

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

What is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) is a non-binding, universal roadmap for sustainable development, applying to both developed and developing countries. The SDGs took effect on 1 January 2016 and succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It comprises:

- the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs; 17 goals and 169 targets); which address the **social** (SDGs 1-7); **economic** (SDGs 8-11 and 16); and **environmental** (SDGs 12-15) aspects of development; and
- the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) on financing for development: focused on using all sources to finance development (not just aid), including tax revenue, enhanced trade and private sector investment.

What is unique about the 2030 Agenda?

The SDGs are far-reaching and ambitious, and are intended to stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. The goals apply to all countries, in every stage of development. They are based on the principles of cross-sector collaboration and ‘leaving no one behind’ – that is, reaching the most marginalised populations.

Please find the full set of goals and targets here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

How is Australia engaged with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

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 in New York, to welcome and endorse the 2030 Agenda.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department (DFAT) and the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) are leading a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to how Australia can best give effect to the 2030 Agenda, domestically and internationally. This includes preparing for Australia’s Voluntary National review (VNR), which will be presented in July 2018 at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Further information on the HLPF can be found at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

What is the Voluntary National Review (VNR)?

Heads of State and Government and senior Ministers from all UN member states use the (HLPF), held in New York in July each year, to coordinate and review worldwide efforts in support of the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF is also a platform for countries to deliver VNRs of their progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Australia will deliver our first VNR at the HLPF in July 2018. The VNR provides an opportunity to highlight Australia's achievements, priorities and challenges – both domestically and internationally – in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

At the 2016 HLPF, twenty-two countries, including Germany, France, China and Samoa, presented the first VNRs. Forty-four countries presented VNRs at the 2017 HLPF, including Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Japan.

Further information on VNRs can be found at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

Key Terms

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A universal roadmap for sustainable development in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet over the next fifteen years. It is a result of comprehensive consultation across multilateral bodies, national governments, civil society, private sector actors and vulnerable populations themselves.

High Risk Groups: Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80 per cent live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants (see paragraph 23, United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which can be found at:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Seventeen goals for achievement by 2030 that address the social (SDGs 1-7); economic (SDGs 8-11 and 16); and environmental (SDGs 12-15) aspects of development. (Goal 17 relates to partnerships for the goals.) See what all the goals are here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Targets: Each SDG is broken down into multiple targets. For example, SDG3 relating to health, has nine targets relating to specific health issues, as well as four 'means-of-implementation' targets.

Voluntary National Review: Each UN Member State must present a VNR twice over the life of the 2030 Agenda at the annual High Level Political Forum. The VNR is an opportunity to present a review of how each country is progressing the 2030 Agenda and comprises a written report and a presentation to the HLPF.