



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



**SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES
COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE SUBMISSION

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1. Introduction

On 25 September 2015, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, joined 193 Leaders and Ministers from across the globe at the United Nations (UN) in New York to welcome and endorse the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). DFAT was actively engaged in more than two years of consultations and negotiations to shape the 2030 Agenda and to ensure that the issues the 2030 Agenda covers align with Australia's national interests and the challenges faced in our region.

The 2030 Agenda comprises the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda). The seventeen SDGs provide a roadmap for addressing global development challenges to 2030 and beyond ("the what"), and the Addis Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development that aligns financing flows and priorities with the SDGs ("the how") (Annex A).

The 2030 Agenda's adopting Resolution reaffirms countries' responsibility and leadership of their own development processes. Therefore, each country's approach to implementing the SDGs is shaped by its own national context and priorities.

Australian Government agencies are identifying the best ways to integrate the SDGs into their existing systems and strategies. Australian businesses, civil society and academia play an equally important role on issues of sustainable development. All levels of Australian government are engaging with these stakeholders to promote the SDGs, including through the recent multi-stakeholder *Australian SDGs Summit* that brought together CEOs, civil society and academia to discuss Australia's role in relation to the SDGs.

The 2017 *Foreign Policy White Paper* recognises the responsibility of Australia, as a prosperous country, to contribute to global efforts to reduce poverty, alleviate suffering and promote sustainable development. The *White Paper* highlights the centrality of the SDGs in providing the framework for global efforts and notes the opportunity that the SDGs provide for Australia to share our experience with partners around the world.

The *Foreign Policy White Paper* also articulates Australia's interests in global efforts to encourage sustainable development and reduce poverty. Australia's security and prosperity benefits from countries providing their citizens with greater economic opportunity, which reduces their vulnerability to challenges such as irregular migration and extremism. In particular, promoting women's economic security is critical to the achievement of a range of SDGs.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) makes a significant contribution to the SDGs globally and regionally through our foreign affairs, security, trade and international development work. We are engaging across government, with the wider community and in international discussions on the 2030 Agenda. The

Foreign Policy White Paper highlights that Australia's \$3.9 billion overseas development assistance (ODA) program (2017-18) increases Australia's influence in addressing regional and global problems, including efforts to meet the SDGs. Our ODA program is aligned with and makes a strong contribution to the SDGs, and DFAT is actively supporting developing country partners to engage with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

In July 2018 Australia will present our first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the 2030 Agenda at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, with over 40 other countries. The VNR provides an opportunity to highlight how Australia is implementing the SDGs.

2. Learning from how other countries are implementing the SDGs

DFAT is engaging with international counterparts to discuss approaches to implementing the SDGs and preparing VNRs. This engagement is being taken forward by our diplomatic missions and through a range of regular bilateral, regional and global meetings. Examples include:

- bilateral discussions with development partners to exchange views and experiences on implementing the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, on the sidelines of the HLPF in New York in 2016 and 2017
- high level development dialogues with Canada, the EU, Korea, Japan and Germany
- working with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
- regional and global meetings including the G20 and the Spring Meetings of the World Bank, the ASEAN Ministers Workshop on 'Navigating the Headwinds of Sustainable Development in ASEAN', the Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility conference on Financing the SDGs, and Asia-Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development
- speaking engagements at the 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Fiji, and participation by the Minister for International Development and the Pacific in the UN Ocean Conference on implementation of SDG14 in June 2017. DFAT also provided funding to support participation by Small Island Developing States in the Conference.
- engaging on the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the HLPF, ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, and UN General Assembly Second Committee.

Given the broad scope of the SDGs, many countries, including China, Japan, Mexico, Finland, Norway, Timor Leste, Fiji and Tuvalu, are taking a whole of government approach to the SDGs and preparing VNRs. This is consistent with Australia's approach. We have established formal mechanisms across government to coordinate on aspects of the 2030 Agenda (see Section 3).

Like Japan, Denmark, the UK and Norway, Australia recognises the important role that civil society, academia,

the private sector and others play in the 2030 Agenda and we have engaged and consulted widely with these stakeholders, particularly over the preparation of the VNR. An overview of DFAT's engagement and consultation with these stakeholders is provided in Section 4 and their activities will be considered in Australia's VNR.

Similar to Switzerland, South Korea, Turkey and the United Kingdom (UK), Australian Government agencies are considering ways of integrating the SDGs into their existing policies, strategies and programs. Like many ODA programs, DFAT's international development priorities are already well aligned with the SDGs and we are working to embed the SDGs into our existing policies and communication tools (see Section 5).

3. Governance structures and accountability mechanisms to ensure an integrated approach

DFAT and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) are leading a process to ensure whole-of-government coordination on how to best give effect to the 2030 Agenda, domestically and internationally, including the drafting of Australia's Voluntary National Review (VNR). With PM&C as co-chair, DFAT co-chairs an inter-departmental committee (IDC) at the Deputy Secretary level. DFAT also chairs a whole-of-government First Assistant Secretary -level working group. While DFAT leads the whole-of-government process to prepare and present the VNR, responsibilities for reporting on the SDGs are divided across government (Annex B). A VNR Task Team of executive level staff across government supports the process, with two sub-groups that focus specifically on data and communications. In addition an internal DFAT reference group is providing input into the VNR.

The Deputy Secretary IDC has met four times on 14 September 2016, 16 May and 20 October 2017, and 20 March 2018. The First Assistant Secretary working group has met four times on 24 November 2016, 8 March 2017, 11 August 2017 and 8 February 2018. Executive level coordination mechanisms have met regularly throughout the VNR drafting period.

4. Understanding and awareness of the SDGs across the Australian Government and in the wider Australian community

DFAT and other government agencies are working on promoting the SDGs across their policies and programs. DFAT seeks to promote public and stakeholder awareness of the SDGs by integrating more effective messaging on them into the department's strategic and digital communications. The DFAT website hosts pages on:

- the 2030 Agenda (which links to business and civil society partner efforts on SDG implementation)
- the SDGs (which includes a list of external resources for businesses, schools and individuals)
- financing the 2030 Agenda

- engagement with business
- engagement with civil society and academia
- Australia's Voluntary National Review.

The DFAT website also includes 43 country and thematic Aid Fact Sheets that illustrate which ODA programs address particular SDGs. DFAT's social media accounts are increasingly integrating SDG and 2030 Agenda hashtags into posts and sharing SDG related posts from other Departments and business and civil society partners. The SDGs have been affixed across the front of DFAT's London Circuit building and are displayed permanently in the Atrium of DFAT's RG Casey Building.

DFAT is also engaging with civil society, academia, the private sector and others on the 2030 Agenda. We have engaged with more than 90 businesses, NGOs, representative bodies and academics on the 2030 Agenda and consultations to the VNR (Annex C). Other government agencies are also engaging with these and other stakeholders. Examples of stakeholders include:

- Australian Council for International Development – Australia's peak body for the not for profit aid and development sector
- Research for Development Impact Network – a collaboration between ACFID and Australian universities to support cross-sector partnerships around development research and education
- Global Compact Network Australia – the business-led platform on corporate sustainability, to discuss and coordinate on the 2030 Agenda
- Philanthropy Australia and their members.

In 2017 and 2018, DFAT engagement in DFAT-led and stakeholder-led forums included:

- DFAT's Ambassador for the Environment and several DFAT officers participated in the Research for Development Impact Network's 2017 flagship conference *Partnering for Impact on Sustainable Development*.
- First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Development and Finance Division spoke on the integration of SDGs at a DFAT-hosted Education Policy Forum, involving a broad range of civil society, UN and donor partner representatives.
- The Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking chaired the inaugural Alliance 8.7 Global Coordinating Group meeting. Alliance 8.7 provides a platform for all stakeholders committed to tackling forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour in line with Target 8.7 of SDG 8 'Decent work and economic growth'.
- Assistant Secretary, Global Development Branch spoke at the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of

Australia's 2017 Conference.

- DFAT staff presented on 'The Role of Business in Advancing Women's Empowerment - SDG 5' at a Habitat for Humanity conference.
- Two DFAT roundtables with philanthropic organisations in Sydney and Melbourne focused on the SDGs.
- DFAT's 2018 NGO Forum on Human Rights, held in February 2018, featured a panel discussion on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda.
- DFAT staff promoted integration of the SDGs as a guest speaker at a Commonwealth Research Agencies inter-departmental committee meeting.
- DFAT co-chaired a consultation on youth and the SDGs, coordinated by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth organisation.

These meetings build on our attendance at various 2030 Agenda related events in 2016, including the *SDG Australia 2016 Conference* hosted by Sustainable Business Australia, and participation in the *Australian SDGs Summit*, a multi-stakeholder conference hosted by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). The SDGs Summit brought together CEOs, civil society and academia to discuss Australia's role in relation to the SDGs. DFAT contributed funding for a second SDGs Summit held on 13 March 2018, co-hosted by the same organisations with the addition of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA). The Minister for International Development and the Pacific, DFAT and PM&C participated in the Summits.

DFAT is also supporting initiatives that promote and advance implementation of the SDGs, including:

- GCNA – a business-led network that advances corporate sustainability and the private sector's contribution to sustainable development – to assist with outreach and advocacy work on the 2030 Agenda including the SDGs
- the Business and Sustainable Development Commission to engage businesses on how they can contribute to delivering the SDGs and the economic opportunities for businesses in realising the SDGs globally
- the Shared Value Project which promotes shared value approaches to business in the region
- UNAA who are strongly engaged in SDG-related activities in Australia.

5. Engaging government, business, and the public in monitoring performance

In July 2018 Australia will present its first VNR on progress towards the 2030 Agenda at the UN HLPF on Sustainable Development, which has the central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the global level. We welcome the opportunity to share our experience and lessons learned on issues of global importance. This will include highlighting in particular our contribution to sustainable, inclusive economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region and the crucial role of the private sector in supporting development, as well as referring to some of our own domestic successes and challenges, reflecting the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda.

As outlined in Section 3, DFAT is leading the process to prepare Australia's VNR. The VNR will reflect the contributions of all sectors in their efforts to achieve the SDGs at home and abroad and will emphasise the role of working in partnership. In conjunction with other Australian Government agencies, we have actively consulted Australian businesses, NGOs, academics and others in the preparation of our VNR to ensure stakeholder contributions are considered in our reporting and more than 300 case studies have been received. An overview of DFAT's consultation with businesses, NGOs, representative bodies and academics is provided in Section 4 and Annex C.

6. How Australia's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) program is currently addressing the SDGs; the focus of Australia's ODA program and how it is best suited to achieving the SDGs; how partner countries are implementing the SDGs and how their priorities are incorporated into Australia's ODA program particularly in the Indo-Pacific region

Australia is located in the most economically dynamic region in the world. However, only three of the top 20 global economies - in GDP per capita terms - are located in the region and most countries in the region are yet to reach the status of fully industrialised economies. Development assistance alone is not enough to meet all challenges, nor will economic growth by itself guarantee prosperity and stability. The *Foreign Policy White Paper* aligns our development assistance, foreign policy and economic diplomacy to maximise Australia's contribution to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in our neighbourhood and beyond, including contributing to the SDGs. Our foreign policy seeks to bring about a world where rules are fair and where cooperation amongst nations is deep, our trade and investment with countries in our region is contributing towards national and regional economic growth, and our ODA program is helping to build the foundations for the stability and prosperity of our neighbours and our region. Examples of how the SDGs are relevant across the breadth of our portfolio include:

- *DFAT engagement that aligns with SDGs 3, 5, 16 and 17*

Australia's *Foreign Policy White Paper* highlights our commitment to guarding against global health risks, in particular preventing and responding to the introduction and spread of infectious diseases. The Minister for Foreign Affairs recently launched the Indo-Pacific Health Security Initiative (\$300 million, 2017-22), which will support efforts to prevent and contain disease outbreaks in the Indo-Pacific that have the potential to cause social and economic impacts on a national, regional or global scale. Complementary to this initiative, Australia's ODA program supports countries to build strong, functioning health systems, which are critical to promoting stability and achieving sustainable economic growth. Examples of DFAT's work include supporting the training of specialist non-communicable disease nurses in Tonga who are now stationed across the country; supporting improvements to family planning and maternal health services in Timor-Leste, and working with the Cambodian Government and other partners to provide free essential health care to the poorest 20 per cent of Cambodians. Globally, we work closely with and support multilateral organisations including the World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund and UNAIDS to magnify our impact. We are also a longstanding and significant donor to partnerships that leverage finance and innovations to achieve global health outcomes such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (\$420 million, 2014-2019) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (\$250 million, 2016-2020).

- *DFAT engagement that aligns with SDGs 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 16 and 17*

To help developing countries better engage in the global trading system, in 2015 the Government committed to increasing aid for trade to 20 per cent of the total ODA budget by 2020. This contributes to sustainable development, which is a key theme underpinning the Australian Government's *Foreign Policy White Paper*. Australia's aid for trade efforts in trade policy reform, infrastructure investments and private sector capacity-building are delivering important results. In partnership with the Asian Development Bank, Australian efforts to improve small businesses' access to trade finance has enabled USD3.1 billion in trade transactions. Australia is supporting infrastructure development in the region in transport, energy, large-scale water and communications, including through co-financing projects such as the Cao Lanh bridge in Vietnam, and better linking communities to markets and services. Australia also works with innovative organisations that help partner governments prepare investment-ready projects for the private market. Through the International Labour Organization's Better Work Programme, Australia is helping improve workplace safety and reduce gender discrimination in the global supply chain. This support has benefited more than 1.5 million workers (80 per cent of whom are women) in factories across Asia. Australia is also contributing to economic

resilience in the Pacific by increasing opportunities for labour mobility to satisfy unmet demand in our labour market, investing in skills, and helping countries to capture growth potential in sectors such as tourism. In 2017 Australia signed the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus, which will promote the economic development of Pacific Island Forum countries through greater regional trade and economic integration.

- *DFAT engagement that aligns with SDGs 5, 8, 10 and 16 and underpins all SDGs*

The *Foreign Policy White Paper* states that 'Australia's foreign policy pursues the empowerment of women as a top priority'. Australia advocates for gender equality in our engagement in multilateral and regional forums such as the UN, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, ASEAN, PIF and the G20, including with the support of our Ambassador for Women and Girls. In UN fora Australia prioritises advocating for and protecting gender equality targets internationally, including ensuring adequate financing flows for gender equality and women's empowerment objectives. Australia's *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy* (2016) puts gender equality at the centre of Australia's foreign policy, economic diplomacy, trade and development agendas. Gender equality is mainstreamed across all of DFAT's activities, supported by targeted action focused on ending violence against women, enhancing women's economic empowerment and increasing women's voice in decision-making, leadership and peacebuilding. The Government has set a target that at least 80 per cent of all its development efforts effectively address gender equality, regardless of what sector they are working in. This means Australia is actively mainstreaming gender across its efforts to support SDG implementation through the ODA program. Advancing the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is integral to achieving overall stability and development, and Australia's National Action Plan on WPS commits us specifically to lead on the promotion of the WPS agenda internationally including funding a range of activities through the ODA program.

- *DFAT engagement that aligns with SDGs 4, 5, 16 and 17, and contributes to all SDGs*

The *Foreign Policy White Paper* highlights the centrality of education, training and research exchanges to building Australia's influence, strengthening links between people and promoting human development. In 2018 DFAT's \$320 million investment in Australia Awards is supporting more than 4000 people from over 60 developing countries to undertake scholarships, fellowships and short courses so they can return home and contribute to their nations' development. In its first five years (2014 – 2018) our investment of over \$100 million in the New Colombo Plan is supporting more than 30,000 Australian undergraduates to undertake study and work-based placements in the Indo-Pacific region, including the opportunity to contribute to multi-sectoral development projects. Together the

Australia Awards and the New Colombo Plan build genuine two-way engagement, advancing development and deepening economic, academic and cultural links. DFAT's *Strategy for Australia's Aid Investments in Education 2015–2020* establishes how Australia will work with partner countries to help them deliver comprehensive and high-quality education services. This includes a particular focus on enabling those most marginalised in society, including girls, ethnic minorities and children with a disability, to receive quality education. In 2016-17, Australian ODA assisted over 965,000 more children to enrol in schools across the region, trained approximately 126,000 teachers to help improve education quality and helped almost 5,200 women and men to gain recognised post-secondary qualifications, with programs demonstrating strong links to labour market needs.

Australia's \$3.9 billion overseas development program (2017-18) makes a strong contribution to the SDGs. The Australian Government's commitment to reducing poverty and lifting living standards through sustainable economic growth is outlined in our development policy *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability* (June 2014). This policy sets out six investment priorities that are directly aligned with the SDGs (see Table 1.) Given this close alignment, the current development policy provides a strong framework for Australia's ODA to make a strong contribution to the SDGs. As DFAT's key policy documents are reviewed and revised over time, references to the SDGs will increase as we continuously integrate and embed the SDGs into DFAT policies.

Table 1: Alignment of the Australian Government's development policy investment priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals	
Investment priority	Relevant SDG
Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness	2, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 17
Agriculture, fisheries and water	1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15
Effective governance: policies, institutions and functioning economies	8, 10, 16 and 17
Education and health	3, 4, 5 and 6
Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection	1, 11 and 13
Gender equality and empowering women and girls	All SDGs in particular 5 and 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 11

Australia works with our partner countries to advance their development priorities, including the SDGs, particularly in our region and our immediate neighbourhood in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. DFAT is providing support for developing country partners' engagement in the 2030 Agenda, for example:

- providing funding to Indonesia's SDG Secretariat to assist with Indonesia's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs
- providing joint support, with New Zealand, for the complementary work by the UNDP and the OECD

Development Assistance Committee on Financing the SDGs in the Pacific Island Countries and Making Development Cooperation Work for Small Island Developing States, respectively

- providing support for the UNDP Pacific Office to help Pacific Island Countries address 2030 Agenda development challenges including mobilising development finance and implementation of the SDGs
- providing funding for the Asia Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF) that supports countries to implement their national agendas related to development finance, effectiveness and the 2030 Agenda
- working with Pacific Island Country partners at the UN to ensure their specific needs and challenges are appropriately reflected in the follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda.

In line with the breadth of development priorities across partner countries, all SDGs are addressed in some way across the Australian ODA program in different locations. Examples of this are provided in Table 2 below. As noted above, the six investment areas set out in *Australian Aid* align with the SDGs, and Aid Investment Plans set out the priorities at the country or regional program level, which reflect discussions held with partner governments on their development priorities.

Table 2: Examples of Australian bilateral and regional ODA investments that advance the SDGs

All SDGs are addressed in some way across Australia's ODA program and gender equality is mainstreamed across our ODA activities. The examples in this table provide a snapshot of several of our ODA investments to demonstrate how the SDGs are relevant across the geographic and sectoral breadth of Australia's ODA.

Australia's **Market Development Facility** (Phase 1: 2011-2017 and Phase 2: 2017-2022) stimulates investment, business innovation and regulatory reform to create additional jobs and increase income for poor women and men in rural and urban areas in five countries in the Indo-Pacific region. *This contributes to SDGs: 1 'No poverty', 5 'Gender equality', 8 'Decent work and economic growth' and 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure'.*

Australia supports the **Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio** (Phase 1: 2012-2015 and Phase 2: 2016-2020). This investment seeks to improve the integrated management of water, energy and food in three major Himalayan river basins covering Pakistan, northern India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. This includes a strong cross-cutting focus on both gender and climate change issues. *This contributes to SDGs: 1 'No poverty', 2 'Zero hunger', 5 'Gender Equality', 7 'Affordable and clean energy', 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure', 13 'Climate action' and 15 'Life on land'.*

The ***Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*** (2012-2020) works to increase the participation of women in the workforce, improves access to social protection programs and empowers women to influence change at the grassroots level. *This contributes to SDGs: 1 'No poverty', 3 'Good health and well-being', 5 'Gender equality' and 8 'Decent work and economic growth'.*

Australian Partnerships for Peace Philippines (2017-2020) works in collaboration with local partners in Mindanao to contribute to more inclusive participation in the peace process and political dialogue. It provides support for mechanisms for averting the escalation of violence and resolving conflict, and enhancing community cohesion and resilience, particularly through religious leaders, women and youth. *This contributes to SDGs: 5 'Gender equality', 10 'Reduced inequalities', 16 'Peace, justice and strong institutions' and 17 'Partnerships for the goals'.*

Australia is contributing to the ***Private Infrastructure Development Group*** (2012-2020), which draws on its private sector expertise to blend public funds with private sector investment for infrastructure projects in developing countries. Every dollar contributed by PIDG members leverages around \$17 in private sector capital for infrastructure projects in developing countries across the globe. *This contributes to SDGs: 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure' and 17 'Partnerships for the goals'.*

Australia's **regional investments in Southeast Asia** are supporting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to advance regional economic integration. Investments support the reduction of inequality within and among ASEAN countries, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and improve sustainable water resource management in the Mekong. Key components of Australia's investment portfolio flow through ASEAN's systems, which strengthens it as an institution, increases the quality and impact of our ODA, and generates goodwill in the region. *This contributes to SDGs: 1 'No poverty', 5 'Gender equality', 6 'Clean water and sanitation', 7 'Affordable and clean energy', 8 'Decent work and economic growth', 10 'Reduced inequalities', 13 'Climate action' and 17 'Partnerships for the Goals'.*

The *Foreign Policy White Paper* highlights that multilateral organisations are important partners of the Australian ODA program and play a critical role in helping Australia meet its international development objectives. Around a third of Australian ODA is delivered through multilateral organisations, including UN organisations, global funds, multilateral development banks and other multilateral organisations. In our discussions with multilateral partners Australia encourages them to consider how they can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by reflecting the SDGs and targets in their strategic plans. The significant development results they achieve make a strong contribution to helping countries advance the SDGs. For example, Australia has committed \$90 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in 2018-

2020, bringing our long-term investment in GPE to half a billion dollars since 2011. In 2015 72 million more children were in primary school in GPE partner countries compared to 2002. Many of these multilateral organisations also provide good vehicles for collaboration with the private sector. For example, Australia's \$200 million commitment over 2015-2018 to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will assist developing countries to address climate change. A key focus of the GCF is engagement with the private sector to catalyse climate investments. To date, USD1.3 billion has been approved for eleven private sector proposals, making up 50 per cent of the GCF's total project portfolio.

The SDGs are inter-linked, with all goals contributing to and mutually reinforcing the progress of others. As such, the SDGs were designed to be complementary, rather than being implemented independently of each other. Each of Australia's developing country partners has a breadth of development priorities that intersect with numerous SDGs, with each country differing according to their national circumstances and needs. Therefore, the focus of Australian ODA is highly context specific and addresses the SDGs as a complementary package rather than seeking to prioritise one SDG over another. This allows us to address the complexity of development challenges and ensure we are maximising our impact on promoting Australia's national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in our region. Several examples that demonstrate how Australian ODA investments progress multiple SDGs are included in Table 2 above. Not only are the SDGs interlinked but within each SDG there are a number of cross-cutting issues to consider. DFAT has a number of strategies to address issues that are relevant across our portfolio, including our *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy*, the *Indigenous Peoples Strategy and Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for Strengthening Disability-inclusive Development in Australia's Aid Program*. As a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Australia has pledged to advance the rights of women and girls, people with a disability and indigenous peoples around the globe.

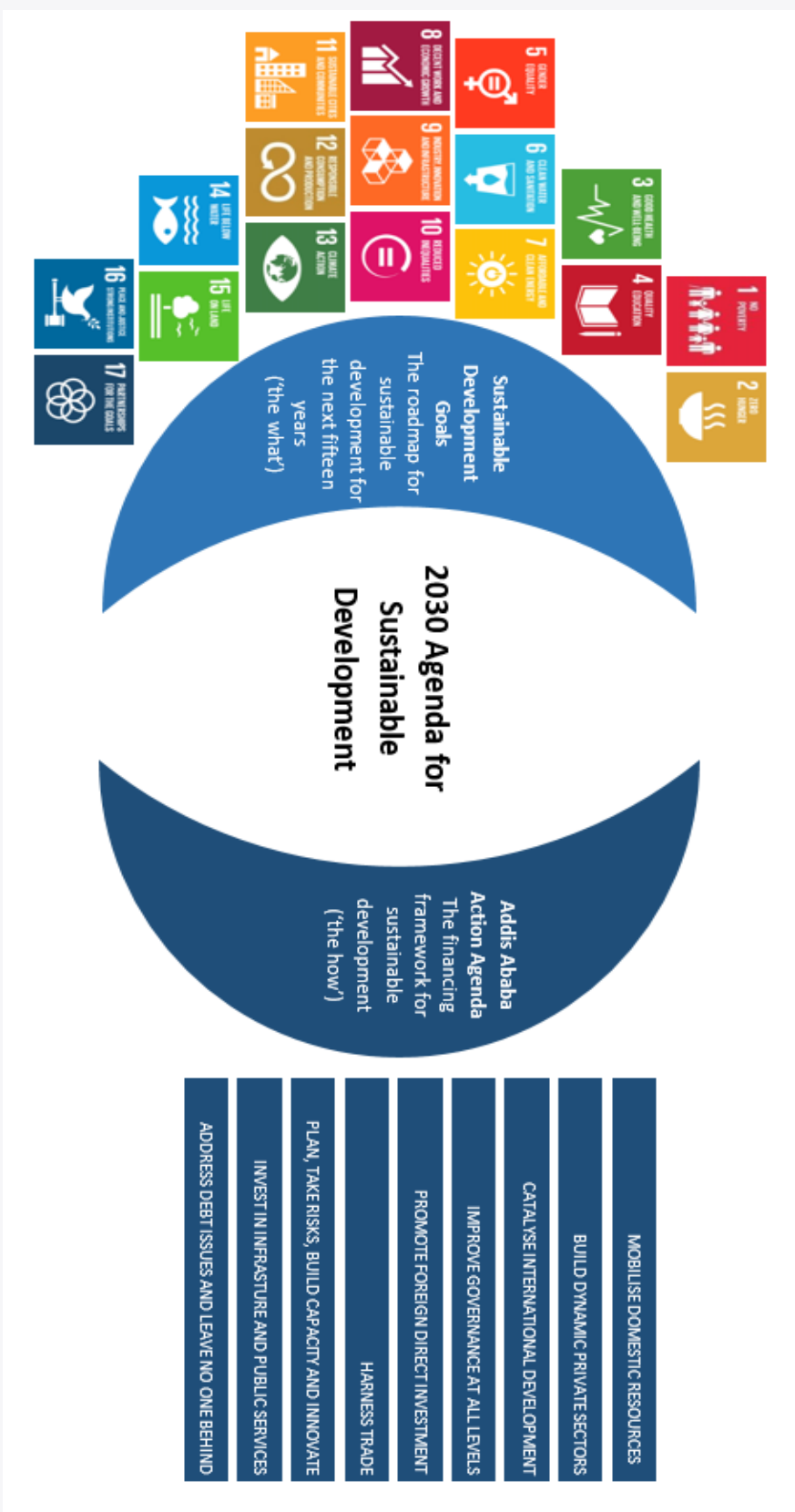
Australia is working to continuously improve data collection. DFAT and other Australian Government departments are working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to identify where data is held that relates to the SDG targets. DFAT is also reporting on multiple indicators with data drawn from our ODA management systems. Supporting developing country partners to strengthen their statistical capacity, and engaging in initiatives to improve data collection, is an important part of DFAT's work. Examples of our work to strengthen data that underpins monitoring of development efforts, including the SDGs, are:

- Australia has provided approximately \$12 million over the past five years to support the Pacific Community's Statistics for Development Division's implementation of a Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy. The strategy is an ambitious regional approach to develop national statistics capacity (including for sex-disaggregated data) and regional coordination in the Pacific region, which includes

improved data to measure progress against the SDGs.

- Australia is playing a leadership role in Alliance 8.7, a partnership of governments, UN agencies, businesses and civil society working to achieve SDG Target 8.7. The global partnership is committed to generating better data and research, including the launch of the *2017 Global Estimates on Modern Slavery and Child Labour* and the *Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform* in 2018.
- Australia is investing in a number of innovative programs to improve gender data and statistics. In February 2017 the Foreign Minister launched a \$9.5 million partnership between DFAT, the International Women's Development Agency and the Australian National University to develop the Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM). The IDM is a gender-sensitive, multi-dimensional measure of individual poverty which overcomes some of the limitations of current household measures of poverty. While not directly aligned to SDG indicators, it will help tell a holistic story about whether development efforts are working for the furthest behind. We are also providing \$6.5 million support to UN Women's Making Every Woman and Girl Count program, which is creating an enabling environment for gender statistics and increasing the production and accessibility of good gender data. Australia is partnering with UNFPA to address gender data gaps by better understanding the situation, extent and nature of violence against women in the Asia Pacific region through our \$2.6 million of support to the kNowVAW data program.
- Australia is a leading international supporter of better global capacity on disability data. Australia promotes the use of the Washington Group short set of questions (WG-SS) and the UNICEF/Washington Group Child Functioning Module as tools to disaggregate data by disability, including to monitor implementation of the SDGs. DFAT is providing \$2.8 million and USD1.2 million respectively to support the development and use of these tools.
- Australia has been actively engaged with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) developing the indicators for SDG 4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote life-long learning opportunities for all. Through our engagement with the UIS Australia is advocating for indicators to be disaggregated by sex and disability.

Annex A: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Annex B: Lead Australian Government agencies for domestic reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Voluntary National Review

These reporting responsibilities reflect domestic reporting. As identified in this submission, DFAT's overseas activities contribute to all SDGs.

Goal		Lead/Supporting agencies
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Social Services; PM&C; ABS; Home Affairs (EMA)
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Agriculture and Water Resources; Health
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Health
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Education and Training
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	PM&C; DSS
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Agriculture and Water Resources; Environment and Energy
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Environment and Energy; Industry, Innovation and Science
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Treasury; Jobs and Small Business; ABS
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities; Industry, Innovation and Science; Communications and the Arts
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	Treasury; Social Services; Home Affairs
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities; Communications and the Arts; Home Affairs (EMA)
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Environment and Energy; Agriculture and Water Resources; Finance
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Environment and Energy; Home Affairs (EMA)
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Environment and Energy; Agriculture and Water Resources; Home Affairs (Maritime Border Command); Infrastructure Regional Development and Cities (Australian Maritime Safety Authority)

15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Environment and Energy; Agriculture and Water Resources
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	AGD; Defence
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development	DFAT; Treasury; ABS

Annex C: List of stakeholders engaged by DFAT on the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and VNR

This list is not exhaustive and is updated as at 20 February 2018. Other government departments and agencies have undertaken consultations independently from DFAT that are not included in this list.

AGL	Fuji Xerox
ANZ	Futureye
Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability	GHD
Australia Post	Glencore
Australian Academy of Science	Global Compact Network Australia
Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering	Good Environmental Choice Australia
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Griffith University
Australian Council for International Development	IKEA
Australian Council of Learned Academies	International SOS
Australian Council of Trade Unions	International Women's Development Agency
Australian Education Union	Konica Minolta Australia
Australian Library and Information Association	KPMG
Australian Local Government Association	La Trobe University
Australian National University	Lendlease
Australian Volunteers International	Macquarie University
Brambles	Marie Stopes Australia
Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation	Mary Ward International Australia
CARE Australia	Monash University
Caritas Australia	National Australia Bank
CBM Australia	Oil Search Limited
Chartered Accountants Australia & NZ	Orora Group
ChildFund Australia	Plan International
ClimateWorks Australia	Principles for Responsible Management Education
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	PwC
Control Risks	QANTAS
CPA Australia	Questacon
Cultural Infusion	Regnan
Currie Communications	Rio Tinto
Curtin University	RMIT University
David Jones	SDSN Youth
Deakin University	Shared Value Project
Deloitte	Shell Australia
Engineers Without Borders Australia	Solaris Paper
Fairtrade Australia and NZ	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Family Planning NSW	Tata Consultancy Services
Fred Hollows Foundation	TEAR Australia
Telstra	University of Technology Sydney
UN Association of Australia	University of Wollongong

UN Information Centre	Visy
UN Youth	Volunteering Australia
UNICEF	Wesfarmers
Universities Australia	Westpac
University of Melbourne	World Vision
University of New South Wales	WorleyParsons
University of Queensland	Yarra Valley Water
University of Sydney	

In addition, DFAT and PM&C wrote to all States and Territories governments providing them with information on the VNR process and seeking inputs.

DFAT has consulted Commonwealth Government agencies and entities including:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
- Australian Research Council
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- Geoscience Australia
- National Health and Medical Research Council
- National Measurement Institute

DFAT has also engaged with the following Departments through cross-government working groups on the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and VNR:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
- Department of Communications and the Arts
- Department of Defence
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of the Environment and Energy
- Department of Finance
- Department of Health
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
- Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
- Department of Jobs and Small Business
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Social Services
- The Treasury