

Costa Rica: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



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What are the bold actions being taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Costa Rica?

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships build upon principles, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.

In Costa Rica, the Government signed a **National Pact for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in September 2016 together with heads of the three branches of the Republic, civil society, religious organizations, businesses and citizens, pledging to promote

and comply with the SDGs and monitor and report on the implementation.

The National Pact is the result of an inclusive and participatory process with national stakeholders. It addresses Goal 17 on Partnerships for the Goals, highlighting the importance of forging the collaboration between the public and the private sectors towards achieving sustainable development.

To this end, a new Technical Secretariat for the SDGs was established by Presidential Decree, which consolidates its mandate and governance

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One of the essential – and perhaps the most important – challenges that the states have in the globalized world today is to embrace political decisions that provide real opportunities and capabilities for people, so that they can have a better quality of life, living and carrying out their personal projects. For this reason, we are moving towards actions that allow us to overcome the inequality and injustice for human development.

Ana Helena Chacón Echeverría,
Vice-President of Costa Rica,
September 9th, 2016

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Signing a Pact for the Sustainable Development Goals is a way for the long-term agreements to be reached for the orientation of national development. Although it is true that the Government has a fundamental responsibility in the conduct of development, not less important is the contribution of the other sectors.

Olga Marta Sánchez,
Minister of National Planning and
Economic Policy of Costa Rica,
September 9th, 2016



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structure based on a multi-stakeholders approach.

The United Nations in Costa Rica established a strategic alliance with the Government to jointly lead the process of advancing the National Pact. Providing technical support to the SDG Secretariat, the UN has been closely working with the statistical commission designated to identify national indicators and targets to measure progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Why do the above actions matter to the people in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica has been making remarkable progress in sustainable development, the country remains committed to coping with fragility and vulnerability that threaten national capacity to build a resilient future for all. The country is facing new challenges arising in addition to the persistent gaps in society.

In Costa Rica, 20 per cent of the population lives under the extreme poverty level and inequality within the country has been growing. 47 thousands boys and girls are not going to school and only 13 per cent of



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indigenous people finish school. Up to 27 per cent of women earn less than men despite the same job. About 92 per cent of female household heads are responsible for the care, protection and upbringing of their children, without the support of care services. 19 per cent of African descent people do not have insurance. Social discrimination persists against women, LGBTI, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, Afro-descendants, migrants and refugees, and people living with HIV.

In line with the SDGs and the National Pact, the notion of leaving no one behind has been placed at the centre of the country's development agenda.

What SDGs have been particularly advanced?

Considering the multidimensional and interconnected nature of the SDGs, all Goals need to be advanced together. However, the SDG Technical Secretariat has identified three particular SDGs as entry points: Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 9 on resilient infrastructure and Goal 12 on sustainable and responsible consumption.



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