



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



What is Sustainable Development?

The concept of sustainable development is accurately defined in the following quote from a 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development report, *Our common future: Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.* Sustainable development is characterized by intergenerational solidarity aimed at finding solutions for guaranteeing further economic growth that actively includes all social groups in the development processes, and allows them all the opportunity of deriving benefits from said growth.

Discussions regarding sustainable development were initially limited to the need to reduce the negative impact of economies on the environment. Over the years, the concept of sustainable development has been expanded to focus on a balance of three essential development factors: Respect for the Environment, Social Progress, and Economic Growth. Currently, the concept of sustainable development is increasingly included in the mainstream discussion on socio-economic development, essentially becoming a horizontal rule reflected in all national development policies.

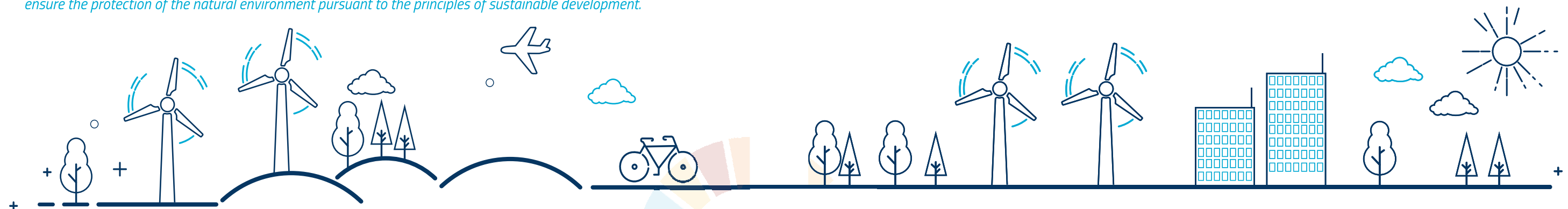
In Poland, the principle of sustainable development has been assigned the status of a fundamental right in the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, as stated in Article 5 of the Basic Act:

The Republic of Poland shall safeguard the independence and integrity of its territory and ensure the freedoms and rights of persons and citizens, the security of the citizens, safeguard the national heritage and shall ensure the protection of the natural environment pursuant to the principles of sustainable development.



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What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 by 193 United Nations (UN) Member States, is an action programme of unprecedented scope and importance that defines a model for sustainable development at the global level. Pursuant to the 2030 Agenda, *contemporary modernization efforts should focus on eliminating poverty in all its manifestations, while achieving a number of commercial, social, and environmental goals.*

The 2030 Agenda, being a continuation of the global efforts to improve the quality of life for all people worldwide, refers to and is largely based on the Millennium Development Goals implemented in the years 2000-2015; however, its scope is much broader than that of the Millennium Programme. In addition to priorities such as health, education, nutrition and food security, the Agenda indicates a number of economic, social and environmental goals, while seeking to transform economies so as to lay the groundwork for long-term, sustainable growth that fosters the creation of new jobs.

The 2030 Agenda is universal, horizontal and very ambitious. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related tasks which reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development Economic Growth, Social Progress and Respect for the Environment.



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 ages



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



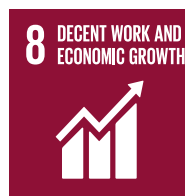
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



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

Areas having impact on the achievement of the Strategy objectives

Achieving the objectives set out in the Strategy will be determined by efficient actions of the State relating to: improving the quality of human capital and increasing the share of social capital in the development of the country, strengthening digital development, increasing transport accessibility, balancing the energy system of the country, managing environmental resources and increasing the level of security and public order.



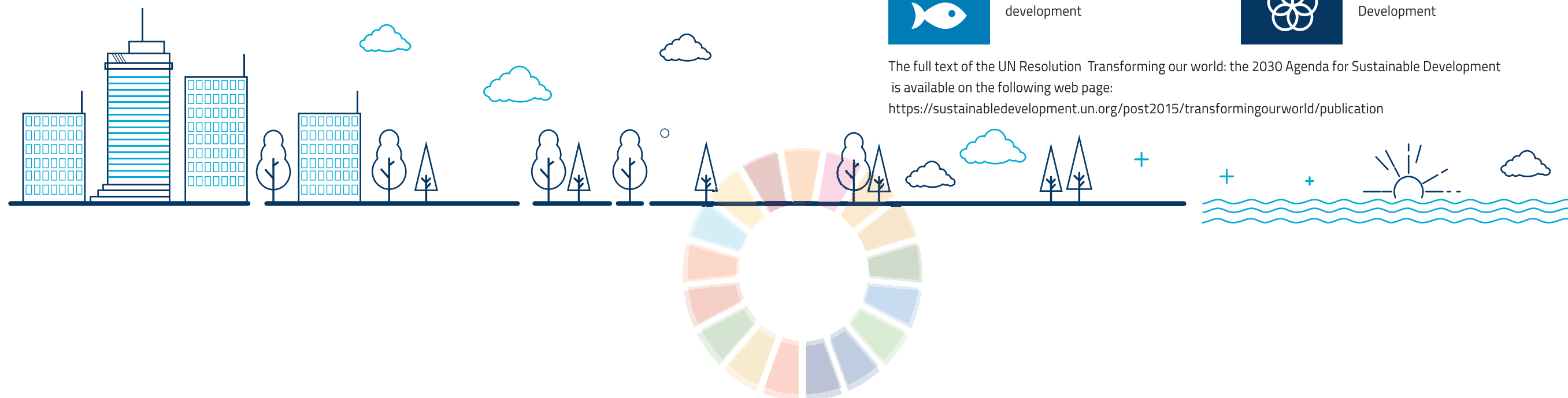
Social issues and the provision of conditions for human development are essential in the 2030 Agenda, stressing the need to eliminate poverty (SDG 1), provide decent work (SDG 8), access to good education for all (SDG 4), and equal access to widely understood infrastructure (SDG 9). Relevant for sustainable development is the supply of clean and accessible energy (SDG 7), water and sanitation (SDG 6) and the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns (SDG 12). The Agenda indicates that quality of life will be determined by the fight against climate change and the sustainable use of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (SDGs 13, 14, 15). The Agenda puts a particular emphasis on guaranteeing peace and security, respect for human rights, as well as good and above all responsible governance as the basic conditions for sustainable development (SDG 16).

Specific
Objective IIIEffective state and economic institutions contributing
to growth as well as social and economic inclusion

The priority area of the Strategy is to improve the quality of statutory law, and to build a system for managing development processes that will enable efficient coordination of the most important economic processes by using the opportunities offered by digital technologies. At the same time, it is important to create transparent business conditions, simpler and stable regulations, improve the situation in the labour market, and consequently improve the living conditions of the Polish people in accordance with the principle of decent work, adjusted to job qualifications and fair pay.

The 2030 Agenda formulates specific tasks towards providing full and productive employment and decent work for everyone (SDG 8). It also clearly indicates the strengthening of the role of legislation (SDG 16) and increasing the access of companies to financial services (SDG 9).

Many actions outlined in Specific Objective III of the Strategy are consistent with the tasks related to health care, provision of safe transport systems and strengthening implementation measures (SDGs 3, 11, 17).



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 build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The full text of the UN Resolution Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is available on the following web page:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>

What transformational changes are expected?

A new vision of global development outlined in the 2030 Agenda focuses on five major transformational changes referred to as the 5P principle (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership):



People Ensuring that no one is left behind i.e. reaching out to socially excluded groups, creating conditions and opportunities for the exercise of universal human rights and access to economic achievement for all people.



Planet Building a development model which will foster economic growth, greater social inclusion and rational use of natural environmental resources, resulting in a better quality of life and solving the problem of poverty.



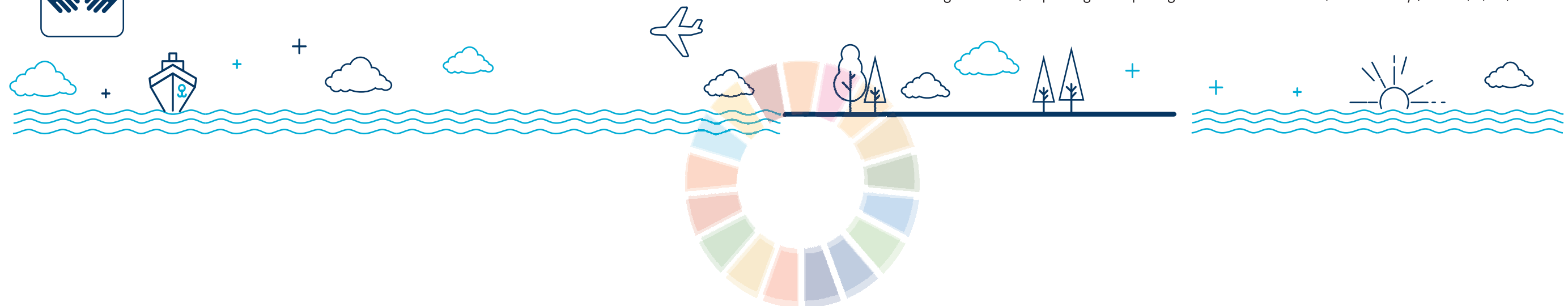
Prosperity Transforming economies in a manner conducive to creating jobs and guaranteeing inclusive growth by using new technologies and business potential, and providing access to good education, health care, and infrastructure.



Peace Fostering peaceful societies and effective, fair, open and responsible institutions that guarantee strengthening the role of law, social inclusion and co-decision, access to justice and non-discrimination.



Partnership New global partnership building on solidarity, cooperation, responsibility and transparency of actions taken by all stakeholders at the global and local levels.



Specific Objective II

Socially sensitive and territorially sustainable development



Socially and territorially sensitive development is an objective of the Strategy which accentuates social cohesion as a prerequisite of an economy characterized by high levels of employment, good quality jobs and high levels of entrepreneurship. It also emphasizes the inclusion of all areas, including small towns and rural areas, in the development process. The benefits of economic growth should be available to all, regardless of their place of residence.

In this area, the 2030 Agenda clearly discusses the need to provide equal access to economic resources and basic services, combat poverty, especially among children (SDGs 1, 2), provide health care (SDG 3), create new jobs and promote employment (SDGs 8, 9), provide everyone with safe and adequate housing conditions, and provide access to communication (SDGs 10 and 11 and water 6)

Many of the actions outlined in Specific Objective II of the Strategy will implement tasks focused on enhancing education, improving the equal rights of men and women, and security (SDGs 4, 5, 16).

Specific Objective I

Sustainable economic growth increasingly driven by knowledge, data and organizational excellence



Within the economic sphere, an emphasis is placed on building a strong industry, consistent and comprehensive investment projects with a particular focus on innovation, and foreign expansion of Polish businesses i.e. an increased presence in existing and entry into new, fast-growing markets, full utilization of the digital revolution, and rapid development of information technologies.

The 2030 Agenda lists innovation, increased access to ICT, promotion of sustainable industrialization and the strengthening of financing for investment projects as factors improving productivity.

As such, the activities under Specific Objective I of the Strategy are first and foremost consistent with SDGs 8, 9, and 12 of the Agenda, as well as with the tasks of ensuring high-quality technical, vocational and higher education outlined in SDG 4. A number of actions are also focused on areas concerning sustainable agriculture and food production, environmental technologies, reduction of inequality, and the global partnership for development as outlined in SDGs 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda.

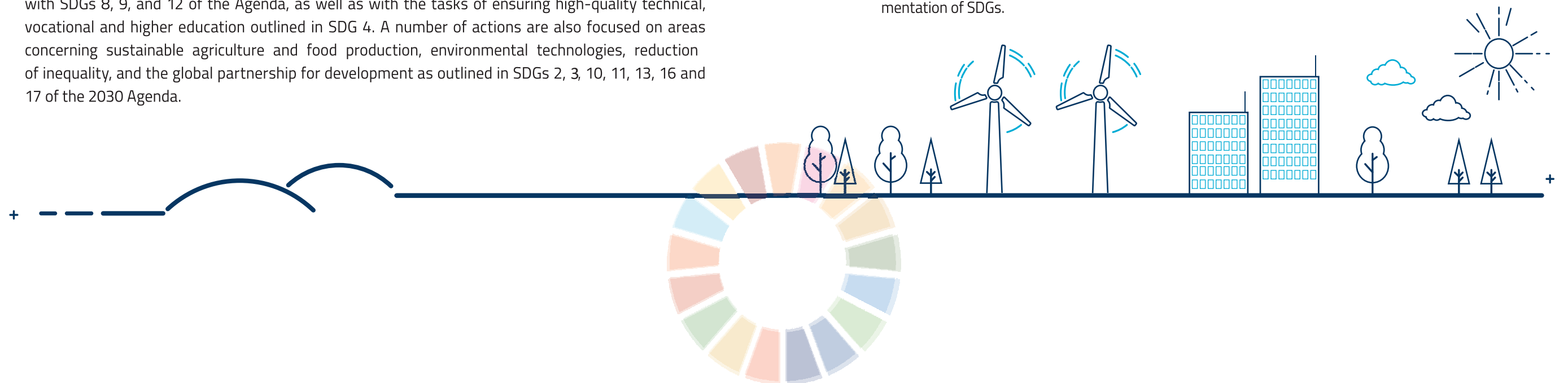
How are countries to implement the 2030 Agenda?

The 2030 Agenda is a universal development plan for the world, which needs to be adjusted to the realities of each country, therefore, the role of countries in its implementation is essential. The complexity and interrelation of the SDGs requires broad involvement and responsible cooperation. Therefore, it is of great importance to translate the global goals to address differing national, regional and local conditions as well as to stress their importance for everyone.

Article 21 of the 2030 Agenda recognizes the responsibility of each Member State for the implementation of the Agenda at the national, regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development while respecting national policies and priorities.

To meet the obligations of the global goals, it is necessary for all Member States to take the following actions:

- Designating National Development Goals, which will refer to the Sustainable Development Goals adopted within the 2030 Agenda.
- Ensuring the monitoring of progress at the national level the selection of indicators, implementation of a relevant monitoring and reporting system.
- Building a partnership with wide groups of stakeholders for a new model of development and implementation of SDGs.



How is Poland implementing the 2030 Agenda?

The Polish perspective on actions regarding sustainable and responsible economic development has been formulated in *The Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD)*, which is an instrument for flexible management of the major national development processes. The strategy presents a new model of development – *responsible development*, i.e. one which, in the process of strengthening competitiveness by means of new growth factors, allows the participation of and provides benefits to all social groups living in various parts of our country. At the same time, within the new model, the needs of the present generation will be fulfilled without reducing the opportunities of future generations. The focus is not solely on the total size of GDP, but rather on its quality as well as the perception of the development processes in the context of their importance for citizens.

The main objective of all actions and projects provided for in the Strategy is to create conditions that foster income growth for all residents of Poland, while also increasing social, economic, environmental and territorial cohesion. The implementation of the Strategy is expected to increase the wealth of the Polish people and decrease the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The new development model for Poland set out in the Strategy meets the expectations formulated in the 2030 Agenda. The concept of sustainable and responsible development, on which the Strategy was built, is consistent with the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda, *a vision of a world free of poverty, where every human being has the opportunity to benefit from development.*

The convergence of the Strategy and the Agenda is noticeable in their shared objectives, priority areas and actions, and their indicators.

The Coordinator for the implementation process of the UN Agenda at the government level in Poland is the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology.

What are the priorities of the Strategy for Responsible Development?

