

Processed contributions

This synthesis text incorporates contributions from:

- [Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad](#)
- [Vlaamse Jeugdraad](#)
- [Associations 21](#)
- [Habitat et Participation](#)
- [Luttés – Solidarités – Travail](#) (LST)
- [Forum des Jeunes](#)
- [11.11.11](#)
- [Sensoa](#)
- [Canopea](#)
- [Reset Vlaanderen](#) vzw (+ [annex](#))
- [Trias](#) vzw
- [BOS+](#)
- [CNC/11.11.11](#)
- [CNC/11.11.11](#)
- [WSM](#)
- [Be-cause Health](#)
- [Be-cause Health SRHR](#)

Which SDGs are the partners themselves working on?

- The answers show that the organisations are each in their own way very active in initiatives to promote just about all the SDGs.
 - [Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad](#). Especially the following SDGs: SDG 1 poverty, SDG 5 gender equality and women's empowerment, SDG 10 reduce inequality, SDG 11 sustainable cities.
 - [Vlaamse Jeugdraad](#). The institution provides advice on all issues affecting children, young people and youth organisations. These include advice related to the following SDGs: SDG 1 (1.4), SDG 3 (3.4 and 3.5), SDG 4 (4.3), SDG 8, SDG 10 (10.2), SDG 11 (11.2), SDG 13, SDG 16 (16.10). The institution also gave a [contribution](#) during the Belgian UPR, with recommendations on SDG 4 and SDG 5.
 - [Associations 21](#). The focus is mainly SDG 4, in conjunction with all other SDGs. A very important role in its own work is played by the [Cap 2030](#) tool. This tool is widely distributed and gives the opportunity to a wide audience to have an active discussion on the SDGs.
 - [Habitat et Participation](#). Its own work is mainly related to SDG 11.
 - [LST](#). Its initiatives mainly focus on SDG 1 and SDG 10.
 - [Forum des Jeunes](#). Its own work is mainly related to SDG 4, quality education. Programmes in schools and schools themselves should be better adapted to tomorrow's

challenges. Important adaptations needed are: (1) make environment and sustainable development a subject in education, (2) install a participation culture in at school ([opinion](#)). In its own work, there is further focus on SDG 2, SDG 5 and SDG 11.

- [11.11.11](#). The organisation engages in awareness-raising and policy advocacy, urging Belgian governments to increase their commitment to achieving all SDGs. The organisation focuses mainly on SDG 17 (17.14), Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Thematically, it focuses on: **(1)** climate change and combating its impact SDG 13 and sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources SDG 12 (12. 2), **(2)** making trade and investment policies more sustainable SDG 2 (2c), SDG 3 (3b), SDG 10(10 a and c), SDG 17 (17.10 and 17.11), **(3)** equal access to the legal system for all and corporate duty of care, among others SDG 5 (5a and c), SDG 6 (6.1), SDG 8 (8.5, 8.7, 8.8), SDG 15 (15. 1) SDG 16 (16.3, 16.10), **(4)** fiscal policy and debt relief for lower-income countries SDG 10 (10.4 and 10.5), **(5)** 0.7% by 2030 SDG 17 (17.12), (6) equitable migration policies SDG 10 (10.7 and 10. c), **(6)** defence of "civil space" and strengthening civil society participation SDG 16 (16.6, 16.7, 16.10) and political inclusion SDG 10 (10.2), **(7)** partnerships for sustainable development SDG 17 (17.16, 17.17), **(8)** global citizenship education SDG 4 (4.7).
- [Sensoa](#). The organisation is mainly committed in Flanders, Belgium and internationally to SDG 3 (3.3, 3.7), SDG 4 (4.7) and SDG 5 (5.2, 5.6). Sensoa is committed to SDG3, 4 and 5, in Flanders, Belgium and internationally. Internationally, the organisation aims to systematically draw attention to SDG 3 and SDG 5.
- [Canopea](#). SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 15.
- [Reset Vlaanderen](#). SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 16, SDG 17.
- [Trias](#). The organisation has integrated the People, Planet and Profit components into its core strategies. For the operation in Belgium in its own organisation, SDG 10 and SDG 17 are the main targets. With partners, intensive work is done around SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 12 and SDG 13. In addressing global challenges, the focus is mainly on SDG 5 and SDG 8.
- [BOS+](#). The organisation works domestically, in Africa and in Latin America. The focus on SDGs is direct and indirect: **(1)** SDG 1 (Direct: 1.5, 1.1, 1.2 | Indirect: 1.4, 1.a), **(2)** SDG 2 (Direct: 2.4, 2.5), **(3)** SDG 6 (Direct: 6.6, 6.5 | Indirect: 6. 5), **(4)** SDG 12 (Direct: 12.2, 12.8, 12.6, 12.5, 12.7 | Indirect: 12.1), **(5)** SDG 13 (Direct: 13.1,13.3 | Indirect: 13.2, 13.a), **(6)** SDG 15 (Direct: 15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5 | Indirect: 15.9, 15.b, 15.a).
- [CNCD and 11.11.11](#) (Central Africa). SDG 1 (1.3, 1.a, 1.b), SDG 2 (2.3, 2.4), SDG 3 (3.8), SDG 5 (5.1, 5.2, 5.5), SDG 6 (6.1), SDG 10 (10.2, 10.4), SDG 16 (16.1, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10).
- [CNCD and 11.11.11](#) (climate). Mainly SDG 13. Also SDG 10 and SDG 12.
- [WSM](#). Especially those SDGs related to decent work and social protection: SDG 1 (1.3), SDG 3 (3.8), SDG 5 (5.4), SDG 8 (8.5), SDG 10 (10.4), SDG 12 (12.7).
- [Be-cause Health](#). SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5 (5.2, 5.6), SDG 6, SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 16, SDG 17.
- [Be-cause Health, SRHR](#). SDG 3 (3.1, 3.3, 3.7), SDG 5 (5.2, 5.3, 5.6).

What are priority themes or SDGs for Belgium in implementing the 2030 Agenda?

- Organisations' responses place different emphases.

- Some key themes: restructuring and reorganising the economic model with concern for people and nature and equal rights and opportunities, preventing violence and tackling sexism, eliminating poverty, opting for gender mainstreaming, greater focus on 'leaving no one behind', peace and reconciliation as a spearhead of foreign policy, strengthening support for international law, addressing climate crisis, a law for the 2030 Agenda. (Vrouwenraad)
- Priorities: (1) reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and to that end, commit to eliminating poverty (SDG 1) and pursuing gender equality (SDG 5), (2) more efforts on SDG 10 (10.7) migration, (3) much more commitment to SDG 13 climate (especially 13.1 and 13.2). (Vlaamse Jeugdraad)
- There is a need for structural change through strong measures. These should include: limiting advertising, banning polluting production and harmful non-essential infrastructure, reducing the number of trips, more support for vulnerable people when renovating their homes, redistributive taxation, concrete ban, renovation of existing building patrimony, agro-ecology, stronger protection of biodiversity, policy coherence, integration of sustainable development in education programmes. (Associations 21)
- Priorities: (1) stop the financialisation of housing, (2) more focus on energy renovation, (3) prevent the most vulnerable from becoming victims of climate transition. (Habitat et Participation)
- In general, there is a need for a fundamental change in our economic model. This is the only way to tackle inequality structurally. More specifically, there are still some important points of attention: (1) guarantees for a better participation of people living in poverty in all policy processes, (2) strengthening social security, (3) real analyses of the impact of policy decisions on the most vulnerable population groups, (4) fair taxation and a restoration of public goods, (5) a ban on the possibilities of accumulation of wealth and natural resources. (LST)
- Greater focus is needed on SDG 4, quality education. (Forum des Jeunes)
- The main themes are: (1) policy coherence for sustainable development (17.14), Belgium should pay more attention to the external effects of its own policies, those of the EU and of the activities of value chains of companies operating in our country, (2) support for low-income countries in the realisation of the SDGs that are priorities for them (17.16 - 17.17), and that also implies achieving the 0.7% (11.11.11)
- Federal: better services for people living with HIV and addressing HIV-related stigma and discrimination, a better around physical and sexual integrity for the asylum and migration sector. Flemish: education policy around relationships and sexuality, and relational and sexual education (4.7.2), contact points for integrity within organisations/sectors, integrate attention to sexual health in training (health workers, teachers, police personnel, ... (4.7.1)). (Sensoa)
- In the context of energy transition and the current crisis, the focus on SDG 7 is a priority. Becoming less dependent on fossil fuels requires opting for renewable energy sources. Belgium needs to ensure a favourable price for the electrification of the park while working on a substantial development of renewable energy. (Canopea)
- Priorities: (1) an integral, holistic approach to the SDGs (cf. Donut model), (2) more attention to the social dimension of the SDGs (poverty, health and well-being, decent work, reduced inequality, quality education), (3) promoting partnerships, (4) affordable and sustainable energy for all, (5) housing as an integral theme, working towards a fair and sustainable housing policy for all as an engine for the transition, (6) adapted communication per target group. (Reset Vlaanderen)

- Priority should be SDG 17. More focus on policy impact and policy coherence (17.14). More efforts for low-income countries and 0.7% (17.16 - 17.17). (Trias)
- To stay within planetary boundaries, priority action is needed for the biodiversity (SDG 15) and climate crises (SDG 13). This should include consideration of impacts in other countries, including deforestation. This includes strong action on SDG 12 (12.2 and 12.6). (BOS+)
- (For Central Africa policy) Priorities: SDG 1 (1.a and 1.b), SDG 5 (5.1), SDG 10 (10.4), SDG 16 (16.1). (CNCD and 11.11.11)
- (For climate policy) Priorities: SDG 12 (12.2) and SDG 13. (CNCD and 11.11.11)
- Priority concerns: (1) Belgium should put the ILO's Decent Work Agenda at the heart of its international policy. (2) The recently launched programmes to strengthen social protection systems should be perpetuated and be given a better place in the development cooperation budget. (3) Belgium should promote the ratification and implementation of relevant ILO standards in international policy and among international partners. (4) There is a need for a fully-fledged strategy paper on social protection and decent work. (5) It is important to maintain 'universal health coverage' as a priority in development cooperation. (6) The effective participation of midfield actors should be guaranteed in the various programmes. (7) There is a need to support the "global accelerator for jobs and social protection" (ILO) initiative. (8) Belgium should seek a smart mix of policies to ensure respect for human rights and the environment in international value chains, including hard law. (WSM)
- Belgium should ensure equitable access to responsive quality health services for all, and in particular for the most vulnerable, embedded in strong, resilient and sustainable health systems, globally. (Be-cause Health)
- Belgium is committed to promoting SRHR internationally with SRHR as a priority in its health and gender strategy and development cooperation law. This commitment should be reflected in funding, programmes and human resources. (Be-cause Health SRHR)
- Some general elements (from the discussion at the SDG Forum):
 - There is a need for stronger policies against pesticides.

What issues require changes at European or international level to implement the 2030 Agenda?

- The organisations point to a number of issues:
 - Strengthened and accelerated development of the EU's social dimension is needed. (Vrouwenraad)
 - Stronger and more ambitious binding agreements, at European and international level, are needed to realise SDG 13. Belgium should play a pioneering role in this regard, together with other countries. Belgian governments should not let the Belgian state structure hold them back in this regard. Youth participation is necessary here. (Vlaamse Jeugdraad)
 - Important issues are: limiting lobbies that prevent structural policies, phasing out measures or (budgetary) norms that prevent sustainable investments (e.g. renovation in social housing). (Associations 21, Habitat et Participation)
 - There is a need for a structural focus on policy coherence for sustainable development. This is now too much interpreted as domestic coherence, neglecting the external dimension. (11.11.11)

- European development cooperation should make health and gender equality a substantive and budgetary priority. (Sensoa)
- The EU should leave more space for member states to regain sovereignty over their own electric park. The EU should propose credible projects for getting out of nuclear and fossil fuels while supporting massive renewable energy development. Compelling policies are also needed to address the energy impact of digitisation. (Canopea)
- Priorities: (1) sufficient focus on international solidarity, (2) more impetus to address SDGs integrally, (3) a clearer framework for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs that does not allow for 'greenwashing', (4) more focus on strengthening public support through appropriate climate communication and participation. (Reset Vlaanderen)
- Key points include: better cooperation between European donors and partner countries, policy coherence for sustainable development. (Trias)
- Priorities are: (1) rock-solid legislation on imported deforestation and policy coherence at EU level, (2) substantially increased and additional funding for biodiversity and climate, (3) divestment from deforestation and fossil fuels. (BOS+)
- Some key issues (Central Africa policy): (1) decolonised trade and development policy, (2) review of MONUSCO phase-out plan, (3) review of sanctions regimes, (4) more transparency in decision-making processes and more systematic dialogue with local civil society, (5) better human rights monitoring model in Burundi, (6) strengthening midfield actors, (7) promoting regional consultations, (8) UN Mapping Report for sustainable peace and security. (CNCD and 11.11.11)
- Priorities (climate policy): (1) climate damage and loss financing, (2) binding material footprint reduction targets, (3) international protection and support national climate migration initiatives, (4) complete phase-out of agro-based biofuels. (CNCD and 11.11.11)
- Key points: (1) substantial increase in international support for social protection programmes, (2) an adaptation of the current proposal of Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (HRDD). (WSM)
- Key points: (1) Europe must stop the accelerating health crisis caused by climate change, (2) there is a need for more policy coherence for sustainable development. (Be-cause Health)
- Belgium should continue to actively promote SRHR together with other countries. (Be-cause Health SRHR)

What key messages would you like to see in the VNR?

- The organisations have the following suggestions:
 - There is a need for concrete commitments to the identified challenges. (Vrouwenraad)
 - It is important to see that different forms of struggles and challenges are linked. The climate struggle must also be a struggle for social justice. (Vlaamse Jeugdraad)
 - Massive investments are needed for mental well-being. (Vlaamse Jeugdraad)
 - It is important to make education for sustainable development more structural. (Associations 21)
 - There is a need for a stronger policy that can provide structural answers to the housing crisis. (Habitat et Participation)

- The text should show that Belgium wants to make the international solidarity pledge concrete and that Belgium is an active partner in realising health and gender equality. (Sensoa)
- There is a need for a different vision on how we deal with energy. By 2030, we need to massively reduce energy consumption to enable a credible transition to renewable energy. The concept of 'energy sufficiency' should be central to the debate on SDG 7. (Canopea)
- Key messages: (1) focus on international solidarity, (2) a more holistic approach, especially for housing policy, (3) combine the processes for the UNR and for the National Conference on Equitable Transition, (4) focus on strengthening ownership and democracy. (Reset Vlaanderen)
- There is a need for a concrete interpretation of the progress made in Belgium. (Trias)
- For Central Africa policy: (1) strengthening civil society in partner countries, (2) decolonisation and equal partnership, (3) policy coherence, (4) better financing of international cooperation. (CNCD and 11.11.11)
- For climate policy: (1) draw up bilan for SDG 13 and SDG 12 (12.2), (2) clarify mutual linkage between SDG 12 (12.2) and SDG 13, through circular strategies, (3) formulate recommendations to make progress. (CNCD and 11.11.11)
- Need explicit support for the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection. (WSM)
- Need for a "health in all policies strategy". (Be-cause health)
- Continued support for SRHR. (Be-cause health SRHR)

Editors: Jan Mertens, Fabrice Dehoux en Chris Schuurmans (FRDO-CFDD)