

Now
2030
Basque Country

Basque model
of **commitment**
to **localising**
the SDGs

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Lehendakaritza – Presidency of the Basque Government

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Background: calling for and offering commitment

- On 15 March 2023, the President of the Basque Country, Iñigo Urkullu, presented the *Now 2030 Proposal* at the Plenary Session of the Basque 2030 Agenda Forum, and also announced his intention to do so before the United Nations and the main European institutions. *Now 2030* suggested expanding the format and effects of the SDG Summit that the United Nations was to hold in September in New York.

The document proposed a global approach to rigorous assessment from 2015 up to 2030, and a definition of urgent priorities for the SDGs, from 2023 to 2030. Alongside this, it argued for a Declaration of Specific Commitments by institutions and social actors, based on the principle that we must accept there can be no further delays, because “2030 is now”.

The Basque Country aimed through this proposal to contribute, to the extent of its modest capabilities, to an international consensus establishing 2023 as a global and local turning point in the fulfilment of the SDGs.

Now 2030 ended by calling for and offering a commitment. Calling for a reaction by States up to 2030. Offering the role of non-state governments in localising and governing the SDGs. Calling and offering. From that point onwards, the Basque Government drew up a proposal to structure the contents of what the Basque Country could offer as its own commitment.

- A Basque delegation took part on 16 and 17 September at the United Nations SDG summit, as the host of the Local 2030 Coalition headquarters. This provided the framework in which to present the Basque model of commitment, defining what the Basque Country had to offer, through its capabilities and competences.
- At its meeting held on 14 December 2023, the Standing Committee for the Basque 2030 Agenda Forum approved the document *Now 2030 Basque Country*. Basque model of commitment to localising the SDGs, developing the proposals previously presented to the UN in March, and at the SDG summit in New York.

Basque model of commitment to localising the SDGs

As institutions and social actors committed to the 2030 Agenda, we share a concerned diagnosis, with two key features: insufficient global fulfilment of the goals and targets set for 2030, and considerable lack of social awareness of what the SDGs are and what they mean.

The Basque Country is home to the headquarters of the UN Local 2030 Coalition Secretariat. Its mission is to help localise the SDGs. The fact that the headquarters are based in Bilbao provides an opportunity to channel the Basque response to this twofold concern.

The model shared and promoted by the Basque Country suggests developing the concept of localisation, through a threefold practical commitment appealing to institutions, social actors and the general public.

I. Localisation first of all means a commitment to greater institutionalisation

In its most practical aspect, it involves structuring at least four infrastructures, committed to the executive development of the SDGs from the institutional and organisational perspective.

- ***First infrastructure.*** *Create an executive, cross-cutting management and co-ordination body for the SDGs, to steer governance by any institution or organisation.*

Examples of practical application

-General Secretariat of Social Transition and 2030 Agenda of the Basque Government, located at the Presidency.

(<https://www.euskadi.eus/gobierno-vasco/transicion-social-agenda-2030/>)

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- **Second infrastructure.** *Have strategic planning documents in place, including goals, criteria, priorities, action plans, calendars and budgetary alignment.*

Examples of practical application

-Basque Programme of 2030 Agenda Priorities, defining four priority strands.

(<https://www.euskadi.eus/programa-vasco-de-prioridades-de-la-agenda-2030/web01-a2lehetr/es/>)

-Basque Country Bultzatu 2050 Urban Agenda.

(https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/bultzatu_2050/es_def/adjuntos/bultzatu_2050/agenda_u_es.pdf)

-Annual Management Plans of the Basque 2030 Agenda Forum.

-Report on budgetary alignment of the Basque Government with the SDGs.

(https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/docs_interes_transicionsocial/es_def/adjuntos/Informe-Seguimiento-2022-Agenda-2030_cast.pdf)

-Toolbox for implementation of the SDGs at Basque town halls, promoted by EUDEL.

(https://www.eudel.eus/es/file/libro_ficheros/herramientas_agenda_2030_para_ayuntamientos)

-Definition of 14 flagship projects at the municipal level aligned with the Basque 2030 Agenda Priorities Programme.

- **Third infrastructure.** *Prepare and use efficient assessment tools, such as indicators aligned with the actual reality, yearly stock-takes or Voluntary Annual Monitoring Reports. Measure and evaluate the best way of taking the 2030 Agenda seriously.*

Examples of practical application

-Indicator dashboard shared by the Basque Government, Provincial Authorities and Town Halls.

(<https://www.eustat.eus/indic/ods.html>)

-Yearly stock-takes by each Basque 2030 Agenda Forum body.

(https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/docu_foro_multiagente/es_def/adjuntos/Plan-Gestio-n-2023-Foro-Agenda-2030-enero-2023.pdf)

-Voluntary Annual Monitoring Reports produced by the Basque Government since 2018. The 2023 edition offers a multi-level perspective.

(https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/docs_interes_transicionsocial/es_def/adjuntos/Informe-Seguimiento-2022-Agenda-2030_cast.pdf)

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- **Fourth infrastructure.** *Promote models of governance and extensive intra-institutional and social cooperation, fostering involvement in these structures.*

Examples of practical application

-The President of the Basque Government established the Basque 2030 Agenda Forum by decree, with a methodology of yearly management plans as well as yearly monitoring reports.

(<https://www.euskadi.eus/bopv2/datos/2021/07/2104183a.pdf>)

-It involves all Government Departments, the three Provincial Authorities, EUDEL, the Town Halls of the provincial capitals, Basque universities, third-sector institutions, representatives of public-private partnership, clusters and technology centres.

-This Forum comprises the following bodies: the Plenary, the Standing Committee, five Working Groups: Governance, Urban Agenda, Social Transformation, Energy-Climate Transformation and Economic-Digital Transformation; along with Guneak, the platform to open the forum up to participation and cooperation by the public and private sectors and civil society.

II. Localisation secondly means a commitment to greater socialisation

We start out from a position of considerable social ignorance of the SDGs. There is an urgent need to invest resources and efforts focused on helping to publicise the 2030 Agenda and the involvement of social actors. The initiatives providing the specific content for this commitment include the following:

- *Communication campaigns or initiatives.*

Examples of practical application

-Yearly Basque Government SDG information campaign.

-Basque Country 2030 Agenda Award at the San Sebastian Film Festival.

(<https://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/es/news/88276>)

- *Educational courses and publications.*

Examples of practical application

-Dual annual offering of free educational courses in the 2030 Agenda undertaken through a partnership between the Basque Government and civil society organisations.

(<https://www.euskadi.eus/cursos-para-entender-la-agenda-2030/web01-a2lehetr/es/>)

-Erronkak collection of publications with the aim of helping to understand and better address the major challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

(<https://www.euskadi.eus/coleccion-erronkak>)

- *Subsidies for social promotion and citizen participation.*

Examples of practical application

-Basque Government “2030 Agenda Vouchers” subsidy programme, to raise the profile of the SDGs, and encourage participation and engagement by citizens.

(<https://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/es/news/84009-gobierno-vasco-pone-marcha-edicion-del-programa-bonos-agenda-2030>)

- *Educational tools.*

Examples of practical application

-Teaching material for the 2030 Agenda entitled “What happened to the future?”, an audiovisual series in four seasons with 17 chapters lasting 3 minutes, to be used in compulsory secondary education.

-Trilingual Basque-Spanish-English dictionary with 3,000 terms and definitions connected with the 2030 Agenda.

(www.2030agendahiztegia.eus)

- *Guide to developing the SDGs at companies and organisations.*

Examples of practical application

-Publication and distribution of the Guide to developing the SDGs at companies and organisations, accompanied by training opportunities.

(https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/alianza_vasca_ods/es_def/adjuntos/Gui-a-ODS.pdf)

- *Specialist training.*

Examples of practical application

-Partnership of three Basque universities and the Basque Government to promote a postgraduate course to qualify as an inter-university specialist in strategic integration, monitoring and communication of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

(<https://www.ehu.es/es/web/graduondokoak/especializacion-universitaria-integracion-estrategica-seguimiento-comunicacion-agenda-2030-ods>)

- *Social cooperation alliances.*

Examples of practical application

-Guneak platform of the Basque 2030 Agenda Forum promoting the Basque SDG Alliance, based on a declaration with five commitments and five practical implications. More than 80 social actors have signed up to the Alliance.

(<https://www.euskadi.eus/alianza-vasca-por-los-ods/web01-a2lehetr/es/>)

-Incorporate SDG 18 within the Basque 2030 Agenda, linked to linguistic and cultural diversity, in partnership with social and institutional agents.

III. Localisation thirdly means a commitment to greater personalisation

The 2030 Agenda is likewise a personal appeal affecting our everyday life, both individually and in family or private terms. The institutionalisation and socialisation of the SDGs must take this third dimension into account. Without active and informed participation and engagement by citizens, the future of the Agenda is at risk.

- *Share the 2030 Agenda ABC with the general public.*

Examples of practical application

-The Basque Government has drawn up this ABC guide, summarised as follows:

- A. Better combat poverty and share prosperity.
- B. Contribute more to equality and to avoid discrimination.
- C. Reduce waste, consume less energy and recycle more.

-The final appeal may be summarised with the following idea:

“Nothing changes if we change nothing”.

This content is used to undertake intense communication campaigns.

(<https://www.euskadi.eus/el-abc-de-la-agenda-2030/web01-a2lehetr/es/>)

- *Promote the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a social contract which requires personal commitment and engagement, and a willingness to cooperate with other people and groups.*

Examples of practical application

-The Basque 2030 Agenda Priorities Programme proposes the SDGs as a new social contract.

(https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/docs_interes_transicionsocial/es_def/adjuntos/CAST-Programa-prioridades.pdf)

-The Basque SDG Alliance is based on the Declaration “For a Basque 2030 Agenda Social Contract”.

(https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/alianza_vasca_ods/es_def/adjuntos/Adhesiones-Aliantza-cas.pdf)

-The idea of the social contract forms part of the regular discourse of the Basque 2030 Agenda Forum and its members.

Now 2030 Basque Country principle and methodology

This Basque model of commitment to localising the SDGs is based on a principle and a methodology.

*·**Proactive principle.** The commitment to the 2030 Agenda is more than adhesion and formal alignment of programmes with the SDGs. It involves asking ourselves how the SDGs change our pre-existing operational approaches and policies. This is where their transformative capacity lies.*

*·**Methodology of specificity.** The SDGs need more specificity and less abstraction. We have to move on from words to deeds. Expressed in specific projects that bring us closer to fulfilment. This is not about having projects for the 17 Goals, but defining priorities and practical flagship initiatives.*

Closing words

Now 2030 Basque Country calls for and offers a greater commitment. By presenting this model of engagement to localise the SDGs, the Basque Country is aiming to lead by example. The ultimate aim is to achieve the best possible positioning of the Agenda by 2030. 2030 is now. The commitment is needed now.

The 2030 Agenda is the largest and most significant effort for global co-operation ever seen to address the major challenges faced by the planet and humanity. There is ample justification for each of us to take on our fair share of responsibility and commitment. There is no other more efficient or cooperative approach.