



# Australian Council of Social Service

16 November 2018

Lyn Beverley

Committee Secretary

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

By email: FADT.SEN@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Beverley,

## **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Question on notice**

At the hearing on 2 November 2018, ACOSS took the following question on notice from Acting Chair Senator Moore:

Dr Goldie, do you know when you were first engaged in the VNR? The government developed the process that was coordinated through DFAT, working with PM&C, of preparing for the VNR. I'm just trying to get a view from both of your organisations. We signed up for this at the end of 2015 or the start of 2016. We made our report in July 2018. I would like some idea about what happened beforehand. When did you get a sense that the VNR was coming and you'd be involved?

ACOSS first became aware of Australia's commitment to undertake a VNR after it was announced by Australia at the UN High Level Political Forum on 20 July 2017.

Following the announcement of the VNR in July 2017, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian SDG Summit organising committee (of which ACOSS was a member) initiated a dialogue with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade about the VNR in the context of organising the Summit, with the first conversation between DFAT and the organising committee taking place on 18 August 2017.

ACOSS was first formally consulted on the VNR at a domestic consultation roundtable with the community sector, hosted by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, on 18 October 2017.

I trust this information assists the committee with their inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline Phillips

Co-Director of Policy and Advocacy