



DECLARATION

**Adopted by high representatives of the CBSS government institutions
responsible for sustainable development**

**Baltic 2030:
Renewing the Commitment
to Sustainable Development
in the Baltic Sea Region**

Dated 6 June 2016

We

Preamble

1. **Recognize** that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development¹ at the United Nations marked the beginning of a new era in global collaboration for sustainable development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.
2. **Reaffirm** our commitment, (from 25 September 2015, when we, the eleven countries of the Baltic Sea Region joined our voices with those of 182 other nations) to take the “bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed”² to increase the speed as regards achieving sustainability for the BSR in order to pro-actively contribute to implementing the global Agenda 2030 and to shift our region to a sustainable and resilient path. This Declaration, which initiates elaboration an Action Plan of cooperative work on sustainable development – “Baltic 2030” and renews our commitment to pursue a cooperative agenda for the advancement of regional sustainable development, is an important first step into this new era.
3. **Recall** that the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs continue the work begun under the terms of the global Agenda 21 (1992), the Millennium Development Goals (2000), and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002); and that the SDGs are universal and represent a more thorough integration of the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development.
4. **Recall** that in the Saltsjöbaden Declaration of 1996, the member states of the CBSS first agreed to pursue regional collaboration on sustainable development through an integrated approach; and in the CBSS Declaration of 23 June 2014, the countries expressed their intention to continue to work on sustainable development by developing a new sustainable development agenda for the Baltic Sea Region.
5. **Recognize** that the CBSS Baltic 21 has been an important policy driven component that has complemented other collaboration agreements and instruments in the region such as HELCOM and VASAB, as well as UBC, and that many initiatives have been undertaken during these years have led to improvements in the region’s capacity to answer to complex challenges that derive from environmental, economic, and social dimensions.
6. **Acknowledge** the new Mandate of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development-Baltic 2030, which facilitates, supports and promotes macroregional engagement in the 2030 Agenda and the operationalization of its goals and targets, enables improved coordination of regional activities and SD governance and provides a useful platform for voluntary peer learning between the governments and exchange of good practices for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
7. **Take note of** the results of the Joint Meeting hosted by the Council of the Baltic Sea States Polish Presidency on 28 October 2015, which concluded that a new sustainable development agenda for the Baltic Sea Region can be a “suitable instrument” for stimulating the involvement of all CBSS countries as well as stakeholder groups including civil society, business, regional and local authorities.

¹ “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” United Nations Resolution adopted on 25 September 2015.

²“Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” United Nations, 2015, Preamble, second paragraph.

Addressing Joint Challenges

8. **Recognize** that increasing the economic prosperity of our region, improving the social welfare and well-being of our people, including realizing human rights of all and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, ensuring the safety and security of our communities and enhancing the environmental status of the Baltic Sea as well as the Baltic Sea region are deeply inter-connected and inter-dependent goals that can only be achieved through the common and cooperative efforts of all our countries, sectors, and stakeholders, and that Baltic 2030 is an appropriate instrument for addressing this implementation responsibility in the Baltic Sea Region.
9. **Recognize** that many of the specific challenges related to sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region have also grown ever more pressing and that many of them, because of their fundamentally trans-boundary nature, require an enhanced macro-regional approach if they are to be addressed successfully.
10. **Recognize** that some of these challenges have ecological limits, and that it is in the interest of all member states to avoid crossing those thresholds, which could lead to irreversible environmental, economic, and social losses to our region and make it impossible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Even though we can build on encouraging achievements already, time is of the essence.

We therefore:

11. **Reaffirm** our commitment to cooperation to realize the vision of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;
12. **Decide** to elaborate an **Action Plan of cooperative and synergistic work on sustainable development – “Baltic 2030”** – that will identify the thematic areas and collaborative actions where complementary or supplemental dialogues are needed;
13. **Stress the need to focus** the efforts of Baltic 2030 on the facilitation of the following:
 - a. Processes that support regional governance collaboration, and cooperation and that advance progress on sustainable development, as it has been framed by the 2030 Agenda;
 - b. Processes that support voluntary sharing of the results of national-level reporting (once such reporting systems are in place), as well as other regional-scale assessments (such as reports produced by HELCOM, VASAB, UBC and other actors);
 - c. Processes that pursue thematic topics of interest to the region as adopted in the Mandate of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development and where there is an evident added-value of transnational cooperation, including topics that may be in alignment with themes identified for review at the global level, conducted by the High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council;
14. **Call upon** the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, noting its new Mandate, to elaborate an Action Plan, with the support of all relevant CBSS networks and other BSR stakeholders and actors, bearing in mind that this action plan is likely to be updated during the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
15. **Resolve to pursue** our cooperation on Baltic 2030 in full awareness of the many existing regional agreements, programs, and initiatives currently covering elements of the sustainable development agenda in our region, ensuring that there is no duplication of effort and that Baltic 2030 provides a complementary, overarching strategic vision for cooperation on sustainable development; and
16. **Further resolve to pursue** our collaborative work on Baltic 2030 with such efficiency that it does not obligate us to increase the administrative or budgetary commitment required.