Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Fair Trade – tool kit
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One year ago, on 25 September 2015, world leaders came together to adopt the most ambitious development agenda in the history of human kind. That day, the peoples of the world committed to work tirelessly towards a future of prosperity for all, dignity for all, and a better planet for all. This pledge, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is the 2030 Agenda.

The scope and significance of our pledge implies that nobody should be left behind, but it also implies that nobody can stay aside from the effort. There is no place for by standers. We all have to work, work hard and work together: governments, private sector, international institutions and civil society.

Fair Trade is an example of the active and inclusive partnerships we need in our pursuit of the SDGs. Fair Trade promotes sustainable and equitable production and consumption patterns that keep our planet healthier and our societies more inclusive. And by better connecting marginalised producers and workers to sustainable value chains, Fair Trade does its fair share to reduce inequalities and help people get out of poverty.

But individual efforts by people, firms or associations will never be enough. Public policies are needed to create the right incentives for markets to deliver growth and development for all, while preserving the planet. The success of the Fair Trade Town Campaign, launched 15 years ago in Garstang, United Kingdom, is a prime example of how local governments can create such incentives for sustainable development. This publication is timely and welcomed. It serves as a practical tool for cities and towns to learn from the experience of other local authorities in contributing to the 2030 Agenda via Fair Trade.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the 1800+ Fair Trade Towns and all the other Local Authorities committed to Fair Trade for their active contribution to sustainable development. These Fair Trade towns, are no by standers, but an example to follow. And it is my sincere hope that many more Local Authorities join these efforts to deliver innovative policies in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Joakim Reiter
Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Fair Trade – toolkit

SDG1: no poverty
SDG2: zero hunger
SDG5: gender equality
SDG8: decent work
SDG10: reduced inequalities
SDG12: sustainable consumption and production
SDG13: climate change
SDG16: peace and justice
SDG17: partnerships for the Goals

Public procurement
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Introduction

Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the South. Fair Trade Organisations, backed by consumers, are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade.

Our vision is a world in which justice and sustainable development are at the heart of trade structures and practices so that everyone, through their work, can maintain a decent and dignified livelihood and develop their full human potential.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to end poverty ‘in all its forms, everywhere’, while leaving no-one behind. While all SDGs are, to some extent, relevant for Fair Trade, Fair Trade has a particular role in promoting the following ones:

- **SDG1 (no poverty)**  Fair Trade is a pro-poor “trading partnership” that aims to secure the rights of and livelihoods of marginalised producers and workers.
- **SDG2 (zero hunger)**  Trading terms offered by Fair Trade buyers enable producers and workers to maintain a sustainable livelihood. Fair Trade also enables buyers to trade with producers that would otherwise be excluded from traditional markets.
- **SDG 5 (gender equality)**  Fair Trade provides opportunities for women and other groups that are underrepresented in skilled occupations or in leadership positions. Women receive equal pay to men for equivalent work, and fully participate in decisions concerning the use of benefits accruing from production and from Fair Trade relationships.
- **SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)**  Fair Trade trading terms are based on written contracts that assure compliance with decent working conditions, specify the mutually agreed price and payment conditions, and take into account sufficient lead time to allow for production without excessive working hours.
- **SSDG 10 (reduced inequalities)**  Fair Trade seeks greater equity in international trade by connecting the aims of those in the Global North who seek greater sustainability and justice with the needs of those in the Global South who most need those changes.
- **SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production)**  Fair Trade helps consumers make sustainable choices that ensure producers are paid fairer prices which will enhance their ability to implement sustainable production patterns.
- **SDG 13 (climate change action)**  Fair Tarde promotes sustainable farming practices and gives tools small producers to cope with a changing climate while reducing negative impacts.
- **SDG17 (partnerships for the Goals)**  Fair Trade is a trading partnership for change and sustainable development through trade that involves citizens, governments (at all levels), consumers and producers as well as businesses.

Through this toolkit, the Fair Trade movement aims to provide Local Authorities with recommendations on how they can contribute to this ambition by partnering up with the Fair Trade movement. This publication is structured around the following key local policy areas: public procurement, local economic development, international cooperation, awareness raising, and multi-stakeholder engagement.
1. Public Procurement

Public procurement is a powerful tool for Local Authorities to increase the demand of sustainable products and services. Thanks to the EU Directive on public procurement, for example, public authorities in the EU can use Fair Trade as a practical way to progressively make their public purchasing in line with the SDGs.

Fair Trade offers better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalised producers and workers – especially in the South. Trading terms offered by Fair Trade buyers enable producers and workers to maintain a sustainable livelihood which not only meets day-to-day needs for economic, social and environmental well-being but that also enables improved conditions in the future.

**EU Public Procurement Rules**

‘With a view to the better integration of social and environmental considerations in the procurement procedures, contracting authorities should be allowed to use award criteria or contract performance conditions relating to the works, supplies or services to be provided under the public contract in any respect and at any stage of their life cycles from extraction of raw materials for the product to the stage of disposal of the product. (…) this also includes award criteria or contract performance conditions relating to the supply or utilisation of Fair Trade products in the course of the performance of the contract to be awarded’. Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement (recital 97)

What can Local Authorities do?

- Introduce a Fair Trade public procurement policy, signed by the mayor or leader, which:
  - foresees the use of Fair Trade products in municipal offices and other public bodies, as well as during public festivals, fairs, and other local initiatives
  - contains commitments for specific Fair Trade products and timescales
  - states how the commitment to Fair Trade will be enforced and how relevant staff will be given appropriate training
- Create a local taskforce for sustainable procurement that includes experts on Fair Trade, but also international social justice, local employment, inclusion, environment and climate, local economic development, and procurement in order to ensure a holistic approach to sustainable development in the procurement policy
- Partner up with the local Fair Trade actors (producers and/or organisations and/or civil society) to organise awareness raising and capacity building initiatives that encourage and assist procurers to include Fair Trade criteria in procurement
- Join networks that promote sustainable public procurement to stay up-to-date on examples of good practice and policy initiatives that support sustainable procurement and Fair Trade

[SDG 12 concerns the promotion of sustainable consumption and production. It includes the target 12.7 about ‘promoting public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities’.](http://example.com)
European Fair Trade Cotton Procurement Award
On 27 March 2014, in Bremen, the city of Paris, the municipality of Traun (Austria), the French Post office, and the London School of Economics (UK) won the first European Fair Trade Cotton Procurement Award. The initiative highlighted how Fair Trade commitments can be translated into real purchasing practices. The award had four categories: 1) Local authorities above 100,000 inhabitants; 2) Local authorities below 100,000 inhabitants; 3) National authorities (supra-local entities), including public bodies; 4) Educational establishments: universities and student organisations.

Paris (France): Public Procurement Policy
The city of Paris was the winner for the first category. If it excels in the procurement of Fair Trade work wear, Paris also has a comprehensive Fair Procurement Policy. Since 2008, the City of Paris has been committed to a widespread responsible public procurement policy by:

- Creating a Central Procurement Department to harmonise responsible procurement
- Introducing a responsible procurement charter which requires public procurement officials to promote responsible procurement and provide information on their progress
- Organising internal awareness raising and capacity building events on responsible procurement for procurement officials: around 7 meetings per year are organised to raise awareness regarding the expectations of the public authority in terms of supplier responsibility
- Making an inventory and assessment of the purchased Fair Trade products
- Procuring Fair Trade uniforms for city officials
- Procuring Fair Trade food for public authority refreshments and receptions

Traun (Austria): Winner of the European Fair Trade Cotton Procurement Awards
The municipality of Traun (23,000 inhabitants) was the winner of the second category. Traun is indeed very active in awareness-raising around the topic of Fair Trade. In particular, it won the award, because it bought Fair Trade Polo T-Shirts to dress three out of four of its staff members. The Jury welcomed this very significant engagement, given the size and possibilities of the municipality.

2. Local economic development

Local Authorities, individually and in partnership, can play a leading role in delivering integrated environmental, social and economic improvements in their local economic environment. Through their local economic development policies, they can organise or support awareness raising, networking and/or capacity building activities to help businesses, in particular SMEs, switch to sustainable production patterns and meet the increasing global demand for sustainable products. They can also help raise the visibility of sustainable products among consumers and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and examples of good practice among companies committed to sustainable development.

The success of the Fair Trade movement is an example of how the private sector can be a driver of local green and inclusive growth. Fair Trade enables a more secure income and ensures better working conditions for women and men working in the Global South. By cooperating with the Fair Trade movement, Local Authorities can therefore assist local entrepreneurs to respond to the increasing global demand of fairly-produced products.

The 2030 Agenda recognises the role that the private sector can play in delivering sustainable development. The involvement of the private sector in the 2030 Agenda particularly contributes to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” (SDG 8). It also plays a crucial role in the achievement of all the other global goals, including SDG 1, 2, 5, 8, 13, 16, and 17.

What can Local Authorities do?

- Support retailers, caterers, and other relevant stakeholders that want to make Fair Trade products available in the local shops, cafes and catering establishments
- Provide institutional support to the main actors promoting the Fair Trade principles at local level.
- Partner up with the local Fair Trade actors to encourage more work places & community organisations operating in the territory or region (faith groups, schools, universities etc.), thus supporting the suppliers of Fair Trade products
- Sign agreements of cooperation with Local Authorities from other continents to strengthen the collaborations between Local Authorities in the Global North and the Global South to create and develop global Fair Trade value chains

In the Global North, Local Authorities can also:

- Partner up with the local Fair Trade actors to organize:
  - awareness raising campaigns targeting local businesses on the impact of their production models in the Global South and the role of Fair Trade
  - capacity building initiatives on how companies can source sustainably through Fair Trade
  - Fair Trade fairs or networking opportunities to facilitate the matchmaking between Fair Trade producers and companies in the Global North

In the Global South, Local Authorities can also:

- Partner up with the local Fair Trade Producers to support their access to the Fair Trade markets, possibly at local level too, and boost the offer of Fair Trade products
- Encourage local retailers to start or increase the offer of Fair Trade products in their shop in order to contribute to the development of Fair Trade markets in the Global South
It is unacceptable that there are still over 1 billion people living in extreme poverty and deep deprivation. (...) It is important that the eradication of poverty is done together with those affected. And with the support of consumers and businesses Fair Trade can go even further in its contribution to poverty eradication.” – Rudi Dalvai, President of World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO)

The new Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a big deal for the 1.5 million farmers and workers who work within Fairtrade. Not to mention the other 500 million small-scale farmers and one billion agricultural workers who between them supply 70 percent of the world’s population with food.” Marike de Peña, Chair of Fairtrade International
3. International cooperation

The 2030 Agenda is a new framework for international cooperation to promote sustainable development and enhance Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Within this framework, Local Authorities can allocate financial and technical resources for direct assistance to promote sustainable development in the Global South. For example, they can design programmes to support the creation and/or development of sustainable global value chains.

Local Authorities can build on the experience and knowledge of the Fair Trade movement to assist producer organisations to understand more about market conditions and trends and to develop knowledge, skills and resources to exert more control and influence over their lives. For example, they can partner up with the Fair Trade movement to:
- Strengthen farmers’ access to markets on fairer terms, including access to affordable credit
- Empower women to actively participate in the labour market
- Build the capacity of local, national and regional structures of marginalised producers
- Provide expert support to producers, the private sector and government to tackle human rights abuses in supply chains
- Build the capacity of marginalised producers to adapt to climate change

The need to enhance and expand international cooperation is explicitly included in the targets of the SDG6 on the management of water and sanitation, the SDG7 on energy, and the SDG16 on peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. The target 17.9 also aims to ‘enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation’.

What can Local Authorities do?
- Strengthen the cooperation with other local and regional governments promoting Fair Trade or joining local governments’ networks dealing with decentralised cooperation in order to build their capacity to use their international cooperation policies to promote Fair Trade and the 2030 Agenda
- Participate in town twinning programmes and learning networks to build their capacity to promote Fair Trade through international cooperation projects
- Partner up with peer local governments in other countries to develop international cooperation initiatives promoting Fair Trade
- Allocate financial and technical resources for direct assistance, with an emphasis on the technical aspects that can help organisations of Fair Trade producers, based mainly in the Global South
**France: decentralized cooperation system**
France offers a strong model of decentralised development cooperation. Local Authorities have the competence to sign agreements with counterparts in foreign countries, provided these agreements are in line with central government policy. Many of them have put in place a system of decentralised cooperation based on Fair Trade principles that foster the Fair Trade offer by providing training to producers, improving their production and transformation methods, strengthening the structure of the producers’ cooperative, and other initiatives.

**Italy: regional legislation supporting Fair Trade**
Several Italian regions adopted laws supporting Fair Trade. The Emilia Romagna's Regional law 110/2009 aims to develop sustainable production models which are based on cooperation and respect for people and the environment. The Piedmont’s Regional law 26/2009 supports Fair Trade to facilitate commercial links with small producers from the Global South. Many other regions (e.g. Liguria, Marche, Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Puglia and Veneto) also adopted similar regional laws containing similar Fair Trade principles, such as the payment of a fair price/wage, the respect for human rights, environment protection, and transparency.

**Wales (UK): Community mutual partnerships with Mbale (Uganda)**
In 2006, the Welsh Government launched the Wales for Africa programme which provided support for international civil society partnerships in the areas of health, livelihoods, environment, climate change, education, gender and Fair Trade. Over the past decade, through supporting the Mbale Coalition Against Poverty, 4.2 million trees have been planted, the 10,000 Fairtrade Farmers (of which more than 50% are women) have received the highest price for their coffee ever seen in their country, due to the increase in quality, with improvements in livelihoods and bio-diversity through bee-hive and goat programmes.

“Fair Trade (...) provides real opportunities for the development of small-scale producers and workers in developing countries; and it has a positive impact on the global trading system and private companies, which encourages them to become more justice-oriented, socially inclusive and supportive of sustainable development.” Resolution adopted unanimously by the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Quito, March 2013)
4. Awareness raising activities

The Sustainable Development Goals represent a powerful opportunity to raise awareness among citizens about the causes and consequences of inequality so that they can adapt their consumption patterns and lifestyles accordingly, as well as give preference to production patterns that are sustainable. As Local Authorities have a closer relationship with their citizens, they can have a significant and positive impact in influencing current consumption patterns.

Local Authorities can build on the expertise and knowledge of the Fair Trade movement to engage their citizens in awareness raising activities on sustainable consumption and how they can ‘vote with the wallet’ by consuming Fair Trade products. Fair Trade relationships provide the basis for connecting producers with consumers and for informing consumers of the need for social justice and the opportunities for change. Consumer support enables Fair Trade Organisations to be advocates for wider reform of international trade rules and achieve the ultimate goal of a just and equitable global trading system. It also enables producers and workers to be fairly paid and enhance their ability to implement production patterns that are more and more sustainable.

What can Local Authorities do?

- Support Fair Trade initiatives to raise awareness on consumption and production among the general public and other relevant target groups (e.g. business sector, schools, civil society organisations)
- Support educational programmes in schools and universities on Fair Trade and sustainable development and develop educational policies where possible
- Promote training programmes and workshops on Fair Trade and related issues such as gender equality, child labour, climate change, and human rights
- Make Fair Trade more visible in the territory/region by encouraging retailers to sell Fair Trade products and/or develop maps or apps that help consumers find shops, restaurants and other venues offering Fair Trade products
- Award grants to Fair Trade actors in order to run communication and awareness raising activities to promote the World Fair Trade Day which is celebrated every year during the first Sunday of May or other relevant occasions

In the policies of international solidarity we invest quite a lot in awareness raising but also make efforts for behavioral changes with citizens, local companies and our own organisation. Fair trade has an important role in these activities because it relates to the daily lives of consumers and producers – it links the world. Tine Heyse, Deputy Mayor, Gent Municipality

One of the aims of the 2030 Agenda is to increase public awareness of the interdependence of the Global North and the Global South. SDG 12 includes the 12.8 ‘to ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature’.
Germany: Fair Trade Capital Award
The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development launched the German Fair Trade Capital Award to give visibility and raise the profile of the Local Authorities that are committed to promoting sustainable development through Fair Trade. The award is open to all municipalities. Entries can involve both one-off and long-term initiatives. The range of actions is very wide: Fair Trade city cafés, awareness raising projects at school, activities involving the world shops, commitments to procure Fair Trade products, Local Agenda 21 projects, and other initiatives.

The Award has been raising awareness on Fair Trade among German municipalities and increasing their engagement with the Fair Trade movement. The participation in the competition is also increasing.

Wales (UK): the Fair Trade Nation
Wales was declared a Fair Trade Nation in summer 2008. Since then, the initiative engaged many new stakeholders with Fair Trade and it enables them to realise the benefits of the concept. The key to success has been the strength of the Fair Trade grassroots movement and continued funding from Welsh Government for central support. A shared over-arching vision and communicating the successes has been vital to maintain momentum, along with making things phased so that those that are ready to take action can do so, whilst allowing opportunity for others to join. Thanks to the initiative:

- Farmer Unions have signed a policy to support “Local and Fair Trade”
- Welsh Government offer 60 Fair Trade items throughout the year, including Fair Trade tea, coffee, hot chocolate, fruit juice, biscuits as standard
- 60% of Schools are registered on the Fair Trade Schools Award Scheme and 5 have switched their school uniform to Fair Trade cotton
- The Church in Wales declared Fair Trade Province status with 70% or more supporting, using and promoting Fair Trade
5. Multi-stakeholder engagement

Realising the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda is an opportunity for Local Authorities to establish fair and inclusive partnerships that encompass the private sector, civil society, governments and researchers.

Fair Trade is an excellent example of a partnership where many stakeholders around the world and at different stages along the supply chain come together to ensure market access for disadvantaged producers and workers, guarantee sustainable livelihoods, respect labour standards, phase out child labour, and encourage environmentally-sustainable farming and production practices.

By partnering with Fair Trade, Local Authorities can bring about fairer supply chains which help reconcile economic growth with social justice and sustainability.

What can Local Authorities do?

- Establish a local Fair Trade Steering Group to ensure continued cooperation between the municipality and the Fair Trade movement as well as continued commitment to support and recognise Fair Trade organisations’ role in local policies
- Pass a motion in support of Fair Trade and ideally support this with a budget. Incentives should be granted for Fair Trade business activities, such as the world shops.
- Commit with the local Fair Trade actors and/ or platforms to build a local Fair Trade Strategy.
- Invest in public-private partnerships that explicitly and in practice endorses Fair Trade principles
- Include Fair Trade in Local Economic Development strategies and create incentives for businesses to participate in Fair Trade value chains

Fulfilling the SDGs is an opportunity to strengthen alliances between policy makers and other stakeholders in support of sustainable development. In particular, SDG17 aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. Target 17.16 aims to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. Target 17.17 aims to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

“Bringing together the private sector, civil society and Local Authorities to empower small producers and agricultural workers, Fair Trade is an excellent example of the global partnership we are standing for. The EU will continue engaging with its partners to support the uptake of fair trade and sustainable consumption and production practices” Andris Piebalgs, former EU Commissioner for Development, European Commission
The International Fair Trade Towns Campaign

The international Fair Trade Towns campaign, which started in Garstang in 2001, has spread to the five continents and counts about 1,700 Local Authorities. All national Fair Trade Town campaigns share (with some nuances) five founding core goals that ensure that many different groups and organisations are involved in a campaign. The core five goals are:

1. Local council passes a resolution supporting Fair Trade, and agrees to serve Fair Trade products
2. A range of Fair Trade products are available locally
3. Schools, workplaces, places of worship and community organisations support Fair Trade and use Fair Trade products whenever possible
4. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fair Trade across the community
5. A Fair Trade steering group representing different sectors is formed to co-ordinate action around the goals and develop them over the years

Bogota (Colombia): Decree supporting Fair Trade

The cities of Bogota adopted the ‘Masterplan for Food Supply and Security for the Bogota Capital District, a “planned process that articulates and offers support services for the strengthening of producer organisations, of processors and distributors within a defined vicinity and which thrives, via agile and opportune management, for the optimisation of the development processes of these actors facing similar socioeconomic potentials and problems.

Bicol Region (Philippines): local initiatives promoting the principles of Fair Trade

Fair Trade is a very new concept in the Philippines. Awareness is still very low. However, local government have been carrying out some of the Fair Trade principles. In particular, each province, city and municipality in the Philippines annually celebrate a festival to help local craftsmen and producers to directly sell their goods to consumers. Often, this is also where they meet foreign traders who will eventually export their products. In the Bicol Region (south of Manila), they have an activity dubbed as “Meeting people behind the products” which combines tourism with local production creating links between producers and consumers. This initiative enables consumers, including tourists, to gain understanding on the social and environmental costs of their consumption. This likewise exerts pressure on producers and traders to provide safe and healthy working conditions for the workers.

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Working at CONACADO, Dominican Republic
Take action!
Join us in localising the SDGs through Fair Trade!

- **Join the Fair Trade Towns campaign** in your country (www.fairtradetowns.org)
- **Learn more on the work of the Fair Trade Advocacy Office** to create enabling policy environments for Fair Trade (www.fairtrade-advocacy.org)
- **Learn more about the Fair Trade actors** in your country / continent:
  - Fairtrade International: www.fairtrade.net
  - World Fair Trade Organisation: www.wfto.com
  - World Fair Trade Organisation Europe: http://wfto-europe.org/
- **Learn more on the Smart Food Cities for Development Project**

Help us keep this toolkit up to date!

This toolkit provides a first list of recommendations and good practices about how Local Authorities can use Fair Trade as a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be updated at a later stage with new information and case studies. Thank you for contributing to the next version of the toolkit by sending further recommendations and examples of good practice to Alice Sinigaglia (sinigaglia@fairtrade-advocacy.org) at the Fair Trade Advocacy Office.
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The content of this toolkit does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the publication lies entirely with the Fair Trade Advocacy Office.