

Address of the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development Goals: 6th leaders dialogue: The 2020-2030 Vision

Published more than 5 years ago

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Your Excellency Muhammed Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia,

Your Excellency Carmelo Abela, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of Malta,

Distinguished speakers, ladies and gentlemen,

I

It is said that “people tend to overestimate what can be done in one year and to underestimate what can be done in ten years”. Today, four years after we all agreed on *Agenda 2030*, we must accurately design the *Decade of Delivery to achieve the SDGs by 2030*.

That is why I would like to thank the Secretary General and the UN Agencies for this Summit that allows us to take into account our lessons learned and rethink how to achieve targets.

II

First, as an international community and in our own countries, we should look at the target areas in which we have negative long-term trends, such as inequality of income, reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, etc.

Second, we should address the 21 targets that mature in 2020 and analyse where and why we are not achieving these targets.

Next, we all must take critical action in the short and long term to ensure that we reach our targets for 2020 and 2030.

III

In Latvia, our government is in the process of agreeing our next National Development Plan that will bring us to 2028. We have identified the need to make fundamental changes in the following areas:

Harnessing the potential of climate change policies and the circular economy across sectors. This means reducing greenhouse gas emissions, better managing our land resources, incentivizing our companies to make more efficient use of resources, etc.;

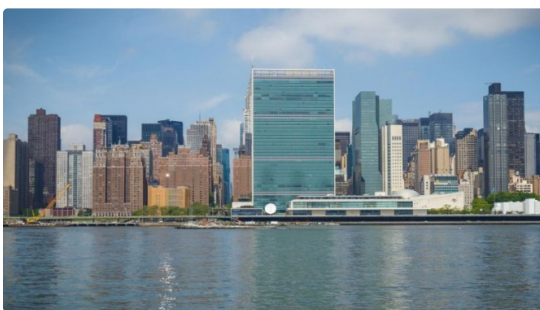
We will be steering education and science policy toward the needs of the future economy – improving education, especially in the STEM areas, improving competency and workplace-based education, leaving no one behind:

- This is essential to move Latvia's economy to a knowledge economy;
- Education and science is also important for reducing income inequality among people and regions;

By 2028 we will be improving social inclusion, especially for vulnerable groups – the aged, persons with disabilities and those displaced by technological change;

Our next fundamental change is one that I personally think is critical – we aim to increase a sense of trust in our justice and governance systems. I also think many countries will share our belief that improving media and social network literacy is one important key to strengthening critical thinking, democracy and rule of law.

Thank you!



President of Latvia to address the UN General Assembly: focus on international law, rule of law, climate and digital challenges

While on working visit to the United States of America (USA) on 22-27 September, the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, will participate in the UN General Assembly in New York and World Economic...

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UN Secretary General acknowledges Latvia's digital transformation and active response to climate change

On 22 September, the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, who is currently in New York, the United States of America, met with the United Nations (UN) Secretary General, António Manoel de Oliveira...

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President of Latvia and President of Croatia discuss regional cooperation

President of Latvia, Egils Levits, met with President of Croatia, HE Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, today in New York where both heads of state are attending the United Nations (UN) General Assembly...

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Bilateral meetings of the President of Latvia focused on important issues for Moldova and Austria

On 23 September, the President of Latvia, who is currently at the UN General Assembly in New York, met with President of Moldova, HE Mr Igor Dodon, and President of Austria, HE Dr. Alexander Van der...

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President of Latvia deposits Declaration recognising as compulsory the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice at the UN

On 24 September, while attending the UN general Assembly in New York, President of Latvia, Egils Levits, deposited declaration which confirms that Latvia is now under the compulsory jurisdiction of...

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Address of the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, at the United Nations General Assembly general debate in New York

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President of Latvia discusses ways of intensifying Baltic-Nordic cooperation with Prime Minister of Norway

On 25 September, the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, who is currently at the UN General Assembly in New York, met with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, HE Ms Erna Solberg. Meeting between...

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President of Latvia meets with Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili

On 25 September, the President of Latvia, Egils Levits, who is currently at the UN General Assembly in New York, met with President of Georgia, HE Ms Salome Zourabichvili, to discuss the excellent...

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