



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment

1119-1620.

1119-1623



MC15-044042

18 JAN 2016

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Jensen

I refer to your letter of 2 December 2015 concerning the Standing Committee on Petitions statement on Australia's foreign aid contribution (1119/1620). My office has discussed this matter with the office of the Minister for International Development, the Hon Steven Ciobo MP.

The Australian Government is pleased to support the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. With a focus on promoting economic growth and poverty reduction, the 2030 Agenda is well-aligned with Australia's development policy, *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*. It is also well aligned with Australia's foreign, security and trade interests, especially in promoting regional stability, security and economic prosperity.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that appropriate funding flows to the most effective programmes and will continue to focus on priorities outlined in the development policy. We will provide an estimated \$4 billion in total Official Development Assistance in 2015-16, making Australia the fourteenth largest donor in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Government has established a \$50 million fund to strengthen gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Australia will continue to make strong contributions to humanitarian and disaster relief efforts globally.

In regards to linking the aid budget to Gross National Income, the Government will not commit to a prescriptive, time bound aid target as a percentage of Gross National Income until the domestic economy is back on a sustainable footing and Australia is in a fiscally strong position to support this aspiration.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt