achievement of global development and countries' internal development.
- **An Ambitious Agenda:** because there is a widening of the coverage of the issues and the scope of the targets, but also because their implementation requires the mobilization of many more public and private resources and capacities.
- **Participatory:** The formulation of the SDGs is the result of one of the largest participatory processes the United Nations has ever carried out. In designing it proposals were received and included from multiple players: states, specialist groups, different sectors and spheres of civil society, involving different capacities and experiences, with the aim of agreeing common goals to respond to the real social demands. For this reason, the 2030 Agenda applies a cross-cutting principle of leaving no one behind and makes it imperative to combat the roots of exclusion and marginalisation whatever their origin.

- **Principle of Shared Responsibility:** The agenda focuses on promoting collective action on an international scale that goes beyond the policies of transferral of resources. It works under the principle of distribution of responsibilities which are shared among all countries, but differentiated according to the degree of development in each case.
- **Inter-related goals:** The Agenda will not be satisfactorily met if work is not conducted on all the goals simultaneously. The effectiveness of the implementation of the SDGs depends on ensuring that the achievement of a given goal produces a positive knock-on effect on the results of the others.
- **Principle of Subsidiarity:** The SDGs respond to this principle insofar as each of the goals and targets must be managed by the sectors and players with the right skills to respond to them in each case. However, there is an emphasis on the need to generate alliances and partnerships in order to increase skills, resources and experience with a view to achieving the goals.
- **Localization and ownership:** Great importance is attached to adapting the Agenda to local and regional realities so as to ensure ownership of the agenda by the institutions and the citizens. This process is known as localization of the agenda and it is basically a political exercise which requires the involvement of institutions at all levels and mobilized citizens.
- **Evaluation and accountability:** Given that the 2030 Agenda involves public policy commitments in different spheres and in all countries, the bodies in charge of auditing public policies must assume the tasks of monitoring and holding the respective governments to account vis a vis the commitments assumed and the degree of completion. A complementary system of accountability on the regional and global scales should also be devised. The United Nations is driving forward a process of perfecting systems of evaluation and calibrating of results to ensure the availability of and access to information, reliable data, monitoring etc.

ANNEX III. The Macaronesian Network for Sustainable Development (RMADS)

Macaronesia is the contemporary name used to refer to four diverse archipelagos of northern Atlantic islands, located close to Europe and Africa. Furthermore, they occupy an important stretch of the coastal waters of north-eastern Africa, from Morocco to Senegal, which serve as a border for these archipelagos.

The four archipelagos of the geographic area known as Macaronesia form part of differentiated social and political systems. Three of them (The Canary Islands, Madeira and The Azores) are part of the European Union, whilst Cape Verde belongs to the African Union.

The parliaments of these regions already share a joint mechanism which enables them to pool concerns, worries and projects: the Atlantic Forum (*Jornadas Atlánticas*). The inaugural Atlantic parliamentary forum was held in 1991, in Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Canary Islands), with the most recent edition taking place in the Canary Islands in 2016. The latter received CALRE recognition, winning first place in the Stars of Europe prizes.

Within the framework of this forum, the regional parliaments have manifested a firm and genuine commitment to contributing to the construction and consolidation of the region of Macaronesia, based on a solid historic-cultural bedrock and strong political and strategic interest.

In this context of good understanding and partnership, the parliaments of the four regions undertook to launch a new initiative: the creation of a Macaronesian Co-Development Network, with the aim of uniting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda).

Presidency of the Canary Islands Parliament