ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: The Key Roles of Northern Europe

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs

February 26, 2016

High-Level Launch of SDSN Northern Europe
At Chalmers University
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEANS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THAT IS
SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE
THE SDGS WILL OPERATE DURING 2016-2030
THE “GRAND CHALLENGES” OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

ENDING EXTREME POVERTY (SDG 1, 2, 6, 7)
DECARBONIZING THE ENERGY SYSTEM (SDG 13)
SUSTAINABLE FOOD & AGRICULTURE (SDG 2, 14, 15)
SMART INFRASTRUCTURE & CITIES (SDG 9, 11)
SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (SDG 12, 14, 15)
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH (SDG 3),
    AND EDUCATION (SDG 4)
PROMOTING JOB SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (SDG 8)
ENHANCING SOCIAL INCLUSION (SDG 5, 10, 16, 17)
GOOD NEWS DURING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL ERA:

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIGHTING GLOBAL HUNGER, POVERTY, AND DISEASE
ECONOMIC GROWTH IS STRONGLY RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL QUALITY
WORLD-LEADING INNOVATION HUBS AND GREAT UNIVERSITIES

Scandinavia has 19/500 of top universities, higher per capita than the US.
NOW THE NOT-SO-GOOD NEWS!
FOUR UNMET CHALLENGES:

PERSISTENT EXTREME POVERTY

HIGH AND RISING INCOME INEQUALITY

UNPRECEDENTED ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

INSUFFICIENT GLOBAL SOLIDARITY
SYRIAN MIGRANTS IN HUNGARY, SEPTEMBER 2015
US Border Patrol Facility in Arizona, June 2014
HUMANITY IS VIOLATING THE "PLANETARY BOUNDARIES"

Source: Rockström et al 2009a)
Land & Ocean Temperature Departure from Average Jan–Dec 2015
(with respect to a 1981–2010 base period)

Data Source: GHCN–M version 3.3.0 & ERSST version 4.0.0
Land Lost to 6M Sea Level Rise, NASA
FIVE STEPS TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

And the Role of Northern Europe
SDG RANKS OF OECD COUNTRIES

1. SWEDEN
2. NORWAY
3. DENMARK
4. FINLAND

29. U.S.
34. MEXICO

SOURCE: BERTELSMAN FOUNDATION
1. POLICY PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SDG-BASED PLANNING AND BUDGETING, BASED ON BACKCASTING, TECHNOLOGY ROADMAPPING, MONITORING, REAL-TIME DATA, INTENSIVE LEARNING CYCLES
Emissions are heading to a 4.0-6.1°C "likely" increase in temperature. Large and sustained mitigation is required to keep below 2°C.

CO2/CAP, 2012
NORWAY, 7
DEMARK, 7
SWEDEN, 4
GERMANY, 9

BAU: 4-6 degree C

2. GLOBAL NETWORKING

NETWORKS OF UNIVERSITIES, BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO PROMOTE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE SDGS

(SDSN IS ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE)
MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK (SDSN)
3. DEPLOYING THE NEW ICTS

BROADBAND PLATFORMS FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE, PAYMENTS, AND SDG DATA
4. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CITIZEN’S INFORMED ENGAGEMENT IN SDG PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERFACE WITH GOVERNMENT AND EXPERT COMMUNITIES
5. BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FOR THE SDGS

SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY
CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY
HIGH INNOVATION
PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENT
5. A SHARED ETHICAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AN ETHOS OF SOLIDARITY, TRANSPARENCY, HONESTY, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SDGS, LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND GLOBALLY
“Interdependence obliges us to think of *one world with a common plan*. Yet the same ingenuity which has brought about enormous technological progress has so far proved incapable of finding effective ways of dealing with grave environmental and social problems worldwide. A global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*
NORTHERN EUROPE EMBODIES THE SDG ETHOS:

PUBLIC LEADERSHIP
COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL INCLUSION
HIGH INVESTMENTS IN R&D
RENOWNED CORPORATE LEADERSHIP
TOP UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH CENTERS
GENEROSITY IN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT
The Sustainable Development Solutions Network is profoundly honored to work with the Political, Business, and University Leadership Of Sweden, Norway, Germany, and neighbors in Northern Europe in support of the SDGs

(www.unsdsn.org)