



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

WUP and CEPLIS Joint Position on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

I. Introduction

The [World Union of the Liberal Professions](#) (WUP) and [the European Council of the Liberal Professions](#) (CEPLIS) have reached a common position aimed to raise awareness about the commitment of professionals towards the consecution of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 associated targets adopted by the United Nations (UN) in its '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

The **World Union of Professions** is an international non-governmental organisation. Its purpose, through its work, studies, research and other appropriate means, is to further the development and social function of the Liberal Professions; to represent those professions at international level particularly in international organisations; to establish and maintain permanent relations with the international community in order to develop professional activities, in the higher interest of promoting human rights in modern society; to establish links and reinforce relations between the professional organisations of the world to further the exchange of information and mutual assistance in areas of common interest and to renounce any form of discrimination based on sexual, political, ethnic or religious criteria.

The **European Council of the Liberal Professions** is an umbrella organisation bringing together national inter-professional associations and European mono-professional ones. Since its establishment, in the 1970's, CEPLIS is the unique organisation that represents the interests of the liberal professionals at the European level. In practice, CEPLIS is at the same time an observatory, a forum, a lobby and an embassy of the important socio-economic family of the liberal professions. The main objectives of CEPLIS are the coordination and defense of the moral, cultural, scientific and material interests of the liberal professions, the implementation of any kind of information or action which may help to achieve its objectives, the creation and participation in all necessary organisations or services, and in general the implementation of all measures required to contribute to accomplishing the objective of the association.



II. Joint Declaration

The [World Union of the Liberal Professions](#) and [the European Council of the Liberal Professions](#):

- having regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations (UN) in 2015.
 - A. whereas, as stated by UN, the goals are broad and somewhat interdependent, yet each has a separate list of targets to achieve and they cover social and economic development issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice. All of them are key issues for the Liberal Professions.
 - B. whereas the Liberal Professions count tens of millions of members worldwide and constitute an indispensable socioeconomic factor in the international community.
 - C. whereas, the Liberal Professions are united around several fundamental common values and criteria of professional conduct (independence, competence, responsibility, ethical conduct, professional secrecy, etc.). These fundamental values and criteria are valid for all Liberal Professions, regardless of the form of the services they provide. Each professional makes it a duty to work for the common good. Their services meet basic civil needs and defend basic civil rights (access to the law, healthcare, etc.). The Liberal professions therefore act as mediators between the State and its citizens. They play the same role in matters of personal freedom, human rights and security, which in today's world are fundamental values that have traditionally been upheld by the Liberal Professions.
 - D. whereas, the Liberal Professions have a shared responsibility to achieve the 17 SDGs and their 169 associated targets and indeed they play an active role not only in the consecution of those SDGs but also in the Preservation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms given their inherent commitment towards the attainment of a universal access to professional services to all citizens around the world.
 - 1. acknowledge the responsibility of the professions, as an essential part of the civil society, regarding the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals included in the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.
 - 2. emphasize the importance of the subsector of professional services in Europe and globally as the backbone of civil society as it accounts for around 12% of the Gross Value Added and 15% of the direct occupation in the members of the Eurozone, being its



presence even greater in the countries of central and northern Europe. In the major Western economies, the percentage of direct employment and gross value added is in line with what is described at the European level.

3. invite political and international institutions to fully understand the 2030 Agenda as a joint and comprehensive tool and to listen to professions considering them as a key player in the current and future structures aimed at bringing together the different stakeholders to foster the dialogue among them and their true involvement in the consecution of the Agenda. A successful example is the Multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs created by the European Commission.
4. consider that the European Institutions and International Organisations such as OCDE or ILO, jointly with United Nations, must lead the structural transformation needed for the attainment of the objectives contained in the 2030 Agenda. For this purpose, a firm determination to implement reforms that further place the SDGs at the core of the European and global policies in a coherent basis and via a multidimensional and multilateral approach has to be reached. A true partnership at a political and social level is, therefore, crucial in the implementation of the Agenda.
5. relies on the establishment of global actions involving all sectors of society, including the Liberal Professions.

III. COMMITMENT

WUP and CEPLIS commit to:

- Actively incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals to professional values and professional culture.
- Disseminate the need to develop the Sustainable Development Goals in our professional environment and society.
- Raise awareness of the importance of Sustainable Development Goals on the ground of leaving no one behind.
- Cultivate global and interprofessional spaces for dialogue, consensus and technical support in relation to the SDGs.



ANNEX I MEMBERS EUROPEAN COUNCIL LIBERAL PROFESSIONS

Inter-professional

- [Union Nationale des Professions Libérales \(France\)](#)
- [Unión Profesional \(Espagne\)](#)
- Irish Inter-professional Association (Irlande)
- [Confprofessioni \(Italie\)](#)
- [Malta Federation of Professional Associations \(Malte\)](#)
- [Uniunea Profesiilor Liberale din România \(Romania\)](#)
- [Union Nationale des Professions Libérales et Intellectuelles de Belgique \(Belgique\)](#)
- [Union Nationale des Professionnels de Santé \(France\)](#)
- [Bundeskonferenz der Frein Berufe Österreichs \(Autriche\)](#)
- [Fédération luxembourgeoise des travailleurs intellectuels indépendants \(Luxembourg\)](#)
- [RETE Professioni Tecniche \(Italie\)](#)

Mono-professional

- Association Européenne des Médecins Experts
- [Confédération des Biologistes Européens](#)
- [Comité de Liaison des Géomètres-Experts](#)
- Conseil Européen des Podologues
- European Nursing Council
- [European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine](#)
- [European Confederation of Conservators-Restorers' Organisations](#)
- [European Council of Engineer Chambers](#)
- [European Federation of Psychologists' Associations](#)
- [Fédération Internationale des Experts en Automobile](#)
- [European Association for Psychotherapy](#)
- [Orthoptistes de la Communauté Européenne](#)
- [Fédération Européennes d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs](#)

Observer members

- [European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations](#)
- [Comité Permanent de Liaison des Orthophonistes-Logopèdes de l'UE](#)
- [European Osteopaths](#)



Correspondent Organisations

- [Association Professionnelle de Conservateurs-Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art \(Belgique\)](#)
- [UK Professional Standards Authority \(Royaume-Uni\)](#)
- [European Association of Practice-oriented Professionals with Higher Education](#)
- [Ordre des Géomètres-Experts](#)
- [Die Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten](#)
- [Croatian Dental Chamber](#)
- [Federperiti](#)
- [Syndicat des laboratoires de biologie clinique](#)
- [Caisse interprofessionnelle de prévoyance et d'assurance vieillesse des professions libérales](#)