



MONET

Principles for sustainable development

With the formulation of principles, “sustainable development” is put into more practical terms. These ultimately constitute the frame of reference which allows us to categorise the observed developments accordingly to their sustainability. Each indicator* must therefore refer to at least one of the principle.

The principles are assigned by topic to the target dimensions “social solidarity”, “economic efficiency” and “environmental responsibility” and divided in 20 areas.

* For the list of indicators see: www.monet.admin.ch

Principles concerning social solidarity

General principle	1a	Ensuring human rights	Every member of society has the right to a life of dignity and to the free development of their personality. Democracy, legal stability and cultural diversity are guaranteed.
	1b	Limited individual freedom	Individual development must not be allowed to compromise the dignity of contemporary individuals or of future generations.
Objective living conditions	2a	Meeting needs	The basic needs of all individuals must be met over the long term. Individuals should be allowed reasonable leeway to meet material and non-material needs which extend beyond the basic needs.
	2b	Promoting health	Human health should be protected and promoted.
	2c	Fighting poverty	A life of dignity is free from poverty. Needy members of society should receive solidarity benefits.
Subjective living conditions	3a	Satisfaction and happiness	Possibilities for present and future generations to find satisfaction and happiness in life should be maintained and promoted.
	3b	Development that takes well-being into account	Socioeconomic and environmental change must not be achieved at the cost of the physical and psychological well-being of the individual.
Fairness of distribution, equality of opportunity	4a	Ban on discrimination	No-one shall be discriminated against on the basis of external or internal characteristics.
	4b	Equal opportunities and fair distribution of wealth	Each member of society should have equal rights and opportunities. Society should strive to achieve fairer access to resources and their equitable distribution.
	4c	Integration of the less fortunate	The integration of disadvantaged groups of the population and regions into economic, social, cultural and political life should be promoted.

Strengthening of social cohesion	5a	Intercultural and interpersonal understanding	In recognition of the fact that the proper functioning of society and its ability to survive are largely based on the solidarity of its members, exchange and understanding between individuals, groups and people of different ages should be promoted.
	5b	Social and political participation	Social and political participation should be promoted.
International solidarity	6a	Development cooperation	Equitable global development must be encouraged. This involves combating inequalities at global level. To that end, it is essential to fight poverty and to support disadvantaged countries, regions and population groups.
	6b	Promoting peace and democracy	Peaceful coexistence of peoples and nations, respect for human rights and democracy should be promoted.
	6c	Multilateral policy	Multilateral policy should encourage the preservation of natural resources and the observation of human rights.
Human capital	7a	Development of human capital	Collective knowledge and sociocultural heritage should be extended, exchanged more between population groups and maintained for future generations.
	7b	Access to information and freedom of opinion	There should be no restriction to the flow of information. The freedom to make and express opinion must be guaranteed.
	7c	Encouraging learning	The ability to grasp and process information in a sophisticated manner should be promoted.
	7d	Child-friendly environment	Children and young people should be able to live in an open, motivating and future-oriented environment.

Principles concerning economic efficiency

General principle	8	Economic order in favour of the communal good	Economic activity should effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the individual and of society. The economic framework should be shaped in such a manner that it promotes personal initiative, thus putting self-interest to the service of the well-being of the present and future population.
Economic system	9a	Market as economic order	Goods allocation should primarily be by free market means. If the market fails or in the case of goods primarily in the public interest (merit goods), intervention in the free market is justified.
	9b	Genuine costs and principle of polluter-pays	Prices should reflect the scarcity of natural resources and sinks and include external costs. The "polluter pays" principle should be applied consistently.
	9c	Market intervention that conforms to the system	In the case of market intervention, market-economy tools should be chosen above all others.
Efficiency and competitiveness	10a	Promotion of economic efficiency	The economic efficiency of a society must be at least maintained over time. The efficient use of natural resources and a future-oriented economic structure should be promoted.
	10b	Economic order that favours innovation and competition	The framework of the market system should be shaped in such a manner that innovation and knowledge transfer are encouraged and functional markets are maintained or improved. Competitiveness and locational quality should be maintained and promoted.
	10c	Promotion of research	Research and development activities which support sustainable development should be promoted.
	10d	Long-term focus of public finances	The current use of public finances must not be allowed to jeopardise the capacity to meet the individual and social needs of future generations
	10e	Maintaining produced capital	Existing produced capital, such as buildings, machinery or equipment should be maintained or renewed through investment or replaced by more sustainable alternatives.
Flexibility and stability	11a	Predictability of changes in the system	The framework of the market system should be shaped in such a manner that a long-term outlook is worthwhile and the social change necessary to adapt to future requirements is facilitated.
	11b	Socially compatible rate of change	The rapidity or slowness of changes in the framework of the economic system must not jeopardise social peace.

Production and consumption of goods and services	12a	Ecologically acceptable production	Environmental impact and risks emanating from production plants should be minimised, while energy and material flows should be optimised.
	12b	Ecologically and socially acceptable consumption	Consumption of goods and services should be as environmentally compatible and socially equitable as possible.
	12c	Transparent business reporting for consumers	Within and outside manufacturing companies, information should be made available to ensure the greatest possible sustainability of manufacturing methods and consumer behaviour (e.g. through environmental management systems).
Employment	13	Employment that is morally worthwhile and provides a decent living	The economic system should ensure that anyone desiring gainful employment is able to find meaningful work to support themselves.
International trade	14a	Environmentally and socially acceptable world trade	The multilateral trading system should encourage social equity as well as the careful management of natural resources and promote the transfer of technology required.
	14b	World trade from which all parties can profit	The multilateral trading system should assist in ensuring that one nation's individual and social needs are met without consequently compromising the ability of other nations to meet their own needs.

Principles concerning ecological responsibility

General principle	15a	Preservation of natural resources	The natural foundations of life should be maintained in the long term and existing damage should be repaired.
	15b	Preservation of biodiversity	The dynamic diversity of nature must be preserved. Any damage to nature shall be compensated for so as to ensure the maintenance of biological diversity as well as the quality and interconnectivity of habitats.
Consumption of resources	16a	Limits for consumption of renewable resources	Consumption of renewable resources should be kept below the regeneration threshold.
	16b	Limits for consumption of non-renewable resources	Non-renewable resources should only be used in amounts that can be replaced by renewable resources.
Materials and wastes	17a	Limits for degradable waste and toxins	Pollution of the environment with degradable waste and pollutants should be minimised. Contamination should not exceed the absorption capacity of the ecosystem.
	17b	Avoidance of non-degradable toxins	The emission of non-degradable pollutants into the environment should be prevented wherever possible.
Risks	18a	Ecological compensation	Preventive or adaptive measures should be taken to protect people, their livelihoods and infrastructure from the effects of natural disasters.
	18b	Minimisation of ecological risks	Hazards caused by human activity that have a serious impact on people and the biosphere are only allowed if the damage they cause does not last longer than a generation.
	18c	Caution in the case of uncertainty	Severe or irreversible environmental damage should be prevented, even in the absence of absolute scientific certainty of the actual risk. This also means that preventive measures should be taken against climate change and its impact.
Rate of change	19	Taking into consideration the time needed for natural processes	Anthropogenic intervention in nature must not take place faster than the time needed by natural processes to regenerate and adjust.
Natural and agricultural landscape	20	Decent natural and agricultural landscapes	Development of the natural habitat of humans must be guided by the concept of human rights. Human dignity requires a decent natural and agricultural landscape to which all people should have equal access.

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