The Sustainable Development Goals – A new global framework for FSC

John Hontelez, Chief Advocacy Officer FSC A.C.
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Adopted by the UN General Assembly, September 2015

Core component: **Sustainable Development Goals**
*Succession of the Millennium Goals (2000-2015)*

“They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental”

People – Planet – Prosperity – Peace - Partnership

“All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan”.

“no one will be left behind”
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“no one will be left behind” “accepted by all countries and applicable to all..."
IMPORTANCE OF THE SDGs

- National sustainable development strategies on basis of these SDGs

- Business sector, NGOs refer to SDGs to position/change their policies, practices, campaigns, awareness raising

- Multilateral Development Banks, International funds may use SDGs as guidance for programmes

- Often mentioned with Paris Agreement as two most important long term global agendas
SDGs and Forests:

SDG 6 (water): 6.6. “By 2020 – protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including..... forests...

SDG 12 (consumption and production): 12.2 “By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources”

SDG 15. Life On land
15.1 by 2020, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of .....forests......

15.2 “by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation globally.”

15.b mobilise.. Resources.. for SFM and.. conservation and reforestation.
But forest certification links to several more SDGs:

FSC certification in particular contributes to, at least, 11 Goals and 35 Targets

See: ic.fsc.org/sdgs
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SDGs – Paris Agreement and Forests:

SDG 13 on Climate Change, remained general – ahead of Paris Agreement

13.1. *Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity*...
13.2. *Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning*....

Paris Agreement put forests centre stage (Article 5):
- For mitigation: sinks and carbon reservoirs; as well as for adaptation
  - Through tackling deforestation and forest degradation
  - Through conservation, SFM
“while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, associated non-carbon benefits”.

BENCHMARKING AND REPORTING ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION:

232 Global INDICATORS (for 169 Targets) – annual reporting by UN Secretary General to UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Governments, local authorities, stakeholders can choose different indicators

But all govts. are expected to report to UN (partly via agencies such as FAO)
Target 15.2. has one indicator: “progress with sustainable forest management”.

But subdivided in:
1. Forest area net change rate
2. Above-ground biomass stock in forest
3. Forest area within legally established protected areas
4. Forest area with a long-term forest management plan
5. Forest area certified under an independently verified certification scheme.

First reporting done (by FAO) in: 2017 UN report on progress towards the SDGs” and its Statistical Annex ---
2018 special year for FSC and SDGs:

High-Level Political Forum will focus on:

- SDG 6 (Water)
- SDG 7 (energy)
- SDG 11 (cities)
- SDG 12 (Production and consumption)
- SDG 15 (Life on Land)
- SDG 17 (Partnerships)

Pre-events in 1st half of 2018 expected

48 countries will present national voluntary reviews, including 21 with FSC certification: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Hungary, Ireland, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Paraguay, Poland, Rep. Congo, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Uruguay, Vietnam

Preparations can be used to highlight role of (FSC) certification – at HLPF exposure to our scheme
CONCLUSION:

SDGs + Paris Agreement: global guides for governments, business, civil society till 2030

Forest Certification official indicator

Let’s turn this indicator into a major implementation tool for SDGs!

Emphasizing the multiple contributions:
- **environmental**: water, biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity ..... 
- **social**: decent work, poverty, gender equality, partnerships 
- **Economic**: sustainable resources, bio-based products