

Speaker's manuscript Nobel Prize Lessons – Sustainable development

The will of Alfred Nobel

- At the age of 62, Alfred Nobel wrote this will. One year later, on 10 December 1896, he died of a stroke.
- In his will, he wrote that a large part of his estate was to be placed in a fund. The yearly interest on this fund would pay for a prize given to "those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind."

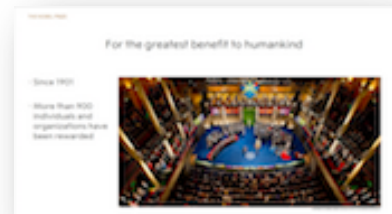


Question to your students: *Do you remember what categories the Nobel Prize is awarded in?*

(Physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. The prize in economic sciences was established in 1968.)

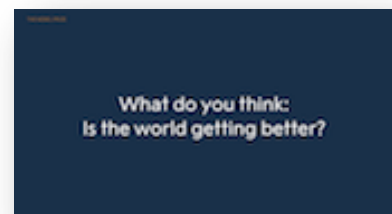
For the greatest benefit to humankind

- In 1901 the first Nobel Prize was awarded. Since then more than 900 individuals and organisations from over 70 countries have received the prize.
- This means the prize-awarding institutions have recognised over 900 different contributions for the greatest benefit to humankind. This is what Alfred Nobel wanted the Nobel Prize to be about.
- The Nobel Prize helps draw attention to many research contributions and peace efforts that have affected human living conditions. But how do our living conditions look today? Is the world improving?



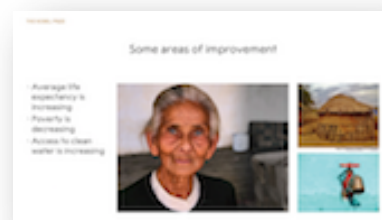
Question to students:

- What do you think: Is the world getting better?
- Think about it by yourself or discuss it with a nearby classmate for a minute or so.
- Who would like to respond?



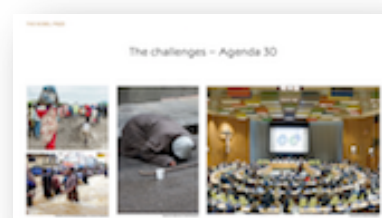
Some areas of improvement

- In a number of areas, the world has become better:
- Average life expectancy has increased all over the world. Since the 1960s it has increased by 20 years. Today average global life expectancy is 72 years.
- Poverty is decreasing all over the world. Between 2005 and 2015 extreme poverty (when a person lives on less than 1.90 dollars per day) has fallen by half.
- The worldwide share of people who have access to clean water rose from 76% in 1990 to 91% in 2010.



The challenges – Agenda 30

- Although our living conditions look better today in many ways, humanity faces major challenges.
- Climate change is already affecting millions of people. The gap between poorest and richest is widening. Wars and conflicts are destroying societies and human lives all over the world. Today's global development is not sustainable.
- In 2015 the member countries of the United Nations gathered to initiate a process of change. They adopted Agenda 2030, including global Sustainable Development Goals.
- Agenda 30 is a resolution which signifies that all UN member countries have pledged to achieve socially, environmentally and economically sustainable development.
- The aim of the global goals is to achieve three fantastic things by 2030: **eliminate extreme poverty, reduce global inequalities and injustices and resolve the climate change crisis.**



The UN Sustainable Development Goals

- There are 17 global goals altogether. Question to your students: *Do you recognise any of them?*
- The Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 are the most ambitious sustainable development agreement that the world's leaders have ever adopted. With the help of the global goals, we are the first generation that can wipe out poverty, and the last that can combat climate change.¹
- Now you will have a chance to look at some areas where there are major challenges today. You will also be able to discuss some Nobel Prize-awarded contributions as they relate to the global goals – Have these contributions helped to bring about sustainable development?



¹ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>