

UNAA endorses Senate Committee recommendations for implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals

19 February 2019

In a joint statement, the United Nations Association of Australia, the Australian Council for International Development and the Australian Council of Social Services have welcomed the findings and recommendations of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee's Report on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We congratulate the Committee for a thorough and well considered report and support the Committee's recommendations which provide a clear pathway to implementing the SDGs.

Continued work in Australia to progress the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the SDGs would bring many benefits to the Australian community. The SDGs provide a framework for collective action to tackle some of the world's biggest challenges such as climate change, poverty, inequality and sustainable growth.

In order to resolve these wicked problems, the first step is to agree on a clear, robust set of goals and targets. The SDGs offer a useful framework for that purpose. For example, the goal of reducing poverty by half by 2030 would energise policy development in a problem long neglected in Australia.

Such challenges need all sectors to work together and we welcome the Committee's recommendation for a national SDG implementation plan and engagement with a representative, multi-sector reference group to advise the Inter-Departmental Committee on the implementation of the SDGs until 2030.

We will be writing to major political parties to seek their support for the Committee's recommendations and a commitment to their implementation.

We look forward to working with the Australian Government and the Parliament in implementing the recommendations.

ENDS

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