

# UNAA members are promoting the Sustainable Development Goals as the blueprint for our future in the 2022 Federal election

This toolkit is designed for members, to enable you to discuss the Goals with your local candidates.

## It contains

- An overview of the United Nations Association of Australia
- Important information about our brand, and our policy framework for advocacy
- An outline of the work that we are doing in this election to promote the UN and the Sustainable Development Goals
- A guide for your discussions with local candidates and how to keep us informed of your discussions and the results
- Advice on how to make a positive impact
- A copy of our Statement on the Sustainable Development Goals
- Useful links.

## Who we are

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is the peak body for promoting the United Nations (UN) in Australia, established alongside the UN in 1946

## What we do

We engage federal, state and local governments, business and community groups through educational and awareness programs, leadership development, speaker events, advocacy campaigns and national media activities. As a non-government organisation and registered Australian charity we work to inform, inspire and engage Australians about the work, goals and values of the United Nations to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. Our National Board leads this work at the federal level, our divisions lead this work at the state and local level.

## How we do it

AS A PROGRESSIVE CHANGE AGENT, WE EMPOWER AUSTRALIANS TO THINK GLOBALLY, PLAN NATIONALLY AND ACT LOCALLY. TO DO THIS, WE:



Implement innovative programs, projects and activities



Conduct awareness-raising and education activities



Convene professional knowledge sharing, networking and training activities



Partner and collaborate with organisations in the UN system



Conduct research and analyse policies

## Why we do it

We work together to promote the work, goals and values of the UN to maintain and strengthen global peace and security; provide humanitarian relief; and promote human rights, environmental sustainability and economic development. As members we have an important role to play locally, nationally and globally working with the UN values of professionalism, integrity and respect for diversity.

## Aligning with UN Goals

Our objective is to increase public awareness of and engagement in the United Nations. This includes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting the importance of United Nations reform and the value of the rules-based international order, and running events and programs on key issues affecting Australia and Australians. We focus on climate change, treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, rights of indigenous peoples and progress toward gender equality.



# United Nations Association of Australia

## **Our Brand**

Working within the ecosystem of the United Nations is a privilege, and we have responsibility to both amplify and protect the United Nations brand. The United Nations Association of Australia is one of a network of Associations working together through the World Federation of United Nations Associations. The 'wreath' and 'world' components of our logo are protected trademarks of the UN under international intellectual property law. The UN central body can withdraw the right for the UNAA to use the trademark at any time they feel that the UNAA is not working in the best interests of the UN or is damaging the UN's reputation. Separately, through legislation, the Australian Foreign Minister grants the right of Australian registered non government organisations such as ours to use the protected term 'United Nations' in their registered business name.

## **Role of boards**

The National President and the National Secretary are responsible for drawing attention to the policies, and taking action in cases of policy breaches.

Directors of the National Board and Directors of divisions are custodians, champions and role models for the policy framework. This means taking action, including notifying the Division President and or the National President and National Secretary when the brand is used inappropriately or when representations are made that are not consistent with our values of professionalism, integrity and respect for diversity.

## **Role of the Public Policy Committee**

The Public Policy Committee will generate public policy positions for consideration of the National Board, including responding to issues raised by members through their divisions. Following approval these positions will be promoted on our website and through our social media and provide opportunities for members to promote consideration and action on issues you care about. The Public Policy Committee and National Board will work together to ensure these positions are timely, evidenced based, consistent with UN values and programs and relevant to our context in Australia.

## **Role of members**

Members are encouraged to promote the organisation, our policy positions, programs, events and campaigns, and raise the profile of the UNAA and the UN within the guidelines of the policy framework and our work to engage, educate and inspire.

## How we conduct our advocacy

Our policy framework guides us to conduct policy advocacy to build trust in UNAA. Our policy advocacy is done within the standards of behaviour set out in our code of conduct – to be professional, have integrity and show respect for diversity.

1. **Policy advocacy is a key tool within our strategies to engage, educate and inspire, that is managed to build trust in the UNAA.** Our advocacy is informative, constructive and without political bias. Further it is to be professional, fact oriented, responsive, diplomatic, well informed and opportunity generating.
2. **The National President leads advocacy with the Commonwealth Government.** State Presidents lead advocacy with state and local governments.
3. **Our behaviour, in all our work, aligns with the UN values of professionalism, integrity and respect for diversity.** UNAA members act with professionalism, integrity, transparently, courteously, as positive listeners, with respect for diversity, as part of a team, to avoid conflicts of interest, to support the UNAA's reputation, and in the best interests of the UNAA, legally and within team rules.
4. **We use our social media as UNAA and individuals to engage and interact to amplify the values, messages and programs of the UN and UNAA.** We work together to protect the organisation from misrepresentation, protecting the privacy of individuals, and respecting confidentiality, copyright, our audiences, colleagues and the organisation. It sets guidelines for social communication to be timely, consistent, clear, accurate and streamlined and to remember that social media is a permanent record.
5. **We respect that value and trust placed in us to use the UN brand** appropriately. Inappropriate personal use of the UNAA brand has consequences which may lead to termination or suspension of employment or voluntary responsibilities.
6. **For those of us with a UNAA email addresses we use this for professional use** within the UNAA code of conduct to support constructive communication, manage reputational risk and protect privacy.

## WHAT UNAA National Board is doing

- Writing to the Ministers and spokespeople with responsibility for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Preparing a special issue of our newsletter including information about the programs of our UNAA divisions and Young Professionals Network
- Circulating the new position statement to members and senators we met with last year following our UN & Australia Sustainable Partnerships Forum
- Promoting our policy position and the goals through our website and socials
- Hosting a webinar to support members wanting to get involved at 11am on 30 April
- Promoting qualified members of UNAA to prepare opinion pieces and contribute to podcasts and events.

# How UNAA members can promote the Sustainable Development Goals during the 2022 Federal election

## Get ready

Read our [Sustainable Development Goal Public Statement](#) contained in this document

Read the 2020 performance report from RMIT on our website [here](#)

Seek more information on a goal that is particularly important to you, but be sure to recognise they are intended to work together, systemically.

Check out what the YPN and your local Division have done recently, we will include highlights in our newsletter.

Explore your local [candidates](#) and their policy positions statements

## Get connected

Join or watch our webinar for members

Join up with other members to plan your approaches to local candidates – will you

- attend a meeting and ask a question from the floor?
- ask for a specific meeting?
- talk with volunteers in your main street?

## Amplify our socials

Promote our social media posts through your social media accounts.

You will find us at [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

## Meet your local candidates

Attend 'meet the candidates' sessions, talk with campaign volunteers and/or seek a meeting with your candidates

Be prepared to share why the Sustainable Development Goals are important to you and the role you see that they have in our local policy, in addition to international policy.

## Ask questions of the candidates

Are they familiar with the sustainable development goals?

What role do they see the goals playing in our local policy?

What commitments will they make to implementing the goals?

What commitments will they make to our specific recommendations?

If they are elected would they like to join the Parliamentary Friends of the UN?

## Share what happens

Capture who you spoke with, how they responded, and whether there is any follow up action you recommend.

Share this with us at [admin@unaa.org.au](mailto:admin@unaa.org.au)

# Advice on how to make a positive impact

Rod Welford, Vice President Sustainability UNAA QLD

- Open with what we believe
- Focus on what is going right, not what is wrong, right now
- Emphasise the value of Australia's international reputation
- Introduce the SDG's - their purpose rather than a prescription
- Draw on the Advocacy Toolkit - note our desired actions
- Ask what specific actions they can take to advance these
- Invitation to join Parliamentary Friends of the UN
- Be respectful - role model the collaborative aims of UNAA

**Our Sustainable Development Goals position statement follows on the next page.**

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## United Nations Association of Australia statement on the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) recognises implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is the pathway to a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

The Sustainable Development Goals serve as a blueprint to guide COVID19 responses now and in recovery.

We support the underpinning human rights for all peoples. We urge governments, businesses and communities to prioritise actions to:

- Reduce inequalities
- Transform business to protect and restore the environment
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

The UNAA contributes to this agenda by convening events, commissioning research and taking action to promote partnerships across government, business and civil society including indigenous Australia, in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Context

All UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. The Sustainable Development Report 2021 shows that for the first time since 2015 the world lost ground on the goals as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Jeffrey D. Sachs, President of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and first author of the report says:

*The Covid-19 pandemic has created not only a global health emergency but also a sustainable development crisis. To restore SDG progress, developing countries need a significant increase in fiscal space, through global tax reform and expanded financing by the multilateral development banks. Fiscal outlays should support the six key SDG transformations: quality education for all, universal health coverage, clean energy and industry, sustainable agriculture and land use, sustainable urban infrastructure, and universal access to digital technologies.*<sup>1</sup>

### Our performance is slipping<sup>2</sup>

In the past six years, Australia's ranking in the global SDG Index decreased from 17th in 2016 to 35th in 2021.

### In 2020 we were on track on just two goals

Australia is on track to achieve just two of the 17 SDGs by 2030 – Goal 3 Good Health and Wellbeing and Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation. We are losing ground on Goal 10 Reduced Inequalities and Goal 15 Life on Land.

### We face significant challenges in some areas

We are stagnating with significant challenges on Goal 2 Zero Hunger, Goal 13 Climate Change, and Goal 14 Life Under Water. We have no data for Goal 12 Responsible Production and Consumption.

On Goal 1 No Poverty where we were previously on track we are moderately improving and facing challenges. This is also the case for Goal 4 Quality Education, Goal 5 Gender Equality, Goal 8 Decent Work and Economy Growth, Goal 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

## The UNAA observes

- Momentum for sustainable development is building. We see action and partnerships working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals across communities, research organisations, business, and state and local government in Australia.

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1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021 *The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals* Jeffrey D. Sachs, Christian Kroll, Guillaume Lafortune, Grayson Fuller and Finn Woelm. Bertelsmann Stiftung, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Cambridge University Press, June 2021, p vii.

2 TRANSFORMING AUSTRALIA PROGRESS REPORT 2020 UPDATE Monash Sustainable Development Institute, November 2020.



- Speakers and participants at our UN & Australia Sustainable Partnerships Forum in April 2021 called on leaders across the community, academia, business and government to reinvigorate governance arrangements, policies and programs for the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers and participants focused on the value of setting and monitoring targets to enable us to better implement and measure the Goals within Australia, as well as in our international development work.
- Australia can learn from countries leading on the Goals such as Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Norway and France as well as our neighbours, Japan, New Zealand and Korea.
- Australia must continue to partner with and support our neighbours in particular in the Pacific and South East Asia integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in our foreign policy and international development programs.
- It is critical Australia work with countries in the region and across the world on issues requiring a regional or global approach, such as peace and security, treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, climate change, ocean health, modern slavery, and food and water security.

### **The UNAA urges the incoming Australian Government**

to commit to the implementation of recommendations of the 2019 Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Create a national implementation plan which focuses on priorities and progress against the Goals
- Establish a national secretariat to coordinate national action to advance the Goals
- Integrate the Goals into processes such as COAG and the national cabinet
- raise public awareness about the Goals and to report to parliament every two years on progress against the Goals.