



Nordic Solutions to Global Challenges

An initiative by the Nordic prime ministers

PHOTO: RICKY MOLLOY

50 steps for global change

The Nordic Solutions to Global Challenges initiative was launched by the five Nordic prime ministers in spring 2017. The potential of the initiative quickly became evident. To date, over 50 strategic activities have been implemented or planned in around 30 countries.

The message was loud and clear: the Nordic countries stand firm on their commitment to future generations – promising to tackle climate change, rapid urbanisation and gender inequality.

The six flagship projects under the initiative translate words into action, sharing Nordic knowledge and experience with the world.

In some cases, the influence is direct – sharing lessons learned from the Nordic integrated electricity market with East African renewable energy companies and authorities. Or exchanging knowledge about sustainable development with urban planners from some of India's most populous cities.

In other cases, the influence is at the international level – curating the

new global dialogue on sustainable food and leading the debate about parental leave as a key to prosperity.

The flagship projects pursue 7 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals laid out in Agenda 2030, but are expected to have a positive impact on the Agenda as a whole.

The Nordic Region has been welcomed as a pragmatic partner in international discussions, adding a fresh voice and sustainable solutions to the table.

New forms of collaboration and interaction have helped channel the growing interest in Nordic solutions towards green transition, sustainable food, welfare and gender equality. But above all, they have added to the credibility of the prime ministers' ambitions, helping to achieve the global targets for sustainable development and increasing Nordic exports worldwide.

The map shows where activities have and will take place in 2017/2018. See them all: www.norden.org/50steps

Sharing *sustainable* solutions with the world

1. Smart urban spaces

Rapidly growing cities in *China, India and North America* are planning major urban infrastructural investments. Nordic Sustainable Cities is offering Nordic solutions.

2. Ready for a swap

Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform is helping the *Zambian* government to phase out subsidies for fossil fuels and phase in sustainable energy.

3. Calculating the Gender Effect

Gender equality has been a key driver of economic growth in the Nordic Region. This is clearly stated in a new OECD report launched in May 2018 in *Montréal*.

4. Scaling up renewables

The export potential of renewable energy solutions to *Ethiopia* is big. Nordic Green to Scale will analyze the emission reduction potential, costs and co-benefits of scaling up climate solutions in the country.

5. Food, the elephant in the room

The need to change global food consumption patterns was put on the climate agenda when the Nordic Pavilion at COP23 in *Bonn* was transformed into a think tank.

6. Bringing healthcare to the Middle East

Nordic companies and ministers showcased cutting edge medtech systems and shared knowledge about efficient healthcare and welfare solutions at Arab Health 2018 in *Dubai*.

7. Parental leave & other true stories

Parental leave is key to prosperity and sustainability. This and other true stories about the Nordic Gender Effect were shared at the UNGA 2017 in *New York*.

8. Saving 150 million tonnes of CO₂

Analyses by Nordic Green to Scale show that large-scale deployment of 10 existing solutions could cut emissions in the *Baltic states, Ukraine and Poland* by 13%.

9. Sharing urban values with India

Narendra Modi, prime minister of India, welcomed Nordic Sustainable Cities and its aim to support the 100 Smart Cities Mission during the first ever Nordic-India Summit in *Stockholm*.

10. Building better hospitals

Nordic export organisations have identified five opportunities for collaboration on digital health and smart hospitals with the *City of Toronto, Canada*.

11. WHO promotes the New Nordic diet

WHO and Nordic Food Policy Lab gathered international experts in *Copenhagen*, discussing how the Mediterranean and New Nordic diets can fight lifestyle diseases.



Nordic Sustainable Cities aims to support the Smart Cities Program of the Government of India. It was welcomed as a successful example of joint Nordic-Indian collaboration during the summit between the prime ministers of India and the Nordic countries in Stockholm in April, 2018.



Walk the talk

Nordic Solutions to Global Challenges is an initiative by the prime ministers of the most integrated region in the world. The Nordic Region promotes progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, sharing knowledge on three themes: Nordic Green, Nordic Gender Effect and Nordic Food & Welfare.

The six flagship projects under the initiative translate words into action:

Nordic Sustainable Cities aims to export solutions for sustainable, liveable and smart urban development.

Nordic Energy Solutions seeks to assist countries in the design of renewable energy systems.

The Nordic Gender Effect at Work advocates for the economic and social benefits of gender equality.

Nordic Food Policy Lab promotes a consumer-driven transformation towards a sustainable food future.

Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform encourages a redirection of resources from subsidies to sustainable alternatives as part of Nordic Climate Solutions.

Nordic Green to Scale focuses on scaling up existing climate solutions to reduce climate emissions as part of Nordic Climate Solutions.

Nordic Welfare Solutions offers innovative and inclusive solutions to global healthcare challenges.

www.norden.org/nordicsolutions

*"Parental leave and the
childcare system really are
key Nordic exports – and of
course, they are replicable
for every country that wants
women to be in the labour market"*

– Sharan Burrow

GS, International Trade
Union Confederation,
at the Nordic Gender
Effect event, UNGA 2017



#nordicsolutions
to global challenges