**COUNTRY*:*** *FINLAND*

**COMMITTEE*:*** *ECONOMIC AND SCOCIAL COUNCIL*

**AGENDA:** *ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN FRAGILE STATES*

The Republic of Finland (called Suomi in the Finnish language) is one of the world's most progressive and advanced nations. This is in spite of what many would consider to be less than optimal circumstances, including a harsh climate, little variety of natural resources, a very small population and a long history of being dominated by its more powerful neighbours.

***DETAILS ABOUT FINLAND***

Destination Finland, a virtual guide to the parliamentary republic in Northern Europe. The country borders the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Bothnia, and the Gulf of Finland, it maintains land borders with Norway, Sweden, and Russia, and it shares maritime borders with Estonia.

Formerly a grand duchy in the Russian empire, the country became independent in 1917. Finland is since then a formally neutral country, and like Sweden not a member of NATO.

Finland covers an area of 338,145 km², making it almost the size of Germany, or slightly smaller than the US state of Montana. The country's landscape offers a lot of National Parks, covered mostly with coniferous taiga forests (78%), bogs and fens, it has rarely cultivated land. About 10% of its area is occupied by lakes, rivers and ponds. Halti Mountain at 1,324 m is Finland’s highest point.

A population of 5.5 million people (in 2017) making Finland one of the most sparsely populated countries in Europe, about half of the population live in the southern coastal region. Capital and largest city is Helsinki, spoken languages are Finnish (89%), Swedish (5.3%), and Sami, a language spoken by the Laplanders (Sami), the indigenous people inhabiting the Arctic area of Sápmi.

**PREVIOUS SITUATIONS RELATED TO ACHIEVE THE SSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN FRAGILE STATE**

2019 is a pivotal year for the SDGs. Heads of State will for the first time since 2015 attend the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs. This is the moment to review progress and revise ourstrategy before it is too late.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and its pledge to ‘leave no one behind’ is a global commitment to improve the lives of the most vulnerable among us. However, a new report from International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) – SDG progress: Fragility, crisis and leaving no one behind – shows that millions of ‘people caught in crisis’ – people living in conflict, and/ or who are displaced within their own countries or across borders – are in fact being left behind. Failure to take action now means that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be met, undermining the credibility of the international community and leaving millions to die unnecessarily

**PROBLEM**

Corona pandemic has caused upheavals around the world. Finland, among others, has faced enormous challenges and the need for change of practices in the society. The corona pandemic has required changes to the short-term economic policy agenda of the Government, but the longterm challenges of the economy have not significantly changed. In this current situation, it is even more important to invest in employment actions, to promote the circular economy, to perform social- and healthcare reformation, to increase productivity and to limit expenditure growth.

**SOLUTION** This should all happen as soon as possible after the acute crisis has subsided. Climate change continues, regardless of the current circumstances,and requires even more vigorous actions. At the same time, it is important to safeguard democracy, functioning of the rule of law and realization of human rights. The objectives of sustainable development, as well as long-term intergenerational thinking over parliamentary terms, will remain as the basis of Finnish sustainable well-being and at the heart of Finnish governmental work. Finland will keep carrying its global responsibility also during the times of crisis and supports long-term multilateral cooperation, fragile countries and vulnerable groups of people.

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