

## British Concerns, Hidden - by the UK #Brexit negotiations

### Sustainable Development Strategy accompanied by an enhanced implementation plan to achieve the SDGs (Delivering the Goals) by 2030

- Sustainable Development must be at the heart of the future of Britannia. While appreciating comprehensive analyses, its descriptions of the challenges, the direction in which to move and the potential for the UK that it shows, the concern that the pace of transition towards sustainability, globally and within the UK, falls short of what is needed to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (**#SDGs**) that we agreed upon in 2015. The urgency of localising today's **environmental, social and economic challenges** is not matched by political action.
- Sustainable Development is a common goal on a global scale; it requires common effort of all nations to achieve sustainable use of natural resources and well-being for all people. United Kingdom cannot achieve it alone, but the UK can and should use its weight as EUs biggest trade nation and as big importer of bio-based resources to push globally for sustainable sourcing, thus supporting maintaining global biodiversity and ecosystems that are vital for our **#commonfuture**.
- Sustainable Development is about the future of people; the economy should, within the planetary boundaries, work for society to deliver well-being and equity, now and for future generations. **#Agenda2030 is a people-centred project designed to leave no one behind**.
- The time for reflection has passed: In the era of environment and **#climateemergency** called out by the Parliament and over 200 towns and cities, it is now high time for action. The House of Commons (civil society) wants to see an urgent move to develop and deliver an UK-wide, overarching, medium-term Sustainable Development Strategy accompanied by an **Enhanced Implementation Plan to achieve the SDGs by 2030**, further on to reach **#netzero** emissions no later than 2050.
- The Sustainable Development Strategy should encompass both UK internal and external action and promote maximum coherence between them. The enhanced implementation plan should integrate sustainability in all policy areas, outline key actions which the UK will undertake to implement the SDGs, a clear timetable and roadmap, **granularity in its concrete 17 targets and 169 indicators**, and addressing the main roles and responsibilities of all UK institutions, agencies and actors, boroughs and districts. Cornerstones of the implementation plan should be innovation, sustainability-oriented international cooperation and trade agreements, and mobilisation of business and civil society.
- The establishment of a governance and coordination framework alongside the strategy for implementing the 2030Agenda is necessary to ensure that the SDGs are at the centre of all policies. In particular, the **UK PLANNING STRATEGY 2016-2036** should be based on the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda should play a prominent role in the future. All new APPGs and existing planning committees should be organised around the implementation and

mainstreaming of the SDGs.

- The House of Commons calls on the GOVT to move beyond GDP growth policy. The use of GDP as a measure of prosperity ignores important elements of social and environmental costs and benefits.
- The House of Commons recognises that there are leaders within the business community on integration of sustainability. Many businesses are ahead of the policies. Policy needs to create and supporting the provision of an enabling environment and certainty to ensure best practice becomes common practice. This will make business capable of delivering sustainable solutions.
- The House of Commons calls for all existing UK policy and budgetary/financial frameworks and tools (such as a **Policy Coherence Strategy, Better Regulation, Medium-Term Objectives as High-Quality Accessible Data (Granularity), Urban Climate Emergency Toolkit, Carbon Education Implementation Measures, first and foremost Urban Resilience with a Comprehensive Disaster, Risk Reduction framework** etc.) to be urgently aligned with the achievement of the SDGs. Credible sustainability-proofing methodologies should be identified or developed at UK level to ensure that budgetary/financial instruments, policy frameworks, and impact assessment approaches support SDG implementation in the UK's internal and external action. New tools, such as measures of "distance to targets" and new indicators, should also be developed.
- The revised **NPPF2** (2018) and interlinkage Sustainability Appraisal Frameworks was in 2012 the first UK planning policy framework to set out planning policy framework dedicated to advancing sustainable development – the Economic and Urban Growth – and is committed to promoting and mainstreaming New Local Plans is already **out-dated**. It will therefore re-assess and launch an internal reflection on aligning its internal governance with the SDGs replacing the Millennium Goals. **The UK's Voluntary National Review process and progress of the SDGs** debated in the Lords 2019 in a more comprehensive manner throughout its opinions as well as in its internal functioning and structure.
- **Communications and awareness raising in “Delivering the Goals”**. Structured involvement of civil society is necessary and a clear mandate for civil society's participation in the development, implementation of the strategy and in monitoring progress toward ‘the Goals’ should be provided (national and local **Peoples SDG-Assembly (PSDGA)**). The important role played so far by the **Cross-sector partnerships (CSP)** should be reviewed with the involvement of all stakeholders and lessons learnt from the success of other relevant CSP forums, specifically the England resources and waste strategy - Circular Economy Mission. The CSP should be upgraded and brought into a formal and interinstitutional consultation framework, as recommended by the Parliament.
- Sustainable Development has the potential to be a tool for social solidarity and can counter the rise in populist anti-establishment feelings of citizens who are disconnected from decision-making and power. It must not be an elitist agenda but a **#knowledgesharing** people-centred project, aiming at making sustainable consumer choices accessible and affordable.