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2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals, tipping point for the future of mankind

The year 2015 was marked by three major events to define the future of our societies:

July 2015: The Addis Ababa action program on Financing for Development

The Conference of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) held in July 2015 brought together a broad coalition of public, local and private stakeholders in order to fund the realisation of the Post-2015 objectives, combined with a renewed commitment from industrialized countries, including the European Union, to mobilize 0.7% of their national income for public development aid by 2030¹. This conference aims was to gain a better vision of the financing means that will be available for the SDGs implementation.

SEPTEMBER 2015: Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals program

The final document “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”² was adopted by the Heads of States at the United-Nations Summit in New York on September 25, 2015. It marks the official launch of the post-2015 program with the adoption of the SDGs³.

¹ French Government, Conference of Addis Ababa negotiations (in french)
<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/aide-au-developpement/l-agenda-international-du-developpement/article/les-objectifs-de-developpement-durable-odd> (consultation mai 2016)

² United Nations

³ See below, Chapter VI “The Sustainable Development Goals: an integrated approach”



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DECEMBER 2015: COP21 in Paris, the first global agreement on climate

The 12th of December 2015 was historical. The 195 countries signatories of the UNFCCC, along with the European Union, endorsed the Paris Agreement⁴. It is the result of a long process of international negotiations on climate, and the outcome of all the measures already taken and planned in previous meetings and COPs. The objective was to obtain the first universal agreement on climate change, gathering the entire international community, and as such this conference was a success.

The sustainable development goals (SDG): an integrated approach

The SDGs are the result of a consultation that brought together the 193 UN member states, but also of an unprecedented participation from civil society and other stakeholders. It is also the consecration of decades of international negotiations on environment and development. This resulted in 17 general goals and 169 targets.

The SDGs are the result of a systemic approach and aim to address the interrelated and interconnected components of Sustainable Development (economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection). The international community as a whole is involved, that is to say the industrialised countries as well as developing countries.

Taking into account all these elements seem to be the only way to put the world on the trajectory to sustainability, with a development opened to all...



Among the 17 SDGs, one focuses specifically on energy issues, and another on climate change:

- **SDG7: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**
- **SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

⁴ UNFCCC (2015)