

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 7**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 15, 18/10/2016**

**Topic: Role in the STGs**

**Senator Moore, Claire asked:**

**Senator MOORE:** Dr Smith, I am asking departments about their role in the STGs, the Sustainable Development Goals. I want to know if your department is part of the interdepartmental committee that has just been set up to look at the impact of the STGs in our country and internationally?

**Dr Smith:** Yes, apparently we are.

**Senator MOORE:** Well, it is very new. I will put this on notice, because it is obviously new. I want to find out on notice exactly who is representing your department and your understanding as a department of what your role will be. Also, whether there will be a focus domestically and internationally. There are too many goals. There are a number of goals, but I would have thought that there are a few there where communications expertise would be invaluable.

**Dr Smith:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) held a High Level Inter-Departmental Committee Meeting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 14 September 2016. Richard Windeyer, First Assistant Secretary, Strategy and Projects, represented the Department of Communications and the Arts (the Department) at this meeting.

An outcome of this meeting was the establishment of a First Assistant Secretary-Level Working Group (the Working Group) to lead the whole-of-government work on the 2030 Agenda going forward. The Working Group will meet quarterly and DFAT will Chair. The first meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to take place on 24 November 2016.

The Department is currently working to identify where work within the portfolio aligns with the 2030 Agenda. The outcome of this exercise will inform who will be the Department's FAS and working-level contacts for the Working Group going forward.