



United Nations Association of Australia



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: 2015 AND BEYOND

The UN Millennium Development Goals period had concluded and we now look to the future with the commencement of UN Sustainable Development Goals' period.

## > WHAT WERE THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The UN Millennium Summit held in the year 2000 established what were known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Accepted unanimously by the then 189 member states, the MDGs were the world's first time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions- income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion- while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. The 8 MDGs expired at the end of 2015, requiring a replacement to ensure their positive work continues.

At the Rio+20 UN Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, heads of state sought to establish a “framework for sustainable development. In the nonbinding document The Future We Want they acknowledged the “need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels” and resolved to create Sustainable Development Goals to allow for “focused and coherent action.”

In December of 2014, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon presented the General Assembly with a blueprint towards sustainable development. Titled The road to dignity by 2030, the report was drawn from two decades of development experience and inputs received through forums such as the Rio+20 conference. It proposed a “universal and transformative agenda for sustainable development”, using the Millennium Development Goals as a “springboard into the future we want, a future free from poverty and built on human rights, equality and sustainability.” The report also listed 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals for the first time, the proposed evolution of the MDG's.

## > WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The SDGs are made up of 17 goals, encompassing 169 measurable targets.

### GOAL 1.

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### GOAL 7.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

### GOAL 13.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### GOAL 2.

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

### GOAL 8.

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

### GOAL 14.

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

### GOAL 3.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### GOAL 9.

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

### GOAL 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

### GOAL 4.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

### GOAL 10.

Reduce inequality within and among countries

### GOAL 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

### GOAL 5.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### GOAL 11.

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### GOAL 6.

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

### GOAL 12.

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### GOAL 17.

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## > CURRENT STATUS

The SDGs are now in force after being adopted by world leaders in September 2015. Although the SDGs are not legally binding, they place great responsibility on governments to take control and create their own national frameworks in order to achieve the 17 Goals. Over the next fifteen years, these Goals will universally apply to all as each nation does its part to end poverty, fight climate change and build a more sustainable world.



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