

**STRATEGY**  
OF THE DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY COMMITTEE FOR  
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DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY COMMITTEE

# 1. PURPOSE AND TASKS OF THE DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

The Development Policy Committee (DPC) is an advisory body with parliamentary and societal representation on development policy issues. Its purpose is to strengthen the effectiveness of development policy and to promote discourse on development policy.<sup>1</sup>

Development policy is an indivisible aspect of Finland's human rights-oriented and value-based foreign and security policy and economic foreign relations, endeavouring to strengthen security and well-being through international cooperation. The internationally agreed goal of development cooperation is to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality.

Development policy refers to coherent activity in all areas of international cooperation and national policy that affect the position of developing countries. Finland is committed to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, both domestically and through international cooperation. Finland's development cooperation supports this commitment. Development policy is based on human rights. Impartial and equitable humanitarian aid is an independent part of it.

Development policy aims to achieve broader societal impacts that support the realisation of the SDGs in developing countries while reducing the political and economic dependence of developing countries on foreign powers. The starting point of Finland's development policy is to strengthen the capacity, responsibility and readiness of developing countries to take care of their own well-being and security.

The progress and results of Finland's development policy goals are systematically measured, monitored, and analysed. Results data is collected from all different forms of cooperation. Effectiveness and efficiency require long-term commitment and coherence, the ability to respond to changes in development policy, and the

1 Decree on the Development Policy Committee UM/2019/168.

concentration of resources behind the most important goals. The ability to respond quickly and effectively to potential malpractice is also important.

Our activities are based on Government Decree UM/2019/168 (hereafter DPC decree), which constitutes the basis of our strategy. The decree provides the DPC a more stable and independent position, ensuring its continuity. The Committee also serves as an international model for open and inclusive development policy.

#### THE TASKS OF THE DPC ARE:

1. to develop a common understanding of current development issues among political parties and stakeholders;
2. to monitor and analyse the implementation of Finland's development policy positions and Finland's international commitments;
3. to promote decision-making supporting sustainable development in policy areas affecting the situation of developing countries;
4. to make recommendations to the government on the planning and implementation of development policy;
5. to raise awareness of current development policy issues.

The purpose of our common strategy is to serve the implementation of these tasks and the manageability of activities in a rapidly changing environment. Sustainable development is being promoted and development policy is and will be conducted in a more geopolitically tense and unstable environment. It is defined by mounting security threats, heightened geopolitical competition and confrontation, problems affecting the whole of humanity such as climate change and depleted biodiversity, and technological development. In addition, the international context is characterised by challenges to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as increasing contestation of the international rules-based system. It is therefore increasingly important to look to the future and be able to anticipate changes in development policy and sustainable development internationally and nationally. This also affects the roles of development policy and the DPC.

## 2. THE DPC'S MISSION:

a coherent development policy as part of Finland's foreign and security policy

The DPC mission statement encapsulates and updates the Committee's leadership, membership and secretariat's understanding of the Committee's role concerning our assigned tasks and strengthens our commitment.

WE HAVE DEFINED OUR JOINT MISSION AS FOLLOWS:

*Dialogue, common vision and advisory role – so that Finland pursues a coherent development policy as part of its foreign and security policy and promotes global sustainable development.*

### 3. THE DPC'S VISION:

a recognised and valued actor  
in development policy

Our vision is the long-term goal of the DPC. It describes how we, the members of the DPC, want the Committee to develop and what its desired future is.

#### IN OUR COMMON VISION:

*The DPC is an effective and socially valued actor capable of influencing Finland's development policy and promoting related discussion. The DPC brings together a wide range of expertise to support decision-making, formulate common positions and add value in its field.*

## 4. STRATEGIC CHOICES AND TARGET AREAS


Our strategic target areas for the period 2024-2030 are important totalities that enhance our Committee's decree, aiming to increase the long-term impact and effectiveness of the DPC's activities and the importance of development policy. There are three of these target areas, which are based on the purpose and tasks of the Committee as defined in the DPC decree and appointment decision. The first area relates to increasing the significance and effectiveness of our Committee's work. It also lays the foundation for success in other target areas. The second area focuses on integrating development policy into Finland's foreign policy and economic foreign relations and promoting global sustainable development. The third area focuses on the long-term nature, effectiveness and resources of development policy.<sup>2</sup>

According to the DPC decree, the Committee promotes cooperation and dialogue between parliamentary parties, stakeholders and interest groups, as well as the formation of a common view on Finland's development policy. The Committee monitors the implementation of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and other binding agreements and commitments that guide development policy, as well as the implementation of government programme entries that affect development policy. The DPC also promotes policy coherence in support of sustainable development.

2 The choices are based on the DPC decree, the DPC's current situation and future assessment (2023), as well as participatory workshop activities related to the Committee's strengths and weaknesses and the international and national transformations affecting development policy.

To achieve these aims, the Committee provides a forum for development policy discussion, information exchange, various evaluations of development cooperation, and joint position formation. The Committee monitors and analyses the implementation of Finland's development policy and seeks to influence especially the parliamentary discussion on development policy. The DPC issues statements and recommendations on key proposals concerning development policy to the government, political decision-makers, and the wider public.

The Committee selects specific themes, actions, goals, and monitoring mechanisms for the strategic target areas in the DPC's work programmes for the four-year term. The choices made within the target areas in the Committees' work programmes are proportioned to the resources available to the Committee. The choices focus on the most significant issues concerning development policy. The work programmes also take into account the tasks presented to the Committee by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in DPC's term appointment letter and the needs of the Parliament and state administration. Goals related to the Committee itself are promoted alongside other target areas and strengthen each other. From each target area, the Committee members select one or two main themes to focus on during the operational year.



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# DPC's Strategic target areas

## **STRATEGIC TARGET AREA 1: strengthening the DPC's position**

To strengthen DPC's effectiveness, we act as follows:

- a) the DPC speaks externally with one voice and communicates uniformly. Its members actively strive to promote development policy discussion and communicate a common view in their own networks and in their own advocacy work.
- b) the DPC's position as an advisory body is strengthened by bringing together a wide range of expertise and offering a common view on politically significant development policy issues.
- c) the activity and role of political decision-makers, especially parliamentary groups, are increased in the Committee's work to increase the Committee's recognition and the usability of its work. The growth of parliamentary importance, in turn, strengthens DPC's position.

The DPC brings together a wide range of expertise and formulates common views as a basis for long-term and consistent development policy. Active interaction with ministers (cabinets), parliamentary committees and parliamentary groups is central. The commitment of parliamentary groups to the planning of the DPC's work programme and informing the Committee is strengthened. The DPC's work programmes are jointly agreed upon by the plenary of the Committee, i.e. its broad membership.



**STRATEGIC TARGET AREA 2:**

The coherent integration of Finland's development policy in line with international commitments into Finland's foreign relations and the promotion of global sustainable development.

In this target area, the tasks given in the DPC decree are implemented to strengthen the effectiveness of development policy in various areas of foreign and trade policy and to promote sustainable development in various policy sectors, focusing on the most significant issues. In addition, within this framework, the DPC monitors and analyses the implementation of Finland's development policy guidelines and international commitments and issues recommendations.

- d) **Links between development policy and foreign and security policy:** In each term's work programme, the DPC selects 1-2 of the most central foreign and security policy issues of relevance to development policy and sustainable development, for which a common position and recommendations are sought based on knowledge and which the DPC promotes strategically.
- e) **Links between development policy and economic foreign relations:** similarly, the DPC selects 1-2 central themes/issues concerning the connections between economy and sustainable development, for which a common position and recommendations are sought based on knowledge and which the DPC promotes strategically.
- f) **Promoting global sustainable development and monitoring the implementation of international agreements:** Together with the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, the DPC monitors the implementation of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and additionally selects 1-2 questions related to the Paris Climate Agreement and other agreements and commitments binding Finland for the Committee's consideration.



### STRATEGIC TARGET AREA 3:

#### The long-term nature, effectiveness and resources of development policy

In this target area, the DPC strengthens the operating methods and resources from different sources required for the effectiveness of development policy. At the same time, the DPC promotes the coherence, quality, and effectiveness of development policy, which form the basis for the effectiveness of development policy. The target area is also linked to the monitoring of Finland's national and international commitments and the issuing of recommendations.

- a) **Monitoring of development cooperation priority areas:** the DPC monitors the progress of development cooperation priorities by government terms, including effectiveness and resource allocation.
- b) **Principles of good development cooperation and humanitarian aid:** the DPC increases awareness and monitors the realisation of the principles of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. To ensure quality and results in a changing international situation, it is necessary to develop new ways of working. DPC continues its work to strengthen cooperation between humanitarian aid, development cooperation, and peacebuilding (the so-called triple nexus).
- c) **Resources for development policy:** the DPC discusses strengthening Finland's public and private development financing (and combinations of these) in accordance with international commitments. The DPC emphasises the efficient use of resources and the effectiveness and impact of development assistance.
- d) **Strengthening the positive effects of other policy areas as part of Finland's national implementation of sustainable development** (including at EU level) in cooperation with the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development.

## DPC's activities in the target areas

The strength of the DPC is its membership, which represents as broadly as possible the parliamentary parties and key stakeholders in development policy. The members include stakeholders representing the strategic priorities of the government term.

Parliamentary representation and a wide range of stakeholders form a space where common positions can be created and multidisciplinary expertise and interaction can be increased.

Interaction also essentially includes increasing common understanding and development policy expertise. Key operating principles of the DPC also include striving for common position formation, a knowledge-based approach, and openness and publicity of activities.

In DPC's advisory, monitoring, and advocacy work, we systematically consider Finland's international commitments and the principles of human rights, democracy and rule of law development, gender equality, and non-discrimination.

The work focuses on government programme work and monitoring the implementation of the government programme, influencing reports and key guidelines. The selection of current topics for DPC's plenary sessions particularly

considers the information needs of the Parliament.

Common positions are implemented and communicated in unison. The chairs, secretariat, members, member organisations and their networks participate in this cooperation. In addition, the DPC participates in hearings and statement processes. The DPC draws as much as possible on existing knowledge-based material (including evaluations by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and their recommendations). The DPC increases its visibility through various current public events.

Communication is primarily used to seek effectiveness for the DPC's positions. The most important target groups for DPC's communication are decision-makers, media and journalists, and other social influencers. Press releases are made on the most important statements and publications, which are utilised to reach DPC's key target groups through various channels. Press releases and information about DPC's activities are also distributed on social media. DPC's website is a central communication and publication channel for various target groups.

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## 5. STRATEGY PERIOD AND STRATEGY UPDATING

The strategy period of the Development Policy Committee covers the period 2024–2030. This time frame supports the long-term planning of DPC's activities and is in line with Agenda 2030, which centrally guides development policy and the strategy period of Finland's Sustainable Development Commission. A mid-term review of the strategy is planned for the beginning of 2028. However, the strategy is a living document that can be updated as needed by the decision of the DPC's working committee.

