



Global Compact
Network Australia

New global Sustainable Development Goals can unlock opportunities for Australia

On 7 September 2016, leaders and decision-makers will come together to advance Australian action to achieve the UN's [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) at the inaugural *Australian SDGs Summit* in Sydney.

The SDGs lay out a roadmap to achieve economic prosperity, social inclusion and environmental sustainability by 2030. The Summit will gather representatives from Australian government, business, civil society, academia and youth organisations for the first time since the SDGs came into effect on 1 January 2016.

“The SDGs require us in Australia to work with neighbouring countries and around the region to support the implementation of the SDGs as a critical means to addressing poverty while increasing inclusion and environmental sustainability,” said Marc Purcell, CEO of the Australian Council for International Development.

The SDGs also have application for Australia domestically. “Concerted efforts to improve social sustainability in Australia by addressing poverty and inequality and improving access to essential services and **housing** are also crucial,” said Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, Australian Council of Social Services.

Recent research found Australia is ranked 20th in the world on its performance towards meeting the SDGs. Goals relating to hunger, affordable and clean energy, climate change, life below water, life on land and partnering for the goals have been identified as areas requiring particular attention in Australia.¹

John Thwaites, Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Australia Pacific noted, “the ranking has helped identify implementation gaps that provide significant opportunities for Australia, and there is nothing like a bit of competition by comparison to stimulate action.”

The opportunities that come with implementation of the SDGs are encouraging all sectors to embrace the agenda, including business. A recent study showed almost half of companies worldwide are looking to engage with the SDG agenda, and more than half in the Asia-Pacific region.²

“We are seeing leading Australian companies embracing the SDGs, and recognising not only the role they have to contribute to the agenda but the upside to their businesses in doing so,” said Alice Cope, Executive Manager, Global Compact Network Australia.

The Summit will showcase existing Australian efforts to advance the SDGs and identify further opportunities for all sectors arising from this new and ambitious global agenda, which must be implemented over the next 15 years.

“Today’s young people have a role and interest in driving this long term agenda forward in Australia and can offer great imagination, energy and optimism along the way,” said Sam Loni, Global Coordinator for UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth initiative.

The Australian SDGs Summit will take place at Rydges World Square, 389 Pitt St, Sydney on Wednesday, 7 September, 2016.

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Footnotes:

¹ Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Durand-Delacore, D. and Teksoz, K. (2016): An SDG Index and Dashboards – Global Report. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Available: <http://sdgindex.org/>

² Liam Dowd, (2016): How businesses are engaging in the Sustainable Development Goals, Ethical Corporation. Available: <http://www.ethicalcorp.com/how-businesses-are-engaging-sustainable-development-goals>

Notes to Editor:

- The SDGs are also referred to as the 2030 Agenda or Global Goals
- The SDGs were adopted by all countries, including Australia, at the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and came into effect on 1 January 2016.
- The SDG agenda is made up of 17 goals which lay out a path over the next 15 years to address extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect the planet

About the Summit organisers and media contacts

The Summit is being organised by Australia's leading peak organisations across sectors. If you would like to contact our spokespeople, please get in touch:



Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

ACFID unites Australia's non-government aid and international development organisations to strengthen their collective impact against poverty.

Website: <https://acfid.asn.au/>

Contact: Joanna Pradela, Head of Policy and Advocacy, 0405 751 565



Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

ACOSS produces effective and influential advocacy in Australia's on issues affecting people experiencing poverty or disadvantage.

Website: <http://www.acoss.org.au/>

Contact: Anthony Reed, Media Advisor, ACOSS, 0402 399 572



Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA)

The Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) is part of the UN and world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. We advance the role of the private sector in sustainable development through our business-led network.

Website: www.unglobalcompact.org.au

Contact: Harriet Loughlin, Communications and Program Coordinator, 0451 951 805



UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN)

UN SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the SDGs.

Website: <http://ap-unsdsn.org/>

Contact: Nina Laxmandas, Digital and Communications Manager, Monash Sustainability Institute, 0411 749 854

Youth contact: Sam Loni, Global Coordinator, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 03 9905 8171