

# Time to put sustainable development into practice

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Employees row a boat as they examine solar panels at a pond in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, China, in this March 16, 2016 file photo. REUTERS/Stringer/Files

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in New York and the Paris Agreement on climate change, 2015 has seen great progress in multilateral cooperation on sustainable development. These successes have been reached in spite of a geopolitical context darkened by distrust between powers, weaknesses in other fields of cooperation like trade negotiations, overt or smouldering conflicts in many regions, the migrant crisis and terrorism.

This is only a paradox in appearance: after the financial and economic crisis began in 2008, the return to pre-crisis growth remains uncertain. In this unstable context, sustainable development is a strategic opportunity to reinvigorate the global economy, as well as for more international cooperation.

If we want to reinforce this exceptional dynamic, we have to move fast from commitments to implementation: time is running out. This requires defining how we collectively and individually implement the necessary actions for decarbonising our economies, transforming our food systems, protecting the life support provided by Nature, and providing access for all to decent work and social protection.

For us, three major challenges have now to be tackled: shifting investment and consumption patterns to reorientate the economy towards sustainability; putting inequality reduction as a priority objective; translating the international commitments into the very heart of domestic strategies and political agenda.

We have made those three steps towards sustainable development the point of



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