



THE SENATE
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
Public Hearing –Friday, 24 August 2018
Questions Taken on Notice
Volunteering Australia

1 HANSARD, p. 8

Senator MOORE: We've run out of time, and I know the chair is going to pull me up. I think it's important that it's on record that your organisations are mostly voluntary, and I am going to be asking you to do some more work after you have already put detailed submissions into us, and I know that's very selfish of me. Can you on notice, if you choose to, give us as a committee what you think should happen? The submissions of both your organisations have gone into what is happening, and you both say you want to plan. Can you give some thought into: if you had your way, what should happen with the SDG agenda from now on?

ANSWER

Volunteering Australia emphasises that there is a lack of understanding on how to make existing programs and frameworks scalable to the goals. There is need to help localise the SDG agenda to allow for greater understanding within government and the community. As such, there are opportunities to focus on domestic awareness raising, engagement on the SDGs at a grassroots level, and promotions of the 2030 agenda.

- Volunteering Australia recommends a national marketing and promotions campaign on the 2030 agenda, which will provide a nationally consistent approach to awareness raising of the goals, as well as the opportunities they can present to society. The strategy must focus on the cross-sector nature and interconnectedness of the goals, to strengthen their implementation. It should also include resources, education materials and training to support business, civil society, the public sector and the wider community in achieving the goals.
- We also recommend that there is a development of a research agenda to explore the monitoring and measurement of the goals. At present, measurement has focused on outputs by programs and services that align with SDGs, rather than outcomes.
- Better quality data collection is required to enhance monitoring and measurement of programs and activities against the SDGs, and to support performance indicators.
- Volunteering Australia highlights that work needs to continue and engagement must increase on the 2030 agenda beyond the VNR, to ensure that as a society, we are reaching our potential and achieving and implementing the goals. The SDG agenda

needs to be maintained across government, with conversations on the agenda withdrawing following Australia's reporting of their VNR in June.

- The separate departmental responsibilities on the SDGs needs to be rethought, as it does not consider the interconnectedness of the 2030 agenda. The allocation of individual department responsibility of the SDGs impedes efforts to interpret the goals in a transformative way. Volunteering Australia stresses that the intersections of each goal require interventions in thinking to move beyond agency-centric views, and a transformation of departmental silos.