



House of Commons  
International Development  
Committee

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# **UK implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

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**First Report of Session 2016–17**





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**First Report of Session 2016–17**

*Report, together with formal minutes relating  
to the report*

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## The International Development Committee

The International Development Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department for International Development and its associated public bodies.

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Committee reports are published on the [Committee's website](#) and in print by Order of the House. Evidence relating to this report is published on the relevant [inquiry page](#) of the Committee's website.

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The current staff of the Committee are Sarah Hartwell-Naguib (Clerk), Daniel Whitford (Second Clerk), Steven Ayres and Rachael Cox (Committee Specialists), Kingsley Boateng and Claire Cozens (Inquiry Managers), Zac Mead (Senior Committee Assistant), Mandy Sullivan (Committee Assistant), Paul Hampson (Committee Support Assistant), and Estelle Currie (Media Officer).

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# Contents

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<b>Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>6</b>
The Sustainable Development Goals	6
The UK's role in negotiating the Goals	9
Implementation of the SDGs	11
Our inquiry	11
Our Report	11
<b>2 Financing the Goals</b>	<b>13</b>
Moving 'From Billions to Trillions'	13
The continuing importance of aid	14
Domestic resource mobilisation	16
Encouraging private investment	18
Maximising the capital markets	20
<b>3 Towards a Global Partnership</b>	<b>22</b>
Multilateral organisations	23
Civil society organisations	25
The private sector	27
Local government	29
<b>4 The UK Government's response to the SDGs</b>	<b>31</b>
The need for a 'whole of government' response	31
Domestic implementation of the SDGs	32
Policy coherence for sustainable development	35
A national implementation plan	39
<b>5 DFID's support for the SDGs overseas</b>	<b>41</b>
Where should DFID prioritise?	41
National ownership	41
Comparative advantage	42
Focusing on the Goals furthest behind	43
Root bottlenecks	44
Integrating the Goals into DFID's work	45

<b>6 Monitoring and accountability</b>	<b>48</b>
The SDGs indicators	48
Data for development	48
UK reporting against the SDGs	51
The UK's support for global progress	51
Parliamentary scrutiny of the SDGs	52
<b>Conclusions and recommendations</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Appendix: The Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Formal Minutes</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Published written evidence</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament</b>	<b>84</b>

## Summary

In September 2015, 193 Member States attending the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit in New York adopted a new global development framework: ‘Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’. The Agenda consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (or ‘Global Goals’ as they are popularly known) and 169 targets, which commit all signatory countries to tackle issues as diverse and deep-rooted as gender inequality, climate change, access to quality education and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. The SDGs officially came into force on 1 January 2016 and the UK must now move forward with implementing the Goals at home and supporting other countries to achieve them overseas.

Achieving the SDGs will require financial investment of trillions of dollars from a variety of sources. We welcome the International Development (Official Development Assistance) Act 2015 which requires the Government to spend 0.7% of UK GNI on ODA, and recognise that ODA remains an essential part of the financial commitment needed to achieve the SDGs, particularly for Least Developed Countries. Private sector investment will also be essential for countries wishing to make progress towards the SDGs, contributing to the agenda by creating jobs, increasing incomes, providing services and increasing resilience. However, where private investment is encouraged in developing countries, through CDC or initiatives such as the Prosperity Fund, DFID and other arms of the UK Government should focus on developing and fragile states and actively consider whether its work will have a positive impact on the achievement of the SDGs.

We recognise the impact of tax evasion on developing countries’ ability to raise revenues and welcome the Prime Minister’s decision to host the recent Anti-Corruption Summit in London, positioning the UK as a leader in this debate. Despite this, we remain concerned about successive governments’ approaches towards international tax cooperation and fairer tax rules. We believe that strong commitment to addressing these areas is essential. We welcome the progress made so far. However, we urge the Government to ensure that the overseas territories and Crown dependencies introduce central beneficial ownership registries as soon as possible, in accordance with the Prime Minister’s recent statement. Discussions and decisions on international cooperation in tax matters need to be made within an inclusive body, such as the UN, rather than just the OECD, whose membership includes only developed countries. If there is a need for greater financial expertise, then it could work together with (for example) the IMF, whose membership also encompasses almost the entire globe. We are addressing this area in more detail in our ongoing inquiry into ‘Tackling Corruption Overseas’. To harness the finance tied up in capital markets, DFID and other relevant government departments should also enter into discussions with the London Stock Exchange and the City of London to explore how they might work together to create better incentives for sustainable development in the capital markets.

The reinvigoration of a ‘Global Partnership’ is one of the central tenets of Agenda 2030. The Government should take a leading role in communicating the SDGs to a wide private sector audience in the UK, including supporting the newly formed Business and Sustainable Development Commission to devise a comprehensive business case

for private sector engagement with the Goals. It should also support the development of international benchmarks against the SDGs, to enable companies to monitor and report on their progress against relevant targets. Despite concerns expressed by ICAI, and in evidence to our report on DFID's allocation of resources, working through, and in partnership with, multilateral organisations seems logical and beneficial in the context of the SDGs. In the upcoming Multilateral Aid Review, DFID should lay out exactly how its engagement with multilaterals will help it support the achievement of the SDGs. Civil society organisations—from the global north and global south—also have a vital part to play. With this in mind, we recommend DFID looks closely at its civil society funding mechanisms to ensure: small NGOs are not discriminated against, or restricted due to the source of their funding; innovation and collaboration to achieve the SDGs is encouraged, and civil society is able to undertake the important task of communicating the SDGs to citizens across the world so that governments are held to account on progress.

The Government's response to domestic implementation of the SDGs has so far been insufficient. We remain to be convinced that responsibility for domestic implementation should lie with the Secretary of State for International Development, who already faces a substantial challenge in working to support international implementation of the Goals. Engagement of government departments will be central to the success of domestic implementation, which also has an impact on making progress on the goals globally. As such, we are particularly concerned that the SDGs have not been included in the 2015–2020 Single Departmental Plans of all government departments, which indicates a worrying lack of engagement in the SDGs across Government. Departments should be assigned specific responsibilities for making progress on the SDGs to ensure ownership and clear lines of accountability and these should be laid out clearly in each department's Single Departmental Plan, with specific references to relevant SDGs. We recommend that, if it has not already done so, the Government urgently produces a substantive and fully resourced internal communications strategy on the SDGs to ensure that all departments understand their responsibilities to deliver on the Goals.

We are deeply concerned at the lack of a strategic and comprehensive approach to implementation of the Goals. Without this, it is likely that areas of deep incoherence across government policy could develop and progress made by certain departments could be easily undermined by the policies and actions of others. It also reflects a worrying absence of commitment to ensure proper implementation of the SDGs across-Government. The Government should identify a formal mechanism for relevant Secretaries of State or responsible Ministers to come together regularly to discuss the implementation of the SDGs at the highest political level. The Government should also commit to producing a regular report on policy coherence for sustainable development. We have been concerned by the reluctance of the Secretary of State for International Development and the Minister for Government Policy to provide a cross-Government plan for implementation of the SDGs. Although we welcome the Minister's announcement that the Government will produce a report outlining the international and domestic approach to implementation of the SDGs by the end of the year, we are disappointed at the reluctance to call it an implementation plan. The Government's report must equate to a substantive cross-government plan for implementation of the SDGs.

To stand the best chance of success, governments' implementation of the SDGs must be aligned to existing national priorities and developed through country-led process with opportunities for democratic engagement by citizens and civil society. We welcome DFID's emphasis on encouraging national ownership of the SDGs in its priority countries. To ensure a country-specific and holistic response to the SDGs through its bilateral programmes, DFID should assess where its work is likely to make the most impact, potentially requiring country teams to look at all of the areas outlined in evidence to us, such as: where DFID has particular skills and expertise to deliver; where other development actors are not already providing support; where there might be root bottlenecks which, if tackled, could have an impact on a number of Goals; or the Goals where the country is most off track and may need the most support.

The publication of DFID's Single Departmental Plan, and the broader UK Aid Strategy, have provided little clarity on how the Department will support the implementation of the SDGs agenda overseas. Although the SDGs are referenced in both documents, no clear link is drawn between specific Goals and the Government or DFID's policy priorities and it seems clear that the SDGs have not sufficiently informed the Government's overseas aid strategy. We recommend that the Government produces a White Paper on International Development to provide clarity on its approach to Agenda 2030. Following the Multilateral, Bilateral and Civil Society Partnership Reviews, DFID and other government departments will be in a position to provide a comprehensive overview of their approach to international development over this Parliament and towards 2030, within the framework of the SDGs.

The legislative framework determining much of the UK's aid spending is also not fit for the post-2015 development agenda. The Government should use this critical juncture to consolidate and update the four International Development Acts (2002, 2006, 2014, and 2015) into one single Act. This should include: a legal requirement that poverty reduction (including through the provision of global public goods) is the primary purpose of all ODA spending (including by other government departments); a commitment to support the achievement of the SDGs, a requirement for DFID to report regularly on its contribution to progress in its bilateral partner countries; and a legal requirement for more systematic efforts towards, and reporting on, policy coherence across Government in support of the SDGs.

The UK Government should report annually on its contribution to SDGs progress in all of DFID's priority countries, enabling us, as a Committee, to scrutinise the efforts of the Government to support implementation of the SDGs overseas. The report should include the contributions of all government departments towards progress in those countries, including the positive and negative effects of government policies such as on tax, trade, the environment, migration, and peace and security. We recommend that all House of Commons departmental select committees engage with the SDGs to: push for ambitious national indicators; monitor departmental progress against these indicators, once formulated; and use the data produced annually by the Office of National Statistics to hold departments to account on their performance.

# 1 Introduction

## The Sustainable Development Goals

1. During a landmark year for international development, in September 2015 193 Member States attending the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit in New York adopted a new global development framework: ‘Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’.<sup>1</sup> The Agenda consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (or ‘Global Goals’ as they are popularly known) and 169 targets, which commit all signatory countries to tackle issues as diverse and deep-rooted as gender inequality, climate change, access to quality education and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. The SDGs officially came into force on 1 January 2016 and the UK must now move forward with implementing the Goals at home and supporting other countries to achieve them overseas.

**Table 1: 2015 - A Landmark Year for International Development**

Date	Conference
March 2015	Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan  Outcome: Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
July 2015	Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  Outcome: Addis Ababa Action Agenda
September 2015	UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York, USA  Outcome: Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
December 2015	COP21 / 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference  Outcome: The Paris Agreement
December 2015	Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya  Outcome: Nairobi Package

2. The SDGs are the successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted at the UN in September 2000 and expired in 2015. The eight MDGs included seven specific Goals focused on areas of human development in which developing countries had considerable progress to make: extreme poverty and hunger, access to primary education, gender inequality, child and maternal mortality, diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, and environmental sustainability. The eighth goal—which also applied to developed countries—was to create a global partnership for development. Analysis of the MDGs’ success has been mixed, but the Goals provided a common focus for global development efforts from 2000–2015, during which time, some very positive development results were achieved. Most significantly, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty was halved, as was the global mortality rate in children under five.<sup>2</sup>

1 UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015)

2 UN, [The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015: Summary](#) (2015) p 3-4

3. Going far beyond finishing the job of the MDGs, the SDGs are an attempt to set a new agenda for the whole world, to redefine global norms, and to reinvigorate international cooperation. Whereas the MDGs concentrated on specific challenges faced by developing countries, the SDGs aim to solve common problems and secure economic, social and environmental gains for everyone. They reflect shared objectives. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon stated at the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2015:

“It is an agenda for people, to end poverty in all its forms. An agenda for the planet, our common home. An agenda for shared prosperity, peace and partnership. [...]

To do better, we must do differently. The 2030 Agenda compels us to look beyond national boundaries and short-term interests and act in solidarity for the long-term. We can no longer afford to think and work in silos.”<sup>3</sup>

4. The 17 SDGs are the result of the most extensive and inclusive UN consultation in history.<sup>4</sup> As Simon Maxwell, Senior Research Associate at ODI (and Adviser to the International Development Committee), told us, the Agenda is valuable because, “it represents consensus among many stakeholders from the official and non-official sectors: NGOs and the private sector, as well as Governments”.<sup>5</sup> The Goals reflect the complexity of the ongoing challenge of tackling insecurity, poverty and environmental degradation across the world. They acknowledge that solving such intrinsically universal problems will require coordinated action from all 193 signatory nations, including the UK. As such, the SDGs move beyond placing different responsibilities upon donor and recipient countries (the model for the MDGs) and rather are universal and applicable to all. The SDGs are not legally binding, but there is a moral imperative for action. As the Agenda 2030 outcome document states:

“This is an agenda of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike.”<sup>6</sup>

5. Under each of the 17 Goals there are a number of targets. Some targets focus on the desired ends of the Goal, such as target 1.1: “By 2030, to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day”.<sup>7</sup> Others focus on the means of implementation, for example target 1.b: “Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty

3 [“Secretary-General’s remarks at Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”](#), UN Statement, 25 September 2015

4 Unlike the MDGs, which were conceived without wide consultation, the SDGs were the result of an extensive consultation and negotiation process, including the High Level Panel on Post-2015, the Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly and the My World global citizen survey

5 Simon Maxwell ([SDG0006](#)) para 2

6 UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015) p. 5

7 UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015) p. 17

eradication actions”.<sup>8</sup> This represents a departure from the MDGs framework, where the means of implementation were concentrated in a single Goal 8, and gives some further guidance (albeit very broad) to countries on how they can make progress.

6. To measure progress towards the Goals, the SDGs indicators were agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016. These are due to be formally adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly later this year. The 231 proposed indicators have been mapped against the Goals and targets and will be used as the foundation for the national indicators that all countries, including the UK, are now developing to locate gaps and track their progress towards the Goals.

**Table 2: MDGs vs SDGs**

MDGs	SDGs
8 Goals	17 Goals
18 Targets	169 Targets
48 Indicators	231 Indicators

Source: UN

**Box 1: The Sustainable Development Goals**

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 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 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 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

\* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.<sup>9</sup>

Source: UN, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (September 2015)

## The UK's role in negotiating the Goals

7. The UK showed early commitment to, and leadership on, the formation of the SDGs, when Prime Minister Rt Hon David Cameron MP held the position of Co-Chair of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda from 2012–2013. He was appointed to the Panel by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon—alongside President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia—to provide advice on the global development framework to succeed the MDGs. Its final report strongly influenced the SDGs that were to follow, recommending five transformative shifts as priorities for a new development agenda. The first of these was the pledge to 'leave no one behind'; to reach those most marginalised communities and those who are most in need. This has remained central to the 2030 Agenda and to the UK's approach to the Goals, which was demonstrated when the Prime Minister personally hosted a side-event on 'leave no one behind' during the Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.

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9 A full list of the SDGs and Targets are included as Appendix 1

**Box 2: Five Transformative Shifts proposed by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

- 1) Leave No One Behind
- 2) Put Sustainable Development at the Core
- 3) Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth
- 4) Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for All
- 5) Forge a New Global Partnership

Source: UN, [A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development, the Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (May 2013) p. 29

8. Following the High-Level Panel, the UK continued to play an important role in the subsequent intergovernmental negotiations on the SDGs. According to DFID, the UK fought hard for the inclusion of contentious issues including Goal 5 (Gender Equality) targets on FGM, early and forced marriage and sexual and reproductive health, and Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies.<sup>10</sup> However, it was well documented that the UK was keen to see fewer Goals than the 17 that were negotiated. At a side-event at the UN General Assembly in 2014 the Prime Minister was reported to have said:

“I don’t believe they will cut it at 17. There are too many to communicate effectively [...] There’s a real danger they will end up sitting on a bookshelf, gathering dust.”<sup>11</sup>

9. In its Report on ‘Post-2015 Development Goals’, published in 2013, our predecessor International Development Committee also advocated fewer Goals, stating that:

“[...] the number of goals should be no higher than 10, and all should have quantifiable targets. If the new framework is to be successful as the MDGs, this simplicity will be fundamental.”<sup>12</sup>

However, the Secretary of State for International Development, Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, told us in September that she accepted the additional Goals as the result of “an incredibly complicated, challenging negotiation” and expressed delight at the inclusion of those issues the UK had fought hard for.<sup>13</sup> The UK’s role in the global implementation of the SDGs is set to continue as the Secretary of State has recently been appointed to the UN Secretary-General’s new High Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, backed by UN Women, the World Bank and the UK Government.<sup>14</sup>

10 [“Greening: UK to ‘break chains of dependency for women around the world’”, DFID Press Release, 25 September 2015](#)

11 [“UN begins talks on SDGs, ‘carrying the hopes of millions and millions’”, The Guardian, 24 September 2014](#)

12 International Development Committee, Eighth Report of Session 2012–13, [Post-2015 Development Goals](#), HC657, para 84

13 Q42

14 [“UN announces first-ever High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment”](#), UN Women Press Release, 21 January 2016

## Implementation of the SDGs

10. The SDGs cover seventeen areas which are fundamental to social, environmental and economic development. A lot of the written evidence we received gave strong arguments for DFID to prioritise specific Goals, citing their particular importance, and the potential impact of their success or failure, on the SDG agenda as a whole. However, numerous others highlighted the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs and the need for DFID to support delivery of the entire SDG Agenda and avoid ‘cherry picking’.<sup>15</sup>

11. What is clear from the evidence received is that the UK Government will need to devise a coordinated and coherent response in order to fulfil their promise to support achievement of the SDGs by 2030. DFID will lead its own work on ensuring it supports the SDGs through its policy and programming overseas. However, there is also a substantial role for the Government as a whole, both to deliver the Goals in the UK and ensure policy coherence across government, to make sure all departments are supporting the achievement of the SDGs, at home and overseas. This is a considerable task.

## Our inquiry

12. We launched our inquiry on 13 July 2015 and asked for written submissions on how the UK should implement the SDGs, specifically with regards to the following terms of reference:

- Which SDGs should DFID prioritise and how? Should the priorities be country specific or an overarching strategy of SDG priorities applied to all partner countries?
- How there could be a more coherent approach with other donors towards the SDGs with donors specialising on specific areas for example education or WASH to reduce duplication etc.
- How DFID could have a more strategic approach on how it uses contractors, multilaterals, NGOs and its own bilateral country offices to deliver on the SDGs.
- Which SDGs should other UK Government departments focus on?
- How will progress be measured? What should be the indicators within the targets?

## Our Report

13. The SDGs were adopted in September 2015 and officially came into force in January 2016. The 231 global SDGs indicators were agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016 and will only be formally adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in autumn 2016.<sup>16</sup> The process of establishing baselines and developing national indicators is only just getting underway. Implementation plans are therefore still in their infancy, which made it an ideal time for us, as a Committee, to look forward to how the Government should implement the Goals through this Report.

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<sup>15</sup> For example see WWF ([SDG0029](#)) para 14; Bond Beyond 2015 UK ([SDG0046](#)) para 5; CAFOD ([SDG0045](#)) para 1

<sup>16</sup> For a full list of SDGs indicators see: UN, [Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#) (February 2016)

14. During our inquiry, we received 91 pieces of written evidence from a diverse range of stakeholders and heard from 21 expert witnesses across six oral evidence sessions. The Committee also visited Washington and New York during the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, to meet with stakeholders involved in the Goals' formulation, negotiation and agreement. These individuals included: Amina Mohammed (the then UN Special Adviser on the Post-2015 Development Agenda), Helen Clark (Administrator, UNDP), Matthew Rycroft (UK Permanent Representative to the UN) and Dr Jim Yong Kim (President of the World Bank). Our Report will bring together the common themes from the extensive range of evidence we have received, so that the Government can take this into account as it develops its SDG implementation strategy.

15. If implemented by governments with appropriate ambition and focus, the SDGs could have a transformative impact on the wellbeing of people all over the world. However, as we heard from Melissa Leach at the Institute for Development Studies, if the Goals are to be reached, "Business as usual is no longer an option".<sup>17</sup> Achieving the SDGs by 2030 will require unprecedented effort to integrate the Goals into countries' national and international policies, and it is crucial that governments are held to account on their promise to do this.

## 2 Financing the Goals

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### Moving 'From Billions to Trillions'

16. Achieving the SDGs will require immense financial investment from a variety of sources. Understandably, the UN has not been able to attach a specific cost to the SDGs but the World Bank report, 'From Billions to Trillions' estimates: "To meet the investment needs of the Sustainable Development Goals, the global community needs to move the discussion from 'Billions' in ODA to 'Trillions' in investments of all kinds".<sup>18</sup> With current Official Development Assistance (ODA) estimated at just under US\$135 billion per year,<sup>19</sup> the report emphasised the urgent need to leverage finance for the SDGs through "philanthropy, remittances, South-South flows and other official assistance, and foreign direct investment".<sup>20</sup>

17. The Secretary of State for International Development acknowledged the huge increase in funding required to deliver the SDGs, and the need for a 'beyond aid' approach, ahead of the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015:

"[...] we recognise lifting a billion people out of poverty will take far more than the global development budgets can ever provide. To deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN says we are going to need to attract trillions of dollars a year in investment from governments and, crucially, from the private sector.

So that's why we're all talking about the beyond aid agenda: acknowledging that while aid is still necessary, it's not sufficient either for the next development 'leap' in its scale or in its nature."<sup>21</sup>

18. The Financing for Development Conference aimed to address existing gaps in development finance ahead of the launch of the SDGs. The outcome document, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA),<sup>22</sup> was described to us by David Hallam (former UK Envoy on the Post-2015 Development Goals) as "integral to the delivery of this agenda".<sup>23</sup> The AAAA contained a large number of pledges in key areas such as tax, illicit flows, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and domestic capital markets. However, there were few concrete commitments and very little new money was pledged. As we heard from Jonathan Glennie at Save the Children:

"Unfortunately the Addis conference did not provide the goods. There were some steps forward [...] There is a whole bunch of initiatives that are very welcome, but in terms of setting the scene for the world to be ready to pay for a set of goals that are vastly more expensive because they are way more ambitious than the MDGs, the world is miles away from that, in my view."<sup>24</sup>

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18 World Bank Group, [From Billions to Trillions: Transforming Development Finance](#) (April 2015)

19 OECD, [DAC High Level Meeting Final Communiqué](#) (16 December 2014) para 7

20 World Bank Group, [From Billions to Trillions: Transforming Development Finance](#) (April 2015) p. 1

21 "[Changing world, changing aid: Where international development needs to go next](#)", Speech given by Justine Greening at the Overseas Development Institute, 2 July 2015

22 UN, [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (July 2015)

23 Q44

24 Q15

## The continuing importance of aid

19. Although ODA is just part of the solution to raising development finance for the SDGs, it still plays a vital role, particularly for the poorest countries. According to the OECD, “ODA remains the biggest financial flow in fragile states”.<sup>25</sup> As Jamie Drummond of ONE told us:

“[...] within LDCs [Least Developed Countries] within Africa [...] the median per capita level of expenditure in those countries is \$123—less than £100—per person per year. That is public expenditure covering everything—covering all the SDGs. We are talking about extremely poor people living in countries with no money. The allocation of British ODA to those countries over the long term is extremely important.”<sup>26</sup>

20. Last year, the UK recognised the importance of its own commitment to international aid by passing the International Development (Official Development Assistance) Act 2015, which requires the Government to spend 0.7% of the UK’s GNI on ODA. Jonathan Glennie emphasised that this was an “immense and historic achievement for the country” and added, “The UK is respected for this aid commitment”.<sup>27</sup> The commitment gives the UK legitimacy when encouraging other countries to give more. Talking to us about the Financing for Development Conference, the Secretary of State said that:

“The UK went with our 0.7% commitment. We got the EU to strengthen its commitment too, at the final meeting of Ministers in the run-up to that, so there were new money commitments that were made.”<sup>28</sup>

21. Although ODA is at an all-time high,<sup>29</sup> the final AAAA expresses concern “that many countries still fall short of their ODA commitments”<sup>30</sup> and data from the OECD (see figure 1) shows that a number of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Members, including Germany and France, are falling far short of previous commitments to scale up their aid efforts to 0.7% of GNI. In the midst of the current refugee crisis, many donors are also redirecting significant amounts of the ODA to cover first year housing costs for refugees in their own countries, with even generous donors like Sweden reallocating their development cooperation budgets to deal with the crisis.<sup>31</sup> There is a need for all donors to step up to the plate and fulfil their full ODA commitments, to ensure that they are living up to their commitment to support the achievement of the SDGs, particularly in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) where levels of bilateral aid have fallen in recent years.<sup>32</sup> In evidence to us, Oxfam argued: “As well as continuing to provide 0.7 of GNI as aid, the UK should continue to encourage other donors to give more in the context of falling aid levels from a number of countries”.<sup>33</sup>

25 OECD, [Ensuring fragile states are not left behind](#) (2013) p. 1

26 Q10

27 Q12

28 Q44

29 OECD, [“Development aid stable in 2014 but flows to poorest countries still falling”](#), accessed 26 May 2016

30 United Nations, [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (July 2015)

31 SIDA, [“Deductions for in-country refugee costs lead to redistribution of Swedish foreign aid”](#), accessed 26 May 2016

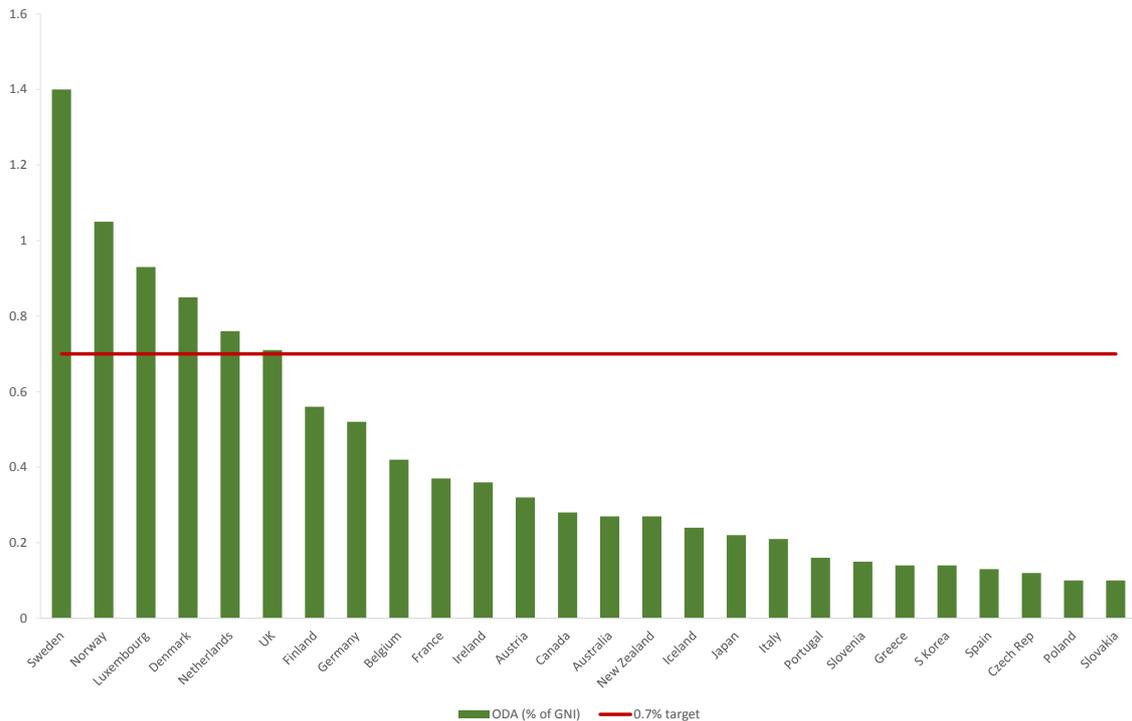
32 OECD, [“Development aid stable in 2014 but flows to poorest countries still falling”](#), accessed 26 May 2016

33 Oxfam [\(SDG0060\)](#) p.2-3

SDG target 17.2 states:

“Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries”.<sup>34</sup>

Figure 1: Preliminary ODA flows from OECD DAC Members 2015<sup>35</sup>



Source: [OECD DAC, Official Development Assistance 2015](#)

22. **The Committee welcomes the International Development (Official Development Assistance) Act 2015 which requires the Government to spend 0.7% of UK GNI on ODA, and recognises that ODA remains an essential part of the financial commitment needed to achieve the SDGs, particularly for LDCs.**

23. *As a respected leader in the donor community, the UK Government should continue to use its influence to persuade other countries to fulfil—and where possible strengthen—their ODA commitments as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and SDG target 17.2.*

34 UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015) p.30

35 OECD, [“The 0.7% ODA/GNI target - a history”](#), accessed 26 May 2016, states that “DAC members generally accepted the 0.7% target for ODA, at least as a long-term objective, with some notable exceptions: Switzerland – not a member of the United Nations until 2002 – did not adopt the target, and the United States stated that it did not subscribe to specific targets or timetables, although it supported the more general aims of the Resolution.” For this reason, Switzerland and the US have been excluded from this graph.

## Domestic resource mobilisation

24. As emphasised in the AAAA<sup>36</sup> domestic resource mobilisation—the ability for developing countries to raise revenue through taxation—will be vital for financing the SDGs. Referring to the Financing for Development Conference, the Secretary of State told us:

“What you saw was a recognition that development is so much more now than frankly aid money and ODA spending by countries like the UK. Although that is important, increasingly it is about the private sector and also about so-called domestic resource mobilisation. It is about countries themselves putting in place the tax systems, so that they get the benefits of growth financially.”<sup>37</sup>

During the Addis Conference, the UK and other OECD nations launched the Addis Tax Initiative.<sup>38</sup> Through the initiative, “donor countries commit to doubling their support for tax reform in the developing world by 2020” whilst developing countries “commit to step up their work on tax reform to improve the fairness, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of their tax systems”.<sup>39</sup> The UK’s commitment of funding for this work was reaffirmed in the UK Aid Strategy.<sup>40</sup>

25. Such initiatives are welcome but should not preclude further work on improving international cooperation on tax, as unfair tax rules and tax evasion can profoundly undermine countries’ ability to raise revenue. As Penny Fowler of Oxfam told the Committee:

“There are also things that need to be done at the global level on that issue, as well, in terms of global tax reforms, pushing for country-by-country reporting, which is another transparency issue that will help to ensure that taxes are paid on value created, in the place where it is created.”<sup>41</sup>

Despite the Secretary of State’s commitment to domestic resource mobilisation, at the Financing for Development Conference, OECD countries, including the UK, were criticised for opposing a proposal which would have changed the status of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. Proponents of the proposed changes aimed to increase the role of the UN in international decision-making about tax cooperation instead of the OECD, whose membership includes only developed countries.<sup>42</sup> Executive Director of Oxfam International, Winnie Byanyima, stated after the conference:

“There was a welcome focus on the need for developing countries to raise their own resources to tackle poverty, but not enough was done to re-balance global financing rules—particularly taxation rules—to help this happen.”<sup>43</sup>

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36 UN, [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (July 2015) p. 11

37 Q165

38 [The Addis Tax Initiative - Declaration](#)

39 [“Greening: Tax generation key to ending poverty”](#), DFID News Story, 15 July 2015

40 HM Treasury, *UK Aid: Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest*, [Cm 9163](#), November 2015, p. 19

41 Q108

42 [“From Addis to New York: What does the FFD Summit imply for the SDGs?”](#), Devex.com, 23 July 2015; [“Addis Ababa talks risk deadlock over UN agency for tax”](#), Guardian Global Development Professionals Network, 15 July 2015

43 [“How can we make 2015 a turning point for development?”](#), World Economic Forum blog, 17 August 2015

26. In evidence to us, the Secretary of State agreed that international tax rules needed to be addressed, “When they are unfair and companies are not paying their fair whack”. However, she said that the changes to the UN tax body seemed like a “mechanistic response to a problem that we recognise, but one that would not particularly make the difference”. She stated that what was needed was for “G7 countries to agree that this is an issue that needs to be faced and then commit to taking the sorts of steps that we are doing, on transparency and beneficial ownership, so that there is the right structure in place”.<sup>44</sup> This is reflected in the UK Aid Strategy, which includes a commitment for the Government to “invest more in tackling tax evasion and avoidance, building on the initiatives led by the UK at the G8 Summit in 2013”.<sup>45</sup> In evidence to us, ActionAid stated that the problems in the international tax system can be only be solved by: “moving away from harmful tax competition to tax cooperation”.<sup>46</sup> It went on to say:

“[...] there is clearly a need for a more global approach to tax reform, which has the interests of developing countries at its heart. We would urge the UK Government to bear this urgent need in mind when considering how best to implement the SDG framework”.<sup>47</sup>

27. Following the release of the Panama Papers in March 2016, which exposed widespread global tax avoidance facilitated by a Central American law firm, the UK Government launched a number of new initiatives to clamp down on the UK’s role in international tax evasion and financial secrecy. These include the creation of a cross-government taskforce on the ‘Panama Papers’ to investigate and pursue any wrongdoing<sup>48</sup> and the introduction of a criminal offence for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion.<sup>49</sup> Ahead of the Prime Minister’s Anti-Corruption Summit in London on 12 May 2016, over 300 economists called on world leaders to take action on tax havens stating:

“[...] territories allowing assets to be hidden in shell companies or which encourage profits to be booked by companies that do no business there, are distorting the working of the global economy. By hiding illicit activities and allowing rich individuals and multinational corporations to operate by different rules, they also threaten the rule of law that is a vital ingredient for economic success.”<sup>50</sup>

The Prime Minister stated in the House of Commons on 11 May 2016, in response to a question from Mike Kane MP:

“We have asked three things of the overseas territories and Crown dependencies: automatic exchange of tax information; a common reporting standard for multinational companies; and central beneficial ownership registries so that

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44 Qq46-47

45 HM Treasury, *UK Aid: Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest*, [Cm 9163](#), November 2015, para 3.4

46 ActionAid ([SDG0071](#)) para 35

47 ActionAid ([SDG0071](#)) para 37

48 “[UK launches cross-government taskforce on the ‘Panama Papers’](#)”, HM Treasury News Story, 10 April 2016

49 “[PM: Companies to be liable for employees who facilitate tax cheating](#)”, Prime Minister’s Office Press Release, 11 April 2016

50 “[Tax havens serve no useful economic purpose: 300 economists tell world leaders](#)”, Oxfam Press Release, 9 May 2016

UK enforcement can know who really owns the companies that are based there. They have delivered on the first two, and they will be following and delivering on the third.”<sup>51</sup>

**28. We welcome the Addis Tax Initiative and the Government’s strong commitment to supporting the development of effective tax systems in some of the world’s poorest countries. Prioritising assistance to developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries, in implementing effective tax collection systems will be crucial in enabling countries to raise the revenue needed to implement the SDGs.**

**29. We recognise the impact of tax evasion on developing countries’ ability to raise revenues and welcome the Prime Minister’s decision to host the recent Anti-Corruption Summit in London, positioning the UK as a leader in this debate. Despite this, we remain concerned about successive governments’ approaches towards international tax cooperation and fairer tax rules. We believe that strong commitment to addressing these areas is essential. We welcome the progress made so far, as outlined by the Prime Minister. However, we urge the Government to ensure that the overseas territories and Crown dependencies introduce central beneficial ownership registries as soon as possible, in accordance with the Prime Minister’s statement. Discussions and decisions on international cooperation in tax matters need to be made within an inclusive body, such as the UN, rather than just the OECD, whose membership includes only developed countries. If there is a need for greater financial expertise, then it could work together with (for example) the IMF, whose membership also encompasses almost the entire globe. We are addressing this area in more detail in our ongoing inquiry into ‘Tackling Corruption Overseas’.<sup>52</sup>**

## Encouraging private investment

**30. As outlined in the AAAA, private investment in developing countries will be essential to raise revenues for achieving the SDGs.<sup>53</sup> Encouraging investment, particularly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), is an ongoing challenge for developing countries and particularly difficult for fragile states. According to the OECD, only 6% of FDI to developing countries goes to fragile states, and most of that is concentrated in a handful of resource-rich states.<sup>54</sup> In evidence to us, the Institute for Development Studies highlighted the need to incentivise private investment in “patient capital”, which “measures returns not on a quarterly or annual basis, but rather over decades and more”.<sup>55</sup>**

**31. The Secretary of State told us that in order to encourage more private sector investment:**

“You need to have the conditions for companies to be able to invest in the first place [...] If the conditions are not right, you can have the best business case in the world, but you will not be able to go through and implement it.”<sup>56</sup>

51 HC Deb, 11 May 2016, col 616 [Commons Chamber]

52 Further information can be found on the inquiry webpage: [Tackling Corruption Overseas](#)

53 UN, [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (July 2015)

54 OECD, [States of Fragility 2015: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions](#) (2015) p.23 and 56

55 IDS ([SDG0008](#)) para 2.4

56 Q45

SABMiller (a multinational brewing and soft drinks company) told us that DFID can help create the right conditions—to enable greater private sector investment in fragile markets—by sharing risk:

“Through its ability to invest for the long-term beyond standard project lifecycles, DFID, directly and through CDC, can help share the up-front risks of investing in untried inclusive business models. This recognition is a critical step in bridging the current gap between the expectations placed on businesses and their capacity to sustainably invest in supply chains that are not fully commercialised and in frontier or fragile markets.”<sup>57</sup>

32. DFID’s re-capitalisation of CDC in 2015 is one of the ways it is responding to this challenge of increasing investment capital and boosting economic growth in developing countries.<sup>58</sup> However, in its evidence Christian Aid cautioned that, “While CDC has undertaken change in recent years to rebalance its investments (following significant criticism) the results of this work are unproven” and urges DFID to ensure CDC only invests in projects which support the achievement of the SDGs:

“DfID should require CDC to report on the impacts of its investments in helping to achieve relevant SDGs [...] whether investments contribute towards achieving the SDGs should be a key criteria in CDC’s investment decision making.”<sup>59</sup>

33. The Government is also attempting to create better investment conditions through the Prosperity Fund. The Fund falls under the responsibility of the National Security Council, is managed by the FCO and will be funded by £1.3bn of ODA over the next five years. The Fund gives priority to,

“improving the business climate, competitiveness and operation of markets, energy and financial sector reform, and increasing the ability of governments to tackle corruption. These reforms will contribute to a reduction in poverty in developing countries, and will also create opportunities for international business, including UK companies.”<sup>60</sup>

The bidding rounds for the Fund so far have, however, focused on lower-middle income and middle-income countries, such as India, China and Brazil. To date, the Fund has only invited bids for a small number of developing countries (under the Southern Africa Prosperity Fund) and just four LDCs, despite the critical need for an increase in private investment in these countries to achieve the SDGs.<sup>61</sup>

**34. We welcome DFID’s commitment to encouraging private sector investment in developing and fragile states. We acknowledge that this will be essential for countries wishing to make progress towards the SDGs, contributing to the agenda by creating jobs, increasing incomes, providing services and increasing resilience. However, where private investment is encouraged by DFID or other arms of the UK Government in**

57 SABMiller ([SDG0058](#)) para 6.1

58 “[UK boosts support for businesses to create jobs in the world’s poorest countries](#)”, DFID Press Release, 16 July 2015

59 Christian Aid ([SDG0080](#)) para 3.6

60 HM Treasury, *UK Aid: Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest*, [Cm 9163](#), November 2015, para 3.15

61 FCO, “[Cross Government Prosperity Fund Programme](#)”, accessed 31 May 2016

developing countries, we highlight the need for the UK Government to continue to champion sustainable and inclusive, pro-poor growth, as a way to combat extreme poverty and build more prosperous and equitable economies.

*35. The Government must ensure that the work it carries out to encourage private sector investment, through CDC, the Prosperity Fund and other initiatives, is focused on developing and fragile states that need most support. When considering an investment, CDC must actively and explicitly consider whether it will have a positive impact on the achievement of the SDGs (and thus poverty reduction) in that country, and only take forward those investments that it believes will align with progress towards the Goals. They should then report back on the impact of its work on the SDGs in its annual report. The Prosperity Fund must require bids to outline the impact of the project on the achievement of the SDGs, and to report back on its contribution to progress within its project reports.*

### Maximising the capital markets

36. A ‘beyond aid’ approach to the SDGs demands new ways of looking at development finance, including using the capital markets to leverage the resources needed to implement them. Dr Steve Waygood from Aviva Investors told us that the markets have not yet received sufficient focus in these discussions: “[...] the focus has been on the roughly \$150 billion of development aid, not the \$300 trillion that exists in the global capital markets.”<sup>62</sup> Aviva’s written evidence states that, “if this £300 trillion can be harnessed to support, rather than undermine, sustainable development it could have a transformative effect on the delivery of the Global Goals”.<sup>63</sup>

37. Aviva’s evidence argues that, as a result of “global governments’ failure to ensure that environmental and social costs are reflected in companies’ profit and loss statements [...] the capital markets do not routinely promote sustainable innovation or incorporate companies’ full social and environmental costs”. This means that unsustainable companies can promote themselves as more appealing investments than their more sustainable peers, as they “are able to finance their activities more cheaply”.<sup>64</sup> Therefore, Aviva argues, companies undermining the SDGs are likely to be a more attractive prospect to investors than those who are making the effort to support them.

38. In order to create more sustainable capital markets (i.e. markets that are responsive to sustainable development) Aviva’s evidence highlights the need for:

- Improved corporate disclosure of companies’ impact on sustainable development and required reporting by investors on how they have incorporated sustainability considerations into their investment decisions;
- Stock exchanges to develop listing requirements on sustainability disclosure so that companies are required to provide this information to investors (the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) which oversees the world’s stock exchanges may be best placed to do this);

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62 Q94

63 Aviva ([SDG0101](#)) p. 1

64 Aviva ([SDG0101](#)) p. 1

- Benchmarking of corporate performance against the SDGs, enabling investors to assess quickly companies' performance and compare them against each other;
- Mobilising pension funds by providing clarity that pension funds' fiduciary duty can and should include consideration of environmental, social or governance factors when making investment decisions;
- A UN Resolution on Sustainable Finance to link the capital markets to the UN's efforts to deliver the Global Goals.<sup>65</sup>

39. Aviva points out that the Government is already taking action to harness the markets to support sustainable development, highlighting that, "HM Treasury has recently launched, in conjunction with the City of London, a Green Finance Initiative to advance proposals on how to increase and incentivise private sector finance in the green economy".<sup>66</sup> There is no reason why these efforts could not be expanded within the framework of the SDGs.

**40. We recognise the potential—and need—to harness the trillions of dollars tied up in the capital markets to achieve the SDGs. London is the world's leading financial centre, meaning that the UK Government is in a strong and unique position to look at how this could be done.**

***41. We recommend that DFID and other relevant government departments, such as the Treasury and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, enter into discussions with the London Stock Exchange and the City of London to discuss how they might work together to create better incentives for sustainable development in the capital markets. We propose that the Government report back to us on their efforts in this regard in a year's time.***

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65 Aviva ([SDG0101](#)), p1-3

66 Aviva ([SDG0101](#)), p. 3

### 3 Towards a Global Partnership

42. The reinvigoration of a ‘Global Partnership’ is one of the central tenets of Agenda 2030. It is also the subject of targets 17.16 and 17.17, which focus on the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, technology and finance and encourage civil society and the public and private sectors to work together to support the achievement of the SDGs.<sup>67</sup> The ambitious and wide-ranging nature of the SDGs lend themselves to working in partnership in order to prevent duplication and encourage coordinated action. The Secretary of State emphasised the importance of collaboration and coordination when she told us:

“[...] development really is a team game now, more than it has ever been before. The most effective models for development are those that pull in the private sector, donor countries like the UK, countries themselves, civil society and philanthropists. Getting those corralled together is, as much as anything, the name of the game, which is why SDG 17 on partnership is very important to see delivered.”<sup>68</sup>

DFID reinforced this in its evidence, stating:

“A comprehensive international response to the SDGs will be required to support country implementation of the agenda. The Agenda 2030] Outcome Document, alongside the AAAA, underpins the importance of a revitalised Global Partnership comprising all development actors including donors, multilateral organisations, and civil society organisations.”<sup>69</sup>

43. The SDGs also provide an opportunity for new and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships between groups that may not have traditionally worked together. As Ben Jackson from Bond told us: “if you can get the right strategic coalitions and those can be funded over long periods, bringing together small and large NGOs, business and others, when that works it is a really great model.”<sup>70</sup> Similarly, Plan’s written evidence stated:

“Increasingly complex mechanisms of development cooperation and innovative partnerships between NGOs and the private sector offer exciting models for consideration to build gender equality, job-rich inclusive growth and achieve sustainable development.”<sup>71</sup>

However, these new partnerships will undoubtedly present challenges, particularly where partners have different incentives for action. Penny Fowler of Oxfam cautioned that there must be mutual respect and understanding within such partnerships, and an alignment of objectives. She argued:

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67 Target 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries; Target 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015)

68 Q161

69 DFID ([SDG0062](#)) para 14

70 Q115

71 Plan UK ([SDG0085](#)) para 20

“You need to first of all have a clear shared understanding of what the problem is you are trying to address, and then to have a really clear understanding of the different roles and responsibilities of the different partners, and a mutual respect for what each partner brings to the table.”<sup>72</sup>

Although these partnerships present challenges, they will be a valuable addition to efforts to implement the SDGs over the next fifteen years. Such partnerships need not involve governments but, where they do, alongside DFID and the UK Government’s more traditional bilateral partnerships, they will provide an additional opportunity to work towards the achievement of this ambitious agenda.

## Multilateral organisations

44. Each year DFID spends around two thirds of its budget through multilateral organisations.<sup>73</sup> The UK is by far the largest contributor to the multilateral system, spending 50% more, in absolute terms, than the United States.<sup>74</sup> These organisations will therefore be vital partners in supporting the achievement of the SDGs. The Department is currently completing its second full Multilateral Aid Review (MAR)<sup>75</sup> to review and rate its multilateral partners on impact and value for money.

45. The SDGs intrinsically require effective multilateral cooperation to solve global problems such as protecting the environment and tackling corruption. Such cooperation can also provide practical advantages for DFID. It gives the Department greater reach, into countries where it does not have bilateral programmes or NGO networks, but where there is a desire or need to administer aid. As UNDP told us:

“we are present where bilaterals are not. We are present in Syria at this time, working where we can to help reconstruct and to build resilience in host communities, dealing with displacement, working through NGOs. We have very large networks.”<sup>76</sup>

DFID’s bilateral programmes currently cover 28 countries, compared to UNDP’s network of 166 country offices.<sup>77</sup> Working through multilateral organisations enables DFID to support SDG implementation far beyond its portfolio. As the Secretary of State told us, “If you look at some multilaterals, they would be able to operate in countries where we simply do not have country programmes.”<sup>78</sup> Given the breadth of the agenda and the commitment to leave no one behind, utilising pooled multilateral resources and networks to reach the most fragile, conflict-affected states is an effective way of working.

46. Working through multilateral organisations can also be beneficial due to their perceived relative impartiality and political neutrality. They are able to work under the authority of their numerous member states, which gives them more credibility to negotiate in politically sensitive environments. As UNDP claims:

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72 Q112

73 ICAI, [How DFID works with multilateral agencies to achieve impact](#) (June 2015)

74 Owen Barder, [“Is the UK putting its own interests ahead of the poor in its new aid strategy?”](#), 12 December 2015

75 An update to the first MAR was also conducted by DFID in 2013

76 Q119

77 As at 6th May 2016, in advance of the release of DFID’s Bilateral Aid Review 2016

78 Q182

“their impartial status and universal networks allow them to engage in areas where bilateral donors may be less successful [...] The high level of trust it enjoys among UN Member States is crucial to its success in developing programmes that have the potential to be politically sensitive. Impartiality also allows the UN(DP) to operate in a large number of fragile contexts.”<sup>79</sup>

47. There are, however, disadvantages to working with multilateral organisations. A number of these were highlighted in an Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) report in 2015. ICAI criticised DFID for lacking clear country-level objectives in its engagement with multilaterals and having insufficient staff resources allocated to multilateral work. It also highlighted a lack of transparency on what multilaterals actually achieve (as opposed to the way they work).<sup>80</sup> We also acknowledge the evidence to our recent inquiry into ‘UK Aid: Allocation of Resources’, which suggested that multilaterals were less focused on the poorest countries, that multilateral spending did not represent the same value for money as bilateral spend, and that DFID’s ability to tailor interventions to the context through multilateral programmes was limited.<sup>81</sup>

48. ICAI did also emphasise, however, that where DFID is a substantial contributor to the core funding of an organisation, it is likely to have more influence over its operations and programming. In the case of UNDP we were told that, “We take very seriously the UK ask, in terms of value for money, reform”.<sup>82</sup> The Government’s influence in the multilateral system, as a result of its substantial contributions, is also emphasised in the ICAI report.<sup>83</sup> In his assessment of how DFID should approach implementation of the SDGs, Simon Maxwell argued that a greater emphasis on multilateral aid may be the best way forward:

“A personal view is that HMG/DFID will make the greatest possible contribution to the SDGs [...] maintaining bilateral engagement in both the aid and non-aid spheres, but gradually increasing the profile, funding and staffing of multilateral aid and work on global public goods.”<sup>84</sup>

**49. Working through, and in partnership with, multilateral organisations seems logical and beneficial in the context of the SDGs. Achieving progress on global public goods such as environmental sustainability and financial stability will require strong multilateral collaboration. We encourage the Government to continue to work through and with multilaterals to achieve the SDGs as it encourages global cooperation, the sharing of ideas and innovation, an extension of influence for member states, and the ability to use their extensive networks to broaden the reach of development spending. We note that allocation of significant funds from DFID to multilaterals gives the UK a greater influence in their policies and programming.**

**50. At the same time, we recognise the concerns over DFID’s ability to ensure that multilateral programmes are targeted towards the poorest countries, tailored to the context and represent value for money equivalent to its bilateral expenditure. We**

79 UNDP (SDG0021) p. 3

80 ICAI, 2015, ‘How DFID works with multilateral agencies to achieve impact’

81 International Development Committee, Third Report of the Session 2015–16, [UK Aid: Allocation of Resources: interim report](#) para 24

82 Q120

83 ICAI, ‘How DFID works with multilateral agencies to achieve impact’, June 2015

84 Simon Maxwell (SDG0006) para 31

welcome DFID’s continued close monitoring of expenditure through multilateral organisations, by performing the Multilateral Aid Review, to ensure continued value for money.

51. *Following the forthcoming Multilateral Aid Review, DFID should lay out exactly how its engagement with multilaterals will help it support the achievement of the SDGs, either within the MAR document itself or an alternative strategy document.*

## Civil society organisations

52. The vast majority of the evidence we received for this inquiry came from civil society organisations (CSOs), which reflects their engagement and investment in the SDGs agenda. Through the UN’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), CSOs from all over the world played a crucial role in the negotiation of the SDGs and they will serve a vital function in communicating, implementing and holding governments to account on the Goals, which should be recognised. As the final Agenda 2030 document states, “We acknowledge the role [...] civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the new Agenda.”<sup>85</sup>

53. DFID is currently carrying out its first Civil Society Partnership Review which will look at its relationships with civil society and how these may need to change. Emphasising the importance of CSOs to their work, the Secretary of State told us:

“[...] the Civil Society Partnership Review is about saying how we want to keep evolving and improving our relationship with NGOs, which have been a key route through which we have often delivered on the ground. If you look at the work that, for example, Save the Children did with us in Sierra Leone on Ebola, it was critical, alongside many other actors.”<sup>86</sup>

Ben Jackson at BOND told us, “[...] there is a lot that civil society wants and can help DFID to do, in terms of delivering the SDGs.” However, some areas of concern were raised on the capacity of civil society organisations to do this. Mr Jackson highlighted the need for greater flexibility in funding arrangements to enable:

- (1) innovation and collaboration in the NGO sector;
- (2) funding of NGOs in the Global South, perhaps through international and regional networks;
- (3) NGOs to mobilise and engage public support for international development.<sup>87</sup>

With regards to the funding of southern NGOs, BOND pointed to the Danish Government’s Civil Society Fund as an example of a mechanism to provide smaller amounts of funding than are currently accessible through DFID.<sup>88</sup> ActionAid and Womankind Worldwide told us about a proposal they have made for DFID to create a new funding mechanism for women’s rights organisations.<sup>89</sup>

85 UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), September 2015, para 41

86 Q181

87 Q123

88 Bond ([SDG0098](#))

89 ActionAid ([SDG0100](#))

54. To ensure progress, Nik Sekhran from UNDP told us, “We need a strong civil society voice to hold countries accountable for the SDGs.”<sup>90</sup> However, evidence has highlighted the reduction in civil society space across the world as a key challenge. Citing the UN Secretary-General, CAFOD told us:

“Ban Ki Moon has stressed that the task of implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals is huge and will require the contribution of civil society as equal partners. However he also recognised that, at the same time, the freedom for civil society to operate is diminishing or even disappearing. Around the world increasing restrictions are limiting the ability of NGOs to work, receive funding or both.”<sup>91</sup>

It highlighted the threat to NGO workers from violence, intimidation and harassment, telling us, “Partners in Sri Lanka, Latin America and parts of Africa have faced surveillance, threatening phone calls, searches and disruption of community events.”<sup>92</sup> It also emphasised the “proliferation of restrictive legislation, with 60 countries passing legislation in the last 3 years”.<sup>93</sup> Because of this, CAFOD has called for the UK Government to, “Provide a strong voice to ensure that any legislation passed in partner countries protects the freedom of association and assembly and enables civil society to effectively represent vulnerable groups on the issues that concern them”.<sup>94</sup> When asked by us whether he has seen any impact of shrinking civil society space on the ability of NGOs to work in other countries, Dylan Winder, Head of Humanitarian Policy and Partnerships at DFID, responded: “Lots, particularly in Bangladesh and Pakistan”.<sup>95</sup>

55. Civil society organisations will also be valuable partners in the UK’s domestic response. In the UK, a new civil society coalition has already formed to work on domestic implementation of the SDGs and sustainable development more broadly. UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) held their first conference in April 2016, bringing together a large and growing membership to discuss implementation of the SDGs in the UK.

**56. Civil society organisations—from the global north and global south—have a vital part to play in the achievement of the SDGs, through communicating and implementing the Goals, and holding governments to account on progress. We hope the crucial role of civil society in achieving the Goals will be recognised by the Government in the upcoming Civil Society Partnership Review, and that they will work closely with civil society organisations on the implementation of the Goals, both at home and overseas. It is also crucial for civil society organisations to be able to operate free from violence, intimidation and repressive legislative restrictions. We are concerned at the number of reports we have received of a reduction in the space for civil society to operate in a broad number of countries, including a number of countries in receipt of UK Aid. We urge the UK Government to use its links with governments across the world, (through DFID, FCO, MOD, BIS, Home Office and others) to communicate the importance of protecting and enhancing a vibrant civil society to ensure its vital role towards achieving the SDGs agenda.**

90 Q126

91 CAFOD (SDG0096) para 3

92 CAFOD (SDG0096), para 9

93 CAFOD (SDG0096), para 11

94 CAFOD (SDG0096), para 20

95 Oral evidence taken on 8 March 2016, [HC \(2015–16\) 675](#), Q30 [Dylan Winder]

57. *We recommend that DFID look closely at its civil society funding mechanisms to ensure:*

- a) *small NGOs, particularly in the Global South, are not being discriminated against because of difficulties in disbursing and managing small amounts of money, and that they are not restricted due to levels of funding sources being external to the countries in which they operate;*<sup>96</sup>
- b) *innovation and collaboration to achieve the SDGs are encouraged through flexible funding and reporting;*
- c) *CSOs are able to undertake the important task of communicating the SDGs to citizens across the world so that governments are held to account on progress.*

## The private sector

58. The UN has made a concerted effort to engage the private sector in the negotiation, agreement and now in the implementation of the SDGs. It has done so through initiatives like the UN Global Compact, which supports companies to implement universal sustainability principles and achieve UN goals, and last year's UN Private Sector Forum, which coincided with the agreement of the SDGs and addressed the private sector's role in their implementation. The importance of involving the private sector in Agenda 2030 is reinforced on a number of occasions in the SDGs outcome document<sup>97</sup>, and the UN Global Compact recently released the 'SDG Compass', a tool to help companies to align their strategies with the SDGs.<sup>98</sup> In early 2016, the Business and Sustainable Development Commission was established "to articulate and quantify the compelling economic case for business to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030".<sup>99</sup>

59. The Secretary of State has placed the private sector at the centre of DFID's approach to supporting the achievement of the SDGs. She expressed to us her optimism about the private sector's role, although explained that there is some way to go:

"There was a time when the private sector did not really see where its role was in development. They saw it predominantly as almost a government-to-government relationship. Now that is changing. If I went back to innovation and the early adopter, the corporate sector is in that innovation. There are some early adopters, but what we have not seen is a mainstreaming of development through the corporate world, which we will need to if we are really going to get all of the innovation and the investment that the private sector can bring. That is the next stage."<sup>100</sup>

During our visit to New York, we heard the Secretary of State make a number of similar statements. At the Bond event 'Business Unusual' she spoke about the need for DFID to work with all sections of the private sector to achieve the SDGs, from big companies to smallholder farmers. She also discussed the need to move on from the Corporate Social

96 CAFOD (SDG0096) para 12

97 For example see UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015) paras 41, 43, 52, 60, 62, 67 and target 17.17

98 UN Global Compact, [SDG Compass](#) (2015)

99 Business and Sustainable Development Commission, ["Overview"](#), accessed 26 May 2016

100 Q166

Responsibility (CSR) model and work with the private sector in different ways. She used the example of working with business to facilitate human rights discussions, on issues such as LGBT or Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), through interactions with workers. Penny Fowler from Oxfam welcomed DFID's increased engagement with the private sector, but told us: "we need to go beyond business as usual and look to some new business models, which do not necessarily drive profit maximisation."<sup>101</sup>

60. Creating incentives for the private sector to implement new business models or ways of working to advance the SDGs is a challenge and, aside from those businesses who have explicitly pledged to work towards the Goals, there is no regulatory or formal incentive for companies to do so. However, Dr Steve Waygood of Aviva Investors argued that there was a business case for private sector engagement with the SDGs, but that a system of benchmarking for company performance against the Goals was needed, with a clear ranking system to show those that were falling short:

"I think that the business case is fourfold and that the solution is that we need benchmarks. On the business case side, first, there are some companies for which their very product or service will be a solution to an SDG. That is straightforward. The second less straightforward one is, where the issue will affect the cash flows of the company, then that company needs to manage the issue better. I would think of that as a business-relevant SDG. Third is where the company itself will impact on the issue in a significant way, but it does not come back to harm the company's cash flows vice versa. That is the situation of market failure. Fourth, if it is just a benevolent business and it wants to donate money to the cause, then that should be welcomed."<sup>102</sup>

61. The private sector does not just include big business; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) could also play an important role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. As Penny Fowler from Oxfam told us: "many of the poorest and most vulnerable people are themselves part of the private sector, if you want to broaden the definition that far, struggling to make a living through some form of production or selling their labour."<sup>103</sup> The SDGs are directly relevant to these smaller businesses, as they include targets on labour rights and worker safety (Goal 8), consumption and production (Goal 12), modern energy (Goal 7) and gender equality (Goal 5), to name just a few. In evidence, Dr Waygood suggested one way of creating a chain of accountability on such standards down to the SMEs would be for investors to keep a check on the businesses at the top of the supply chain:

"It is incumbent on us to check the likes of SAB, Diageo, Unilever and others are checking that the supply chain labour standards, for example, are well administered."<sup>104</sup>

Penny Fowler highlighted the need for DFID to ensure such standards within its own supply chains:

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101 Q102

102 Q95

103 Q102

104 Q102

“One of the things it DFID] needs to do and ensure it is doing well is holding business, where it is receiving development aid, to the same principles and to account alongside other development actors, ensuring that it is able to account for and report the outcomes of that investment, in terms of poverty reduction.”<sup>105</sup>

62. We welcome DFID’s commitment to engaging the private sector in the SDGs agenda, from large corporations all the way down to SMEs, as the Goals are relevant to them all. However, there is still a long way to go to get a wide range of companies engaged, and the agenda is not just relevant to those businesses engaging in developing countries, but to all businesses. A very strong business case needs to be developed to encourage the private sector to take the Goals on board and incorporate them into their usual business practices.

63. *The UK Government should take a leading role in communicating the SDGs to a wide private sector audience in the UK, including through leading business organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Federation of Small Business (FSB). It should use the expertise housed within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) to support the newly formed Business and Sustainable Development Commission in devising a comprehensive business case for private sector engagement with the Goals. As a part of this, the Government should support the development of international benchmarks against the SDGs to enable companies to monitor and report on their progress against relevant targets.*

64. *We recommend that DFID ensure a clear line of accountability through its own procurement chains, to ensure that its private sector partners are being held to a clear set of standards on mainstreaming the SDGs into their working practices, and maintaining the same high levels of transparency in the use of public funds that are required of civil society and multilateral organisations.*

## Local government

65. Local authorities feature prominently in the Agenda 2030 outcome document, particularly in relation to Goal 11 on sustainable and inclusive cities. Melissa Leach of the Institute for Development told us:

“if the UK is to take on the universality of the Sustainable Development Goals and begin to think about questions of leaving no one behind in our own back yard [...] then the connection between national policy and local government and devolved administration will be really important”.<sup>106</sup>

The Global Network of Cities, Local and Regional Governments (UCLG) has produced a useful resource for all local governments, showing how each of the Goals relates to local government in practice, and showing how authorities might practically work towards them.<sup>107</sup> The UK Local Government Association (LGA) and Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CGLF) highlighted the role that UK local government could play in communicating the goals to other local authorities around the world:

<sup>105</sup> Q108

<sup>106</sup> Q12

<sup>107</sup> UCLG, [The Sustainable Development Goals: what local governments need to know](#) (2015)

“Raising awareness of the SDGs and the role of local government in their implementation will be key to their success. International local government organisations such as CLGF and UCLG, as well as the national LGA, are well placed to work with UK central government to help develop a model of aid which better utilises public service practitioners.”<sup>108</sup>

**66. The Local Government Association’s engagement with the SDGs is very welcome, as local implementation of the Goals will be crucial to ensure that no one is left behind. We welcome their offer to work with DFID—alongside the Commonwealth Local Government Forum—to help communicate the Goals to local authorities around the world and assist with important capacity building work. We hope the LGA will also encourage all UK local authorities to engage with the SDGs and incorporate them into their work, to support domestic achievement of the Goals.**

## 4 The UK Government's response to the SDGs

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### The need for a 'whole of government' response

67. DFID has acknowledged that the SDGs are universal and are “expected to be implemented by all countries and be relevant to everybody”.<sup>109</sup> Most of the evidence we received highlighted that striving to achieve the Goals will require a ‘whole of government’ response from the UK Government. As Saferworld told us:

“Other UK government departments have a vital role to play in the achievement of the SDGs. This universal framework is about more than aid—the UK government should reorient its support beyond 0.7% of GNI that makes up the aid budget to include the other 99.3% of government spending. As a universal agenda, all government departments should begin to analyse how the UK meets the SDGs domestically, how progress on all targets is being measured and if additional capacities to do this are necessary.”<sup>110</sup>

Similarly, UNICEF UK told us that:

“The breadth and universality of the SDG framework will require the involvement of many UK Government departments in their implementation. The UK Government should establish clear lines of responsibility and mechanisms for coordination between Government departments to allow for effective implementation of the entire SDG agenda, including both domestic and international efforts.”<sup>111</sup>

It is clear that a cross-government approach will be needed in order to:

- (1) Implement the SDGs in the UK; and
- (2) Support other countries to make progress towards the SDGs, through:
  - Assisting countries directly through aid programmes administered by DFID and other government departments (FCO, MOD, DECC etc.);
  - Ensuring that the Government's wider policies and programming support, rather than undermine, the achievement of the SDGs in other countries.

68. The need for a coherent response across Government was acknowledged by the Secretary of State, who told us:

“We were one of the countries arguing for it [Agenda 2030] to be universal, so we think that that is one of the strengths of the next set of goals. We fully expect that there will be a cross-government approach to ensuring we can demonstrate that we are delivering on those goals themselves.”<sup>112</sup>

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109 DFID ([SDG0062](#)) para 10(i)

110 Saferworld ([SDG0043](#)) para 16

111 UNICEF UK ([SDG0005](#)) para 5.1

112 Q154

Although convinced of the importance of developing this cross-government approach, we are aware of the challenge this presents for the Government. The SDGs agenda is fundamentally different to its MDG predecessor. Creating a common understanding across Government that this agenda is universal—rather than something for developing countries alone—will require determined communication and a spread of accountability. As the Scotland Malawi Partnership told us, “a fundamental attitudinal shift is required such that the SDGs do not become the domain solely of DFID but become embedded within every department of central and local government alike.” Its evidence goes on to caution that “we should not underestimate the challenge ahead”.<sup>113</sup>

69. Although there was some uncertainty at the beginning of our inquiry, it has been clarified in recent months that the Secretary of State for International Development will be responsible for coordination of the domestic response to the SDGs, as well as support for implementation overseas. The Secretary of State will be supported in this endeavour by the Cabinet Office. As Rt Hon. Desmond Swayne MP, Minister of State at DFID, explained in a recent Westminster Hall debate:

“[...] cross-Government responsibility will be taken by the Secretary of State for International Development—that is appropriate because we are the Department that fought for the goals and we are passionate about them—and she will be supported in that role by the Cabinet Office.”<sup>114</sup>

This will require the Secretary of State to wield a huge amount of influence across Government to ensure departments, aside from DFID, are engaged and committed to achieving the SDGs, globally and in the UK.

### Domestic implementation of the SDGs

70. Although Ministers from DFID and the Cabinet Office have recently expressed the opinion that the UK is broadly compliant with the Goals already,<sup>115</sup> evidence suggests that there is a need for the UK to assess its performance. For example, areas of the agenda such as inequality (Goal 10) have been highlighted, as the UK figures on income inequality have remained well above the OECD average over the last thirty years.<sup>116</sup> ODI identified both inequality and energy (Goal 7) as areas the Government may need to address:

“The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) needs to contextualise and evaluate the UK’s current energy mix in the backdrop of realising the relevant goal. Similarly, the Treasury and the Department of Work and Pensions, among others, will need to assess national ambition on the income inequality goal.”<sup>117</sup>

A report from the Bertelsmann Stiftung Foundation, published just before the agreement of the Goals, points to a number of areas where the UK Government may fall short. It references Goals 7 and 10 but also highlights Goal 2 on improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture, citing the “high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous used in farming” and “an alarmingly high rate of obesity” in the UK.<sup>118</sup>

113 Scotland Malawi Partnership (SDG0004) para 4.2

114 HC Deb, 13 April 2016, [col 166WH](#) [Westminster Hall]

115 HC Deb, 13 April 2016, [col 166WH](#) [Westminster Hall] and Q194

116 OECD, *In it together: why less inequality benefits all...in the UK* (2015) p. 1

117 ODI (SDG0056) p. 12

118 Kroll, C., *“Sustainable Development Goals: are the rich countries ready?”* Bertelsmann Stiftung (2015)

71. ODI emphasised that action in the domestic setting will provide credibility to the UK Government when encouraging action by other governments overseas.<sup>119</sup> This point was reiterated by Jessica Woodroffe at the Gender and Development Network, who told us:

“DFID can and does play an extremely important leadership role in terms of gender equality, but it will only go on being able to do that if it is actively being seen to implement SDG 5 in the UK as well.”<sup>120</sup>

This point was further reinforced by Andrew Norton at IIED, who stated: “The universality theme of the SDGs implies that you need to be a leader in your domestic space, as well as in the overseas space.”<sup>121</sup>

72. DFID’s written evidence to the inquiry acknowledges the need to implement the Goals in the UK, and cited an intention to assign lead departments for the implementation of each target:

“Along with all countries, the UK will implement and comply with the SDGs domestically. HMG will have a coordinated approach, including through assignment of lead Departments for the implementation of each target, plus identification of other interested Departments.”<sup>122</sup>

In evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC), Rt Hon. Oliver Letwin MP, Minister for Government Policy at the Cabinet Office, similarly claimed that Secretaries of State of the various government departments would be responsible for their part in the implementation of the Goals, stating:

“The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be brought together by one poor little Minister like me. They have to be handled in a serious-minded way by great big Departments of State with Secretaries of State. You obviously then need to co-ordinate the reporting, which was being talked about earlier, and to make sure that there is monitoring of the performance of the country and so on in all these respects. That is what we are trying to do through the single departmental plans.”<sup>123</sup>

The Minister’s recognition that an individual Minister would struggle to bring SDGs implementation together serves to demonstrate the challenge ahead for the Secretary of State for International Development, who has now been made responsible for coordination of domestic implementation, in addition to supporting international SDGs implementation through DFID’s work.

73. Contrary to the Minister’s statement in December 2015, aside from DFID and the FCO, there is no mention of the SDGs in any other department’s single departmental plan. This is despite the fact that these plans were published in February 2016, two months after the Minister’s comments. When we questioned the Minister further on this, he responded:

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119 Ibid

120 Q149

121 Q138

122 DFID ([SDG0062](#)) para 28

123 Oral evidence taken before the Environmental Audit Committee on 9 December 2015, [HC \(2015–16\) 388](#), Q46 [Mr Letwin]

“No, I do not think it is necessary to have it in the plans in the sense that we made a decision at the beginning of the Parliament to have a single departmental plan that governed what each Department was expected to do across the Parliament. That is what is expected to do. If by doing those things we are doing, as I think we will be able to demonstrate in the report I am talking about, what Britain can sensibly do in this period to advance domestically towards the world advancing towards the targets by 2030, Departments will be under a compulsion to do that through those single departmental plans, and that is the right process. What we do need to do is to make sure that we monitor carefully not just the achievement of the single departmental plans but the achievement of those parts of them that the report will show are needed in order to contribute to the goals, so that we are able, when reporting to the UN as a whole, to demonstrate that as a country, and we will do that.”<sup>124</sup>

This is a disappointing change of approach. It is clear that departments have not considered implementation of the SDGs at the outset or integrated them into their Single Departmental Plans (SDPs). Instead, the Government will undertake a retrospective, centralised assessment of how these predetermined SDPs might contribute, or fail to contribute, to the SDGs. Even if this analysis is used to identify additional actions needed to implement the Goals, the approach hardly represents departmental ownership, or even awareness, of the universality of the agenda and the ‘whole of government’ responsibility for meeting the SDGs.

**74. The Government’s response to domestic implementation of the SDGs has so far been insufficient for a country which led on their development as being universal and applicable to all. We remain to be convinced that responsibility for domestic implementation should lie with the Secretary of State for International Development, who already faces a substantial challenge in working to support international implementation of the Goals. While passion about the SDGs and understanding of them is important in planning implementation, a high level of influence across all government departments will be vital to ensure domestic implementation is on track.**

**75. Engagement of government departments will be central to the success of domestic implementation, which itself has an impact on making progress on the goals globally. As such, we are particularly concerned that the SDGs have not been included in the 2015–2020 Single Departmental Plans of all government departments as was previously suggested by the Minister. Only DFID and the FCO’s plans reference the Goals. This indicates a worrying lack of engagement in, or ownership of, the SDGs by departments across Government, whose contributions will be essential to achieving the SDGs at home and overseas.**

**76. *Departments should be assigned specific responsibilities for making progress on the SDGs—as originally indicated in DFID’s evidence—to ensure ownership and clear lines of accountability. These responsibilities should be laid out clearly in each department’s Single Departmental Plan, which should be urgently reviewed accordingly with specific references to relevant SDGs by number.***

**77. *The Government must ensure that all Secretaries of State and government officials engage with the SDGs and fully understand the implications of the Goals on their***

*department's policies and programming. The Cabinet Office should lead on this work, in consultation with DFID, and we recommend that, if it has not already done so, it urgently produces a substantive and fully resourced internal communications strategy on the SDGs to ensure that all departments understand their responsibilities to deliver on the Goals.*

## Policy coherence for sustainable development

78. The UK Government has committed to supporting the achievement of the SDGs overseas through its aid programmes.<sup>125</sup> It is also vital for other government departments to avoid undermining these efforts, and for UK Government policy as a whole to support progress towards Agenda 2030. This will require departments to work more closely together on issues that impact the achievement of the SDGs, far beyond the expenditure of ODA, to ensure that all government policies are aligned towards achievement of the goals, ensuring policy coherence. Much of the evidence we received highlighted that policy coherence across government would be fundamental to the UK's response to the SDGs. For example, the Scotland Malawi Partnership told us:

“[...] we strongly encourage HMG to consider the principle of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) as it looks to the implementation of the SDGs and turn to the International Development Committee to champion this concept. The premise of PCD, that all government departments and policies should recognise the global impact they have, is not new but is more relevant now than ever before given the universality of the SDGs.”<sup>126</sup>

79. The last OECD DAC Peer Review of the UK in 2014 highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the current approach to policy coherence for development:

“It takes a useful case-by-case approach to policy coherence for development, bringing together different parts of government to work effectively—at home and abroad—on issues of common interest. This has proven an effective approach to anti-corruption, climate change and trade, areas where the Cabinet has engaged strategically, and where the Department for International Development (DFID) has successfully promoted deeper joint efforts with other departments. [...] However, the lack of a comprehensive approach to ensuring its development efforts are not undermined by other government policies means potential incoherence in other policy areas can be overlooked [...] a more systematic approach would help the UK to tap positive synergies across policy agendas, as it has started to do with trade and development.”<sup>127</sup>

During the negotiation of the SDGs, there was an attempt to bring departments together. As DFID told us, they led that process, “which has included inter-ministerial discussions, four cross-Whitehall write-rounds [...] and frequent cross-Whitehall Directors' meetings to agree the UK's negotiating position and approach. This has been a whole of government effort.”<sup>128</sup> Periodic director-level interdepartmental meetings are now convened to discuss

125 See [DFID's Single Departmental Plan](#), accessed 26 May 2016, and HM Treasury, *UK Aid: Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest*, Cm 9163, November 2015

126 Scotland Malawi Partnership ([SDG0004](#)) para 4.4

127 OECD, [OECD Development Co-operation Peer Review: United Kingdom](#) (2014) p.15

128 DFID ([SDG0062](#)) para 6

implementation, but these are at official level rather than involving ministers. This seems unlikely to encourage the political leadership and buy-in from across government that would be necessary to ensure continued efforts towards a coherent approach to the SDGs.

80. Evidence from CAFOD suggested that the creation of a specific mechanism of government was necessary to ensure coherent implementation and integration of the SDGs agenda. They told us the Government should:

“Create a cross-Whitehall SDG coordination group via a Cabinet sub-committee with DFID oversight and representation in each department to embed policy coherence across government.”<sup>129</sup>

This call was repeated in *Bond Beyond 2015*'s evidence, which stated that cross-government implementation “could be driven forward by the Cabinet Committee or an Implementation Taskforce”.<sup>130</sup>

81. When questioned in January 2016 on whether such a mechanism would be put in place, Justine Greening told us, “We are in discussion with the Cabinet Office about how to now make sure that the cross-government response to the SDGs is in place”.<sup>131</sup> However, when we questioned the Minister for Government Policy in April 2016, he stated clearly: “There will not be a group of Ministers sitting around trying to discuss this agenda as opposed to the overall programme”.<sup>132</sup> The Minister's comments make it clear that there is no plan to create a new piece of government machinery to ensure an effective and comprehensive response to the SDGs. Although the Minister told us that some cross-government agendas, such as FGM, have fallen under the remit of the National Security Council (NSC),<sup>133</sup> he did not go on to clarify whether this will be the approach they take for the SDGs. The lack of will to consider, let alone create, any sort of machinery of government to facilitate this process shows a fundamental absence of commitment to the coherent implementation of the SDGs across government.

82. Provision for reporting on policy coherence for sustainable development also remains insufficient. The International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to:

“include in each annual report such general or specific observations as he thinks appropriate on the effects of policies and programmes pursued by Government departments on—

(a) the promotion of sustainable development in countries outside the United Kingdom,

(b) the reduction of poverty in such countries.”<sup>134</sup>

In practice, in its latest Annual Report 2014–2015 (the best example of reporting on policy coherence to date) DFID merely produced a limited list of areas where there is cross-government cooperation.<sup>135</sup> This reflects the UK's ‘case-by-case’ approach to

<sup>129</sup> CAFOD (SDG0045) p. 1

<sup>130</sup> *Bond Beyond 2015* UK (SDG0099) para 8

<sup>131</sup> Q154

<sup>132</sup> Q219

<sup>133</sup> Q216

<sup>134</sup> International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006, [Clause 5\(1\)](#)

<sup>135</sup> DFID, [Annual Report and Accounts 2014–2015](#), p.20-21

policy coherence, but does not provide a comprehensive analysis of where the policies of other government departments are either complementing or undermining the UK's international development policy. In evidence to our predecessor committee for the 'Beyond Aid' inquiry in late 2014, the Secretary of State admitted that policy coherence would, "need to become a bigger part of that annual report [...] because it is now a much bigger part of what we do".<sup>136</sup> We have yet to see that happen. Evidence from the Fairtrade Foundation suggested the creation of an annual report on PCD. They told us:

"DFID should review the effectiveness of measures for policy coherence for development (PCD) across government, and consider ways to strengthen PCD. This could include an annual report on PCD, as undertaken by the European Commission, and regular independent review of government performance in this area."<sup>137</sup>

The European Commission in fact produces a two-yearly, rather than annual, report on policy coherence for development (PCD), which seems reasonable for such a comprehensive piece of work. The UK already produces survey data on PCD for these EU-wide reports, which could be enhanced in a more comprehensive UK Government report.

**83. It is clear from the evidence that policy coherence across Government will be crucial to SDG implementation. Although there are some good examples of policy coherence being addressed on a case-by-case basis by the Government, such as FGM (female genital mutilation), this approach is insufficient for tackling the universal SDGs agenda. We are deeply concerned at the lack of a strategic and comprehensive approach to implementation of the Goals. Without this, it is likely that areas of deep incoherence across government policy could develop and progress made by certain departments could be easily undermined by the policies and actions of others. It also reflects a worrying absence of commitment to ensure proper implementation of the SDGs across-government.**

***84. The Government should identify a formal mechanism for relevant Secretaries of State or responsible Ministers to come together regularly to discuss the implementation of the SDGs across Government. Such a forum would ensure engagement from all departments at the highest political level. It should be used initially to discuss how the SDGs can be implemented coherently across Government, but could develop into a forum for discussion of particular areas of the agenda at regular, and defined, intervals. This would enable areas of policy incoherence to be flagged at an early stage, and dealt with at the highest level. We ask that the Government outline in their response the form that this mechanism will take.***

***85. Reporting on policy coherence must be strengthened to ensure a more comprehensive approach. Current provisions under the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006 are insufficient and place the full burden of reporting on DFID, rather than making it a cross-government responsibility. The Government should commit to producing a biennial report on policy coherence for sustainable development.***

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<sup>136</sup> International Development Committee, Tenth Report of Session 2014–15, [The Future of Development Co-operation: Phase 2: Beyond Aid](#), HC663, para 44

<sup>137</sup> Fairtrade Foundation ([SDG0023](#)) para 17

**Box 3: Examples of Government Responses to the SDGs****Colombia**

In February 2015, before the SDGs were even agreed, the President of Colombia approved the creation of an Inter-Agency Commission for the Preparation and Effective Implementation of the Post- 2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. A report on Colombia's response states, "The Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Sustainable Development, and Finance, as well as the Department for Social Prosperity, the National Administrative Department of Statistics, and the National Planning Department, all form part of the Commission. These entities can only be represented on the Commission by their ministers/directors or vice ministers/deputy directors, which points to a high level of commitment to the implementation of the SDGs."<sup>138</sup>

**Czech Republic**

The Czech Republic's response to a UN regional survey on SDG implementation states that, "The Government Office has the leading role in the implementation process, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment. The Government Council for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, will serve as a coordination body to ensure that all key stakeholders are involved and informed about the process."<sup>139</sup>

**Germany**

The Federal Chancellery is currently leading the process to revise and adapt its current National Sustainable Development Strategy to reflect the 2030 Agenda. Responsibility has been given to the Chancellery, rather than one of the ministries, as "sustainable development is a guiding principle of any policy of the German government". The existing National Sustainable Development Strategy will "be structured along the 17 SDGs in a comprehensive manner. It will cover national implementation measures with both internal and external effects as well as measures aiming at progress at international level"<sup>140</sup>.

**Nigeria**

The Nigerian Presidency produced a report in October 2015, 'Nigeria's Road to the SDGs', which made a number of recommendations on how the Nigerian Government would integrate the SDGs into its national plans.<sup>141</sup> These included the creation of a Presidential Committee on the SDGs and new mechanisms for collaboration between the National Planning Committee, headed by a Government Minister, and the Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on the SDGs. In March 2016, President Buhari appointed a new Senior Special Adviser to take this process forward.<sup>142</sup>

138 ODI and CEPEI, [Getting ready for SDG implementation in Latin America: The example of Colombia](#) (September 2015) p. 4

139 UNECE and the Czech Republic, [Planning, implementation, follow up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals: Regional Survey](#) (2016)

140 UNECE and Germany, [Planning, implementation, follow up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals: Regional Survey](#) (2016)

141 Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs, [Nigeria's Road to SDGs: Country Transition Strategy](#) (October 2015)

142 "[Buhari appoints ex-Lagos deputy governor Special Assistant on SDGs](#)", Premium Times, 7 March 2016

## Switzerland

In January 2016, the Swiss Government published its Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–2019. The Strategy states: “The 2030 Agenda is not legally binding, but provides an important reference framework for Switzerland. The Federal Council takes it very seriously, and is committed on both the national and international levels to the Agenda’s implementation. One of the ways in which this will happen at national level is through the specific targets defined in this Sustainable Development Strategy, which is based on the SDG and will help to achieve them [...] The aim in the future is to align the Strategy as comprehensively as possible with the 2030 Agenda to secure Switzerland’s contribution to achieving the SDG by 2030”.<sup>143</sup>

## A national implementation plan

86. In order to bring the cross-government response together, we received evidence from a number of sources, including Jamie Drummond at ONE,<sup>144</sup> UNDP<sup>145</sup> and WWF,<sup>146</sup> which advocated for the Government to produce a national implementation plan for the SDGs. Bond Beyond 2015 UK’s evidence states:

“The UK needs to develop and budget for a high-level cross Government plan for implementation, follow up and review. The implementation plan should embed the SDGs in UK policy and planning and ensure coordination between departments.”<sup>147</sup>

87. Despite previous assertions from the Secretary of State that “the action plan we have is actually delivering on the manifesto”,<sup>148</sup> in April 2016 the Minister for Government Policy told us that the Government would be producing a report to outline their approach:

“[...] having listened to the conversation about these goals since the Prime Minister first took action to try to promote them internationally, and not least through the line of inquiry of the Committee when it interviewed Justine Greening not long ago, we have had various discussions internally, and have come to the conclusion that it would make sense for us to produce a report in due course outlining our approach, both internationally and domestically. That will help to identify more specifically what we are intending to do in both domains over the course of this Parliament to advance the achievement of the targets.”<sup>149</sup>

When questioned on whether the report would be a ‘national implementation plan’, however, the Minister replied, “The answer to that is I do not know.”<sup>150</sup> The Minister was also unsure of the timescale for such a report, stating:

143 Swiss Federal Council, [Sustainable Development Strategy 2016–2019](#) (2016)

144 Q13

145 UNDP ([SDG0021](#)) p.3

146 WWF ([SDG0104](#)) para 1

147 Bond Beyond 2015 UK ([SDG0046](#)) para 30

148 Q152

149 Q194

150 Q226

“I cannot give you a date. I had hoped maybe I could but I cannot. I do not know how long it will take us to do, but we will certainly aim to do it during the course of this year. It is not a never-never. As the targets have only recently been agreed it will take a little time and we need to do this properly.”<sup>151</sup>

**88. During this inquiry we have been concerned by the reluctance of the Secretary of State for International Development and the Minister for Government Policy to provide a cross-Government plan for implementation of the SDGs. Previous assertions that the manifesto equates to an action plan on the SDGs do not adequately reflect the commitment to which the Government signed up in September 2015.**

**89. We welcome the Minister’s announcement that the Government will produce a report outlining the international and domestic approach to implementation of the SDGs by the end of the year but are disappointed at the apparent reluctance to call it an implementation plan and at the impression of a lack of urgency on this issue which has been conveyed, bearing in mind that the Government signed up to the SDGs well over six months ago. We welcome the reference to the Sustainable Development Goals, by name, in the Queen’s speech on 18 May 2016 and hope that this indicates a strong commitment to Government action to take forward implementation of the Goals in this parliamentary session.**

***90. The forthcoming Government report on the UK Implementation of the SDGs should be urgently produced and must equate to a substantive cross-government plan for implementation of the SDGs. It must include clear lines of responsibility for each government department for domestic and international implementation of the SDGs. It must also clearly outline exactly how the Government will ensure policy coherence across the SDGs agenda.***

## 5 DFID's support for the SDGs overseas

### Where should DFID prioritise?

91. One of the questions in our terms of reference for this inquiry asked, 'Where should DFID prioritise?' A number of organisations, including Save the Children, Christian Aid, CAFOD, Bond and WWF, indicated that there was a fundamental problem with this question, citing the indivisible nature of the SDGs agenda and cautioning against 'cherry picking' of the Goals. Despite this, in written evidence many organisations pitched for their preferred focus Goals, generally emphasising the importance of achieving a particular Goal for the broader SDGs agenda. For example, progress on gender equality would have a positive impact on a large number of other goals, due to the effect it would have on ending poverty (Goal 1), improving wellbeing (Goal 3), ensuring quality education for all (Goal 4), and promoting economic growth (Goal 8). On climate change, Andrew Norton at IIED stated: "We expect climate change to have dramatic impacts over time, across the full range of attainment—virtually every SDG."<sup>152</sup> Other witnesses referred to the fundamental and innovative importance of SDG 16.<sup>153</sup> Overall, these arguments served to emphasise the truly interconnected nature of all of the Goals and the need to work towards achieving them in their entirety.

92. Even if it is right that DFID should not pre-emptively decide to focus on certain Goals, the Department will need to work out where it can most effectively contribute to the global achievement of the goals, and how it can best support its priority countries to make progress against the goals at the national level. As the Minister of State stated very recently: "we are working across Government and with our development partners to determine where our comparative advantage is and where we can make the greatest impact."<sup>154</sup> Evidence to the inquiry has suggested a number of ways DFID could most effectively support developing countries to achieve the SDGs; some of which were particularly compelling.

### National ownership

93. National ownership of the SDGs is emphasised throughout the Agenda 2030 document, which states that the Goals are: "applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities". UNDP's evidence emphasised, "It is the sovereign responsibility of countries to ensure that they apply the SDG agenda."<sup>155</sup> DFID have recognised this in their evidence, stating that, "Primary responsibility for implementation of the agenda rests at the domestic level with national governments."<sup>156</sup> The Secretary of State also told us:

"[...] in the end, countries have to own their development and be politically committed to it. There is only so far we can go with our improvements in capacity-building and our investment. In the end, it absolutely has to be country-owned."<sup>157</sup>

<sup>152</sup> Q134

<sup>153</sup> For example, see Q45, Q149, Saferworld ([SDG0043](#)), Adam Smith International ([SDG0076](#))

<sup>154</sup> HC Deb, 13 April 2016, [col 165WH](#) [Westminster Hall]

<sup>155</sup> Q127

<sup>156</sup> DFID ([SDG0062](#)) para12

<sup>157</sup> Q186

94. It is clear that national ownership of the SDG agenda will be essential to ensuring the Goals are prioritised and actioned appropriately in developing countries. DFID will therefore need to work closely with governments in the countries it supports—as well as with civil society, donors and other in-country stakeholders—to identify how it can most effectively support the country to make progress on the SDGs. As Oxfam’s evidence states:

“As a signatory to the Busan development effectiveness principles (and Paris, Accra and Rome before that), the UK has committed to maintaining and supporting democratic ownership of development. This means that when drawing up new country plans or SDG strategies, DFID should develop these in partnership with developing countries, working both with national governments and with other stakeholders including national civil society, local government and parliamentarians.”<sup>158</sup>

IIED highlighted the need for SDG implementation plans to be formed through “country-led processes, ideally democratically-organised and with space for a genuine national debate.” It stated that, “DFID should not be a direct participant in these processes” but emphasised how DFID can support them by being prepared to “respond to the needs that emerge from national strategies and action plans”.<sup>159</sup>

### **Comparative advantage**

95. In supporting countries to achieve the SDGs, evidence has suggested that DFID may be able to identify areas of comparative advantage, dependent on the circumstances. Simon Maxwell from ODI told us:

“It would be unrealistic to expect that every item in the SDG Framework should be equally visible in HMG [Her Majesty’s Government] and DFID priorities [...] HMG and DFID are not the only actors and have specific strengths and weaknesses. The issue is one of comparative advantage.”<sup>160</sup>

He emphasised that this advantage is “not just in terms of their own capabilities, but also in relation to others”.<sup>161</sup> It could be:

- a) an area where DFID has done a lot of work in the past therefore can rapidly develop programmes or deploy expert staff;
- b) an area that is being neglected by other partners where DFID has sufficient capability to fill the gap; or
- c) an issue that DFID is uniquely placed to tackle because of its relationships with government, civil society or local communities.

96. Evidence pointed to a number of areas where DFID had particular expertise. For example, Jessica Woodroffe of the Gender and Development Network stated that, “DFID

<sup>158</sup> Oxfam ([SDG0060](#)) p. 2

<sup>159</sup> IIED ([SDG0065](#)) p. 2

<sup>160</sup> Simon Maxwell ([SDG0006](#)) para 20

<sup>161</sup> Simon Maxwell ([SDG0006](#)) para iv

has a very strong record on what they would call “women and girls”,<sup>162</sup> but added, “Where DFID is particularly placed around gender inequality is challenging taboos and showing leadership on difficult issues. We saw that around FGM.”<sup>163</sup>

Plan UK stated that:

“DfID has a number of specialisms for which it is well known, not least in its work on Education, Health, Gender Equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Governance and Economic Development, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. DFID should maintain its commitment to these areas in which it already has a strong reputation.”<sup>164</sup>

Andrew Norton at IIED argued that one of DFID’s strengths was the longevity and quality of its staff:

“[...] one of the things that DFID is known for is very high quality engagement in partner countries, being there with high-quality staff over a long period. There have been two consecutive years of reductions in administrative costs. There is a concern about whether you have the spending in that area necessary to maintain the kinds of engagements you need, particularly on these complex issues.”<sup>165</sup>

### ***Focusing on the Goals furthest behind***

97. ODI has projected global progress towards the Goals if the current trajectory of progress remains unchanged (see Figure 2). It has highlighted those Goals which are easy wins, those which require a reversal in current trends and those which will not be met unless there is a complete reversal in current trends.

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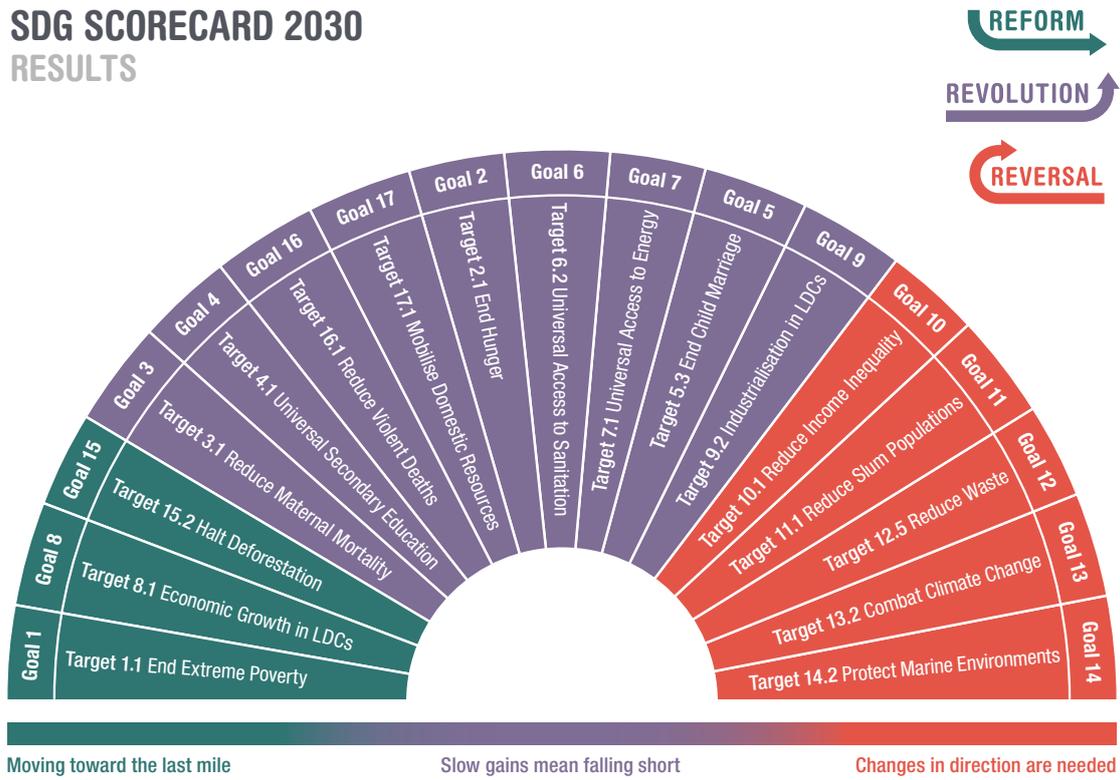
162 Q141

163 Q141

164 Plan UK ([SDG0085](#)) para 15

165 Q141

Figure 2: ODI SDG Scorecard<sup>166</sup>



On this basis, ODI has recommended that DFID focus on those Goals which are unlikely to be met without considerable support from donors:

“While the UK government may want to focus on some of the easy wins to showcase progress, it should focus the majority of its attention on the reversal targets, which are highly unlikely to be met without significant support from the international community.”<sup>167</sup>

**Root bottlenecks**

98. UNDP suggested that DFID could focus on key issues which, if tackled, could result in progress on a number of SDGs at the same time. Their evidence suggests that:

“Analytical work and multi-stakeholder approaches can help governments to identify synergies and trade-offs in the implementation of the SDGs, and find ‘root bottlenecks’ which, if unlocked, could accelerate progress across a number of SDGs at the same time.”<sup>168</sup>

99. **To be most effective and stand the best chance of success, governments’ implementation of the SDGs must be aligned to existing national priorities. National implementation must be a country-led process with opportunities for democratic engagement by citizens and civil society. We welcome DFID’s emphasis on encouraging national ownership of the SDGs in its priority countries. It can do this by supporting**

166 ODI, ‘Projecting Progress: Reaching the SDGs by 2030’ p. 11  
 167 ODI (SDG0056) para 22  
 168 UNDP (SDG0021) p. 2

governments as they map the targets and indicators against national plans to identify where they align with existing priorities and where there are gaps. DFID will then be in a position, in partnership with other stakeholders, to offer support to the government to fill these gaps.

100. *In supporting countries to make progress towards the SDGs, DFID should assess where its work is likely to make the most impact. This will potentially require country teams to look at all of the areas outlined in evidence to us, such as: where DFID has particular skills and expertise to deliver; where other development actors are not already providing support; where there might be root bottlenecks which, if tackled, could have an impact on a number of goals; or indeed the goals where the country is most off track and may need the most support. These assessments will be country-specific and will help DFID contribute to a holistic response to the SDGs in its partner countries.*

101. *Once an approach has been developed, DFID should outline how it is supporting countries to achieve the SDGs within the Operational Plans of each of its priority countries.*

## Integrating the Goals into DFID's work

102. DFID will need to integrate the SDGs into its broad portfolio, across Whitehall, East Kilbride and all of its country offices, as well as being reflected in its work through multilateral agencies, civil society and the private sector. It has yet to reveal how it plans to do that, although DFID's evidence states that, "The SDGs will [...] be the starting point for all DFID's work in the coming years".<sup>169</sup>

103. Evidence to the inquiry urges caution around mainstreaming the SDGs into DFID's work in case specific goals may lose their visibility through this process. Jessica Woodroffe told us that standalone projects as well as mainstreaming were required to tackle gender equality. She stated, "If you do not have some of those standalone projects [...] mainstreaming can make things invisible".<sup>170</sup> Thomas Wheeler from Saferworld made similar comments with reference to conflict and fragility, expressing a hope that DFID would:

"prioritise both having a cross-cutting focus [...] through making sure a programme is conflict-sensitive, while at the same time having very specific programmes that are engaging on that specific issue. I hope that we can have both."<sup>171</sup>

104. On DFID's implementation of the SDGs their evidence stated that, "There will be a clear line of sight between the SDGs and the Department's Single Departmental Plan (SDP), which will set out the key areas of emphasis for DFID over the next five years."<sup>172</sup> However, the publication of DFID's Single Departmental Plan, and the broader UK Aid Strategy, have provided little clarity on how the Department will support the implementation of the SDG agenda overseas. Although the SDGs (or 'Global Goals') are referenced in both documents, no clear link is drawn between specific Goals and the Government or DFID's policy priorities. This is despite the fact that the UK Aid Strategy

169 DFID ([SDG0062](#)) para 19

170 Q148

171 Q148

172 DFID ([SDG0062](#)) para 19

was published in November 2015, two months after the agreement of the SDGs, and the Single Departmental Plan in February 2016, five months after the Goals' agreement and two months into their official implementation.

105. We were told that the legislative framework determining much of the UK's aid spending is also not fit for the post-2015 development agenda. As IIED points out:

“DFID’s Public Service Agreement is framed around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This will need to be updated post-2015. The new PSA should endorse the full set of Goals and clarify which of the Goals and Targets are particularly relevant for DFID, and in which countries and sectors DFID’s efforts will be focused.”<sup>173</sup>

106. Much (but not all) of the UK's ODA is spent under the International Development Act 2002,<sup>174</sup> and three subsequent Acts passed in 2006, 2014 and 2015 (see Box 2). The 2006 Act refers extensively to progress against the MDGs and the 0.7% target; the first of which has now expired and the second of which has been achieved. There is also some limited reference to reporting commitments relating to policy coherence. Amendments to this Act are required to bring it up to date with the new 2030 Agenda; as was recommended by our predecessor Committee in the ‘Beyond Aid’ Report.<sup>175</sup> The language and commitments around policy coherence should also be strengthened. Given the need to update elements of existing legislation, it makes sense at the beginning of this new and transformative 15 year sustainable development agenda to update and consolidate the four acts into one single International Development Act.

**Box 4: UK International Development Legislation**

- 1) International Development Act 2002
- 2) International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006
- 3) International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014
- 4) International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015

Source: Legislation.gov.uk

107. **In our recent Report on DFID’s allocation of resources we raised concerns over whether the new aid strategy had reduced the emphasis on poverty reduction. Similarly, and in light of the absence of clear linking of SDGs to policy priorities in DFID’s new Single Departmental Plan, it seems that the SDGs have not sufficiently informed the Government’s overseas aid strategy.**

108. *We recommend that the Government produces a White Paper on International Development to provide clarity on its approach to Agenda 2030. Following the Multilateral, Bilateral and Civil Society Partnership Reviews, DFID and other government departments will be in a position to provide a comprehensive overview*

173 IIED (SDG0065) p.1

174 See International Development Committee, Third Report of Session 2015–16, [UK Aid: allocation of resources: interim report](#), HC927, incorporating HC533, para 12

175 International Development Committee, Tenth Report of Session 2014–15, [The Future of UK Development Cooperation: Phase 2: Beyond Aid](#), HC663, paras 43-45

*of their approach to international development over this Parliament and towards 2030, within the framework of the SDGs. A White Paper would serve an important function for the UK's partners across the world, demonstrating the UK Government's commitment to the Goals and explaining how it will support developing countries to achieve them. It would also be a useful exercise for the Government, bringing together different departments to ensure there is a coherent approach to Post-2015 development policy across all of Whitehall and all branches of DFID, from Westminster and East Kilbride to country offices across the world.*

*109. The legislative framework determining much of the UK's aid spending is also not fit for the post-2015 development agenda. The Government should use this critical juncture to consolidate and update the four International Development Acts (2002, 2006, 2014, and 2015) into one single Act. With the passage of the International Development (Official Development Assistance) Act 2015 and the agreement of the SDGs, many of the clauses within the 2002 and 2006 Acts are now obsolete. We recommend that the Government should consolidate these acts and update the provisions to reflect:*

- a) A legal requirement that poverty reduction (including through the provision of global public goods) is the primary purpose of all ODA spending (including by Other Government Departments);<sup>176</sup>*
- b) A commitment to support the achievement of the SDGs, to incorporate them throughout DFID's policy and programmes, and a legal requirement to report regularly on its contribution to progress in countries where it has bilateral programmes; and*
- c) A legal requirement of more systematic efforts towards, and reporting on, policy coherence across Government in support of the SDGs, substantially improving on the reporting currently conducted through DFID's annual report which merely 'cherry picks' examples of collaboration.*

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<sup>176</sup> See International Development Committee, Third Report of Session 2015–16, [UK Aid: allocation of resources: interim report](#), HC927, incorporating HC533

## 6 Monitoring and accountability

### The SDGs indicators

110. International progress on the SDGs will be tracked against a set of global indicators agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016.<sup>177</sup> These will guide the development of national level indicators, which will allow countries to adapt them to “different national realities”.<sup>178</sup> As outlined in the final report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators:

“Member States committed themselves to the systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels and to the agreement that global indicators will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels to be developed by Member States (resolution 70/1, paras. 72 and 75). Member States will develop their national indicators in line with the principle of the 2030 Agenda that targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances (ibid., para. 55).”<sup>179</sup>

This ambition is highlighted in Christian Aid’s evidence, which states that there may be a need for the UK to “set additional indicators to supplement the global set”. Christian Aid’s evidence also emphasised that “the SDGs should not displace existing targets or indicators” so, where relevant indicators already exist (such as the Sustainable Development Indicators) they “remain relevant and should be reported against”.<sup>180</sup>

111. All signatory countries will be expected to submit statistical data on their progress against the SDGs annually, to inform the Secretary-General’s report on global progress, which will be reported on at the High Level Political Forum in July each year. As the Agenda 2030 document states:

“follow-up and review at the high-level political forum will be informed by an annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level”.<sup>181</sup>

### Data for development

112. On the importance of data to the SDGs, UK National Statistician John Pullinger told us:

“if we do not know what is going on, we cannot work out what to do [...] Data gives us that map that enables us to judge which way to turn to ensure that no one in the world is left behind.”<sup>182</sup>

<sup>177</sup> UN, [Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#) (February 2016)

<sup>178</sup> UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015) para 74(a)

<sup>179</sup> UN, [Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#) (February 2016) para 7

<sup>180</sup> Christian Aid ([SDG0080](#)) para 7.4

<sup>181</sup> UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015) para 83

<sup>182</sup> Q72

With such a large number of targets and indicators, a huge amount of data will be required to establish baselines and track progress towards the Goals. All countries will have gaps in the data sets required, but for developing countries these gaps will be vast. At the launch of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Secretary of State highlighted that, “Just 28 of 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa had a household survey between 2006 and 2013. We’re working out how many people are living in chronic poverty based on surveys from 2005 or earlier.”<sup>183</sup> In evidence to us, Johannes Jutting of PARIS 21, an organisation which promotes the better use and production of statistics throughout the developing world, emphasised the huge challenge that these gaps presents:

“The challenge is that producing this data in many countries, in particular the poor countries in which we as PARIS21 work, is huge, because we do not even have the raw data, not to speak about disaggregated data.”<sup>184</sup>

**Table 3: SDG Monitoring - Roles and Responsibilities**

	Global	Regional and Thematic	National
Responsibility for SDG Reporting	UN Statistics Division based mainly on national data collected by international agencies	Regional organizations, UN and other agencies harmonising SDG methodology for regional reporting	National statistical systems and third-party providers supplying national and subnational data
Original data sources	Country level	Country level	Country level
Purpose	Global monitoring focusing on world progress overall	Regional and thematic monitoring focusing on relevant progress	National monitoring focusing on national and subnational priorities

Source: “SDG Data Discussion: What next?”, OECD Development Centre Blog, 5 April 2016

113. Following the SDGs Summit in September 2015 DFID announced that the UK Government would be an ‘Anchor Partner’ in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. In her speech at the launch on the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Secretary of State stated:

“A data revolution is as fundamental as anything to achieving the Global Goals. What gets measured gets done. And when lots gets measured, lots get done. Only by collecting and using good, measurable, open, accessible and disaggregated data can we leave no one behind.”<sup>185</sup>

114. A number of submissions to the inquiry highlighted the important role DFID has to play in improving data capacity in developing countries, with a focus on support to National Statistical Offices, increasing capacity in traditional forms of data collection such as household surveys and censuses, but also investing in innovative new data sources and enabling citizens to access and use data to hold their governments to account. UNDP stated in its written evidence:

183 “Data Matters: The Global Partnership for Development Data”, Speech given by Justine Greening, 28 September 2015

184 Q74

185 “Data Matters: The Global Partnership for Development Data”, Speech given by Justine Greening 28 September 2015

“The UK has played a key leadership role investing in statistical capacity to measure progress, including in countries to which it provides bilateral assistance. The UK could support innovation in data sources and metrics that go beyond traditional household surveys and censuses [...] Particular attention should be paid to the need for investment in data to analyse the challenges facing the very poorest people and communities, and to involve them as users of data.”<sup>186</sup>

At the launch of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Secretary of State highlighted that the UK was “the third largest provider of support to statistics globally” and committed an additional £16 million in funding to the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building.<sup>187</sup> This was promptly followed by a pledge of an additional £6 million to Paris 21.<sup>188</sup> John Pullinger also emphasised the capacity building work undertaken by the ONS:

“[...] the UK Government Statistical Service, including DFID, has a very proud tradition of working with developing countries to help strengthen their statistical systems, particularly in Africa but also in a lot of small island states in the Pacific [...] We have traditional ties to many countries and I am continually welcoming people wanting to learn from us into my office in Newport and many other Government Departments also.”<sup>189</sup>

115. Much of the evidence we received highlighted the importance of ensuring that data is disaggregated (for example by sex, race, age, disability) so that progress against the Goals for marginalised groups is properly monitored, to ensure that no one is left behind.<sup>190</sup> Johannes Jutting highlighted the challenge this presents, stating “It is a tremendously important area to have disaggregated data but, in many instances, we have to be honest; it is a long shot”.<sup>191</sup> Harpinder Collacott urged that DFID play a strong role in ensuring disaggregated data remains firmly on the agenda. She told us:

“Although I agree with Johannes that it is a long shot [...] This is where DFID can be playing a role, because we need to look at disaggregated data across all of the indicators, on age, gender and disability, if we are serious about leaving no one behind, but also on income quintile and location as well. Absolutely it is going to be a challenge, but this agenda is about setting a challenge and looking at how we meet that challenge. I would urge DFID to play quite a strong role in ensuring that disaggregated data, just because it is a tough challenge, does not fall off the agenda.”<sup>192</sup>

116. In order to tackle the challenge associated with collecting data for the SDGs, UK National Statistician, John Pullinger, recommended that DFID should:

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186 UNDP (SDG0021) p. 3

187 “Data Matters: The Global Partnership for Development Data”, Speech given by Justine Greening 28 September 2015

188 Global Partnership for Development Data, “Data Commitments”, accessed 26 May 2016

189 Q80

190 For example see Bond Beyond 2015 UK (SDG0046) para 38, Save the Children (SDG0018) para 5.1, Age International (SDG0087) para 44

191 Q74

192 Q74

- (1) Continue to fund Paris 21, as it has for the last 15 years, to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices to collect the data required;
- (2) Take forward its work as an anchor partner in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, which is championing innovative forms of data collection; and
- (3) Support the localisation of data collection initiatives, by engaging young people and encouraging the use of mobile phones for data capture, and to work in partnership with the private sector as has been done in Cote d'Ivoire, where it is working with Orange to collect census data.<sup>193</sup>

**117. We welcome the Secretary of State's continued commitment to increasing the capacity of developing countries to collect and use data. We recognise that establishing where countries currently stand will be essential for identifying how far they have to go to achieve the Goals. We appreciate the vital role that data can play in enabling national governments to track progress against the SDGs, and for citizens and civil society to hold government to account on areas where they are falling short. We understand the importance of collecting disaggregated data to ensure no one is left behind, despite the clear challenges this presents.**

*118. We urge DFID to continue to take a leading role in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, encouraging innovation, localisation and partnership to find new ways of collecting data to establish baselines and track progress towards the SDG indicators. DFID should also continue to support capacity building in developing countries, through Paris 21 and the World Bank, but also bilaterally sharing the skills and knowledge housed within the Office of National Statistics to provide support and training for others.*

## **UK reporting against the SDGs**

119. As the International Development Committee, our primary focus is how effectively the UK Government contributes to the global achievement of the SDGs and, in particular, the effectiveness of its support to developing countries to make progress against the Goals. Although domestic performance against the SDGs is not our primary concern, the SDGs will only be achieved in developing countries if there is progress on global public goods such as climate change, and if developed countries lead by example on national implementation. Therefore, on these issues, the government's domestic achievements will be of vital concern to the international development community.

### ***The UK's support for global progress***

120. At the domestic level, the ONS will report on the Government's progress against the SDGs in the UK, but there are currently no plans for it to report against the UK's support for international progress through development cooperation and policies, and it would undoubtedly be very difficult to do so. This lack of data presents a challenge for Parliament, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), civil society organisations and citizens who will want to hold DFID to account on its performance.

121. During the latter period of the MDGs' implementation, DFID used UN data to track progress against each of the Goals in its priority countries and recorded this in its annual reports,<sup>194</sup> reflecting on the contribution that DFID had made. This provided some indication of DFID's contribution to achievement of the MDGs in those countries.

**122. *The UK Government should report annually on its contribution to SDG progress in all of DFID's priority countries. This would be a helpful internal process for DFID, to assess where they are contributing to success and where their efforts are falling short, and thus where they need to take further action or reprioritise its efforts. It will also enable us, as a Committee, to scrutinise the efforts of the Government to support implementation of the SDGs overseas. The report should include the contributions of all government departments towards progress in those countries, including the positive and negative effects of government policies such as on tax, trade, the environment, migration and peace and security.***

**123. *The Government will be reporting against its domestic progress on the SDGs annually, as part of its responsibility to the UN's global monitoring process. This report, and a full breakdown and analysis of the data (disaggregated where relevant) must be made publicly available, to enable the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) and departmental select committees to track progress and hold relevant Government departments to account on any areas where it is falling short.***

### **Parliamentary scrutiny of the SDGs**

124. Effective scrutiny of the Government's progress against the SDGs will be essential to ensure that there is continued momentum and scrutiny behind the Government's contribution to reach the Goals by 2030, both domestically and internationally. As the final Agenda 2030 document states:

“We also encourage member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.”<sup>195</sup>

The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has already engaged with the SDGs. The Committee's inquiry into the 'Sustainable Development Goals', which reported in December 2014, aimed to influence the ambition of the Goals that were yet to be agreed.<sup>196</sup> More recently, the Committee has addressed the Government's commitment to the Goals through its ongoing inquiry into the 'Government's approach to sustainable development'.<sup>197</sup> In addition to the EAC there has been considerable engagement with the SDGs from Members of both Houses. Twelve debates have been held on the SDGs across the House of Commons, House of Lords and Westminster Hall, including a recent debate on implementation of the SDGs, sponsored by Women and Equalities Committee

<sup>194</sup> See [DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2014–2015](#), p.35-47

<sup>195</sup> UN, [Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015) p. 28

<sup>196</sup> Environmental Audit Committee, Seventh Report of Session 2014–15, [Agreeing Ambitious Sustainable Development Goals in 2015](#), HC452

<sup>197</sup> [Environmental Audit Committee: The Government's Approach to Sustainable Development](#), accessed 26 May 2016

member Ben Howlett MP following a Committee visit to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The Goals have received 532 spoken references in Parliament and been the subject of 32 written statements by Government ministers.<sup>198</sup>

**Box 5: The SDGs in the UK Parliament**

- 532 spoken references in Parliament
- 32 written statements from Government ministers
- 12 parliamentary debates
- 3 select committee inquiries
- 1 All Party Parliamentary Group

Source: Hansard, as at 4 May 2016

125. A number of organisations recommended that a new parliamentary committee should be set up to monitor government performance on the SDGs. VSO told us, “[...] parliamentary scrutiny would be enhanced through the creation of a] new parliamentary subcommittee on the SDGs, bringing together chairs from relevant select committees.”<sup>199</sup> Similarly, Bond Beyond 2015 stated:

“[...] we recommend the introduction of a cross party Select Committee bringing together chairs or representatives from the committees on health, education, energy and climate change, international development, justice and women and equality.”<sup>200</sup>

However, as we have discovered through the course of this inquiry, the Government’s response to the SDGs should include *all* government departments as well as encouraging a coherent approach across government. Parliamentary scrutiny is therefore likely to involve an even broader range of parliamentary select committees than Bond has suggested in its submission. We would therefore recommend using the established and effective mechanisms already in place to scrutinise the Government’s implementation of the SDGs and that an additional committee would be a weaker, rather than stronger, instrument of scrutiny. However, this approach does require strong engagement in the SDGs from existing select committees, and we are aware that this does not yet exist. Current parliamentary engagement with the agenda falls far short of what would be required to ensure effective scrutiny of progress against the SDGs over the next 15 years.

**126. We welcome the Environmental Audit Committee’s continued engagement with the SDGs and the recent interest shown by the Women and Equalities Committee. We also note the establishment of the cross-party, bicameral All Party Parliamentary Group on the SDGs, the numerous debates in the House of Commons and House of Lords Chambers on the SDGs and the substantial number of Parliamentary Questions, which have been submitted relating to the Goals. The continued support for, and interest in, the domestic and international implementation of the SDGs is clear across Parliament and should be noted by the Government.**

<sup>198</sup> Hansard, ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ (as at 4 May 2016)

<sup>199</sup> VSO (SDG0035) para 18

<sup>200</sup> Bond Beyond 2015 UK (SDG0046) para 32

127. We also welcome the Environmental Audit Committee's ongoing work monitoring domestic sustainable development performance, which will be a big part of the UK's response to the SDGs. We believe also that it is in the interests of other departmental select committees to engage with the Goals early, in order to assess any potential gaps in progress against the SDGs for which their department is responsible. It will also enable them to push for ambitious national indicators in a broad range of areas and to hold the government to account on anywhere it may fall short on these over the next 15 years.

128. *We recommend that all House of Commons departmental select committees engage with the SDGs, particularly those goals and targets most relevant to their departments. We encourage committees to: push for ambitious national indicators against the SDGs; monitor departmental progress against these indicators, once formulated, and use the data produced by the ONS annually to hold departments to account on their performance. Ideally, this scrutiny would culminate with an annual session with the relevant Secretary of State in advance of the High-level Political Forum on global SDG progress in July. The Liaison Committee may also wish to question the Prime Minister annually on progress.*<sup>201</sup>

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201 See Q238

## Conclusions and recommendations

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### The continuing importance of aid

1. The Committee welcomes the International Development (Official Development Assistance) Act 2015 which requires the Government to spend 0.7% of UK GNI on ODA, and recognises that ODA remains an essential part of the financial commitment needed to achieve the SDGs, particularly for LDCs. (Paragraph 22)
2. *As a respected leader in the donor community, the UK Government should continue to use its influence to persuade other countries to fulfil—and where possible strengthen—their ODA commitments as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and SDG target 17.2.* (Paragraph 23)

### Domestic resource mobilisation

3. We welcome the Addis Tax Initiative and the Government's strong commitment to supporting the development of effective tax systems in some of the world's poorest countries. Prioritising assistance to developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries, in implementing effective tax collection systems will be crucial in enabling countries to raise the revenue needed to implement the SDGs. (Paragraph 28)
4. We recognise the impact of tax evasion on developing countries' ability to raise revenues and welcome the Prime Minister's decision to host the recent Anti-Corruption Summit in London, positioning the UK as a leader in this debate. Despite this, we remain concerned about successive governments' approaches towards international tax cooperation and fairer tax rules. We believe that strong commitment to addressing these areas is essential. We welcome the progress made so far, as outlined by the Prime Minister. However, we urge the Government to ensure that the overseas territories and Crown dependencies introduce central beneficial ownership registries as soon as possible, in accordance with the Prime Minister's statement. Discussions and decisions on international cooperation in tax matters need to be made within an inclusive body, such as the UN, rather than just the OECD, whose membership includes only developed countries. If there is a need for greater financial expertise, then it could work together with (for example) the IMF, whose membership also encompasses almost the entire globe. We are addressing this area in more detail in our ongoing inquiry into 'Tackling Corruption Overseas'. (Paragraph 29)

### Encouraging private investment

5. We welcome DFID's commitment to encouraging private sector investment in developing and fragile states. We acknowledge that this will be essential for countries wishing to make progress towards the SDGs, contributing to the agenda by creating jobs, increasing incomes, providing services and increasing resilience. However, where private investment is encouraged by DFID or other arms of the UK Government in developing countries, we highlight the need for the UK Government

to continue to champion sustainable and inclusive, pro-poor growth, as a way to combat extreme poverty and build more prosperous and equitable economies. (Paragraph 34)

6. *The Government must ensure that the work it carries out to encourage private sector investment, through CDC, the Prosperity Fund and other initiatives, is focused on developing and fragile states that need most support. When considering an investment, CDC must actively and explicitly consider whether it will have a positive impact on the achievement of the SDGs (and thus poverty reduction) in that country, and only take forward those investments that it believes will align with progress towards the Goals. They should then report back on the impact of its work on the SDGs in its annual report. The Prosperity Fund must require bids to outline the impact of the project on the achievement of the SDGs, and to report back on its contribution to progress within its project reports.* (Paragraph 35)

### Maximising the capital markets

7. We recognise the potential—and need—to harness the trillions of dollars tied up in the capital markets to achieve the SDGs. London is the world’s leading financial centre, meaning that the UK Government is in a strong and unique position to look at how this could be done. (Paragraph 40)
8. *We recommend that DFID and other relevant government departments, such as the Treasury and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, enter into discussions with the London Stock Exchange and the City of London to discuss how they might work together to create better incentives for sustainable development in the capital markets. We propose that the Government report back to us on their efforts in this regard in a year’s time.* (Paragraph 41)

### Multilateral organisations

9. Working through, and in partnership with, multilateral organisations seems logical and beneficial in the context of the SDGs. Achieving progress on global public goods such as environmental sustainability and financial stability will require strong multilateral collaboration. We encourage the Government to continue to work through and with multilaterals to achieve the SDGs as it encourages global cooperation, the sharing of ideas and innovation, an extension of influence for member states, and the ability to use their extensive networks to broaden the reach of development spending. We note that allocation of significant funds from DFID to multilaterals gives the UK a greater influence in their policies and programming. (Paragraph 49)
10. At the same time, we recognise the concerns over DFID’s ability to ensure that multilateral programmes are targeted towards the poorest countries, tailored to the context and represent value for money equivalent to its bilateral expenditure. We welcome DFID’s continued close monitoring of expenditure through multilateral organisations, by performing the Multilateral Aid Review, to ensure continued value for money. (Paragraph 50)

11. *Following the forthcoming Multilateral Aid Review, DFID should lay out exactly how its engagement with multilaterals will help it support the achievement of the SDGs, either within the MAR document itself or an alternative strategy document. (Paragraph 51)*

### Civil society organisations

12. Civil society organisations—from the global north and global south—have a vital part to play in the achievement of the SDGs, through communicating and implementing the Goals, and holding governments to account on progress. We hope the crucial role of civil society in achieving the Goals will be recognised by the Government in the upcoming Civil Society Partnership Review, and that they will work closely with civil society organisations on the implementation of the Goals, both at home and overseas. It is also crucial for civil society organisations to be able to operate free from violence, intimidation and repressive legislative restrictions. We are concerned at the number of reports we have received of a reduction in the space for civil society to operate in a broad number of countries, including a number of countries in receipt of UK Aid. We urge the UK Government to use its links with governments across the world, (through DFID, FCO, MOD, BIS, Home Office and others) to communicate the importance of protecting and enhancing a vibrant civil society to ensure its vital role towards achieving the SDGs agenda. (Paragraph 56)
13. *We recommend that DFID look closely at its civil society funding mechanisms to ensure:*
  - a) *small NGOs, particularly in the Global South, are not being discriminated against because of difficulties in disbursing and managing small amounts of money, and that they are not restricted due to levels of funding sources being external to the countries in which they operate;*
  - b) *innovation and collaboration to achieve the SDGs are encouraged through flexible funding and reporting;*
  - c) *CSOs are able to undertake the important task of communicating the SDGs to citizens across the world so that governments are held to account on progress. (Paragraph 57)*

### The private sector

14. We welcome DFID's commitment to engaging the private sector in the SDGs agenda, from large corporations all the way down to SMEs, as the Goals are relevant to them all. However, there is still a long way to go to get a wide range of companies engaged, and the agenda is not just relevant to those businesses engaging in developing countries, but to all businesses. A very strong business case needs to be developed to encourage the private sector to take the Goals on board and incorporate them into their usual business practices. (Paragraph 62)
15. *The UK Government should take a leading role in communicating the SDGs to a wide private sector audience in the UK, including through leading business organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Federation of Small*

*Business (FSB). It should use the expertise housed within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) to support the newly formed Business and Sustainable Development Commission in devising a comprehensive business case for private sector engagement with the Goals. As a part of this, the Government should support the development of international benchmarks against the SDGs to enable companies to monitor and report on their progress against relevant targets. (Paragraph 63)*

16. *We recommend that DFID ensure a clear line of accountability through its own procurement chains, to ensure that its private sector partners are being held to a clear set of standards on mainstreaming the SDGs into their working practices, and maintaining the same high levels of transparency in the use of public funds that are required of civil society and multilateral organisations. (Paragraph 64)*

### Local government

17. The Local Government Association's engagement with the SDGs is very welcome, as local implementation of the Goals will be crucial to ensure that no one is left behind. We welcome their offer to work with DFID—alongside the Commonwealth Local Government Forum—to help communicate the Goals to local authorities around the world and assist with important capacity building work. We hope the LGA will also encourage all UK local authorities to engage with the SDGs and incorporate them into their work, to support domestic achievement of the Goals. (Paragraph 66)

### Domestic implementation of the SDGs

18. The Government's response to domestic implementation of the SDGs has so far been insufficient for a country which led on their development as being universal and applicable to all. We remain to be convinced that responsibility for domestic implementation should lie with the Secretary of State for International Development, who already faces a substantial challenge in working to support international implementation of the Goals. While passion about the SDGs and understanding of them is important in planning implementation, a high level of influence across all government departments will be vital to ensure domestic implementation is on track. (Paragraph 74)
19. Engagement of government departments will be central to the success of domestic implementation, which itself has an impact on making progress on the goals globally. As such, we are particularly concerned that the SDGs have not been included in the 2015–2020 Single Departmental Plans of all government departments as was previously suggested by the Minister. Only DFID and the FCO's plans reference the Goals. This indicates a worrying lack of engagement in, or ownership of, the SDGs by departments across Government, whose contributions will be essential to achieving the SDGs at home and overseas. (Paragraph 75)
20. *Departments should be assigned specific responsibilities for making progress on the SDGs—as originally indicated in DFID's evidence—to ensure ownership and clear lines*

*of accountability. These responsibilities should be laid out clearly in each department's Single Departmental Plan, which should be urgently reviewed accordingly with specific references to relevant SDGs by number. (Paragraph 76)*

21. *The Government must ensure that all Secretaries of State and government officials engage with the SDGs and fully understand the implications of the Goals on their department's policies and programming. The Cabinet Office should lead on this work, in consultation with DFID, and we recommend that, if it has not already done so, it urgently produces a substantive and fully resourced internal communications strategy on the SDGs to ensure that all departments understand their responsibilities to deliver on the Goals. (Paragraph 77)*

### Policy coherence for sustainable development

22. It is clear from the evidence that policy coherence across Government will be crucial to SDG implementation. Although there are some good examples of policy coherence being addressed on a case-by-case basis by the Government, such as FGM (female genital mutilation), this approach is insufficient for tackling the universal SDGs agenda. We are deeply concerned at the lack of a strategic and comprehensive approach to implementation of the Goals. Without this, it is likely that areas of deep incoherence across government policy could develop and progress made by certain departments could be easily undermined by the policies and actions of others. It also reflects a worrying absence of commitment to ensure proper implementation of the SDGs across-government. (Paragraph 83)
23. *The Government should identify a formal mechanism for relevant Secretaries of State or responsible Ministers to come together regularly to discuss the implementation of the SDGs across Government. Such a forum would ensure engagement from all departments at the highest political level. It should be used initially to discuss how the SDGs can be implemented coherently across Government, but could develop into a forum for discussion of particular areas of the agenda at regular, and defined, intervals. This would enable areas of policy incoherence to be flagged at an early stage, and dealt with at the highest level. We ask that the Government outline in their response the form that this mechanism will take. (Paragraph 84)*
24. *Reporting on policy coherence must be strengthened to ensure a more comprehensive approach. Current provisions under the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006 are insufficient and place the full burden of reporting on DFID, rather than making it a cross-government responsibility. The Government should commit to producing a biennial report on policy coherence for sustainable development. (Paragraph 85)*

### A national implementation plan

25. During this inquiry we have been concerned by the reluctance of the Secretary of State for International Development and the Minister for Government Policy to provide a cross-Government plan for implementation of the SDGs. Previous assertions that the manifesto equates to an action plan on the SDGs do not adequately reflect the commitment to which the Government signed up in September 2015. (Paragraph 88)

26. We welcome the Minister's announcement that the Government will produce a report outlining the international and domestic approach to implementation of the SDGs by the end of the year but are disappointed at the apparent reluctance to call it an implementation plan and at the impression of a lack of urgency on this issue which has been conveyed, bearing in mind that the Government signed up to the SDGs well over six months ago. We welcome the reference to the Sustainable Development Goals, by name, in the Queen's speech on 18 May 2016 and hope that this indicates a strong commitment to Government action to take forward implementation of the Goals in this parliamentary session. (Paragraph 89)
27. *The forthcoming Government report on the UK Implementation of the SDGs should be urgently produced and must equate to a substantive cross-government plan for implementation of the SDGs. It must include clear lines of responsibility for each government department for domestic and international implementation of the SDGs. It must also clearly outline exactly how the Government will ensure policy coherence across the SDGs agenda.* (Paragraph 90)

### Where should DFID prioritise?

28. To be most effective and stand the best chance of success, governments' implementation of the SDGs must be aligned to existing national priorities. National implementation must be a country-led process with opportunities for democratic engagement by citizens and civil society. We welcome DFID's emphasis on encouraging national ownership of the SDGs in its priority countries. It can do this by supporting governments as they map the targets and indicators against national plans to identify where they align with existing priorities and where there are gaps. DFID will then be in a position, in partnership with other stakeholders, to offer support to the government to fill these gaps. (Paragraph 99)
29. *In supporting countries to make progress towards the SDGs, DFID should assess where its work is likely to make the most impact. This will potentially require country teams to look at all of the areas outlined in evidence to us, such as: where DFID has particular skills and expertise to deliver; where other development actors are not already providing support; where there might be root bottlenecks which, if tackled, could have an impact on a number of goals; or indeed the goals where the country is most off track and may need the most support. These assessments will be country-specific and will help DFID contribute to a holistic response to the SDGs in its partner countries.* (Paragraph 100)
30. *Once an approach has been developed, DFID should outline how it is supporting countries to achieve the SDGs within the Operational Plans of each of its priority countries.* (Paragraph 101)

### Integrating the Goals into DFID's work

31. In our recent Report on DFID's allocation of resources we raised concerns over whether the new aid strategy had reduced the emphasis on poverty reduction.

Similarly, and in light of the absence of clear linking of SDGs to policy priorities in DFID's new Single Departmental Plan, it seems that the SDGs have not sufficiently informed the Government's overseas aid strategy. (Paragraph 107)

32. *We recommend that the Government produces a White Paper on International Development to provide clarity on its approach to Agenda 2030. Following the Multilateral, Bilateral and Civil Society Partnership Reviews, DFID and other government departments will be in a position to provide a comprehensive overview of their approach to international development over this Parliament and towards 2030, within the framework of the SDGs. A White Paper would serve an important function for the UK's partners across the world, demonstrating the UK Government's commitment to the Goals and explaining how it will support developing countries to achieve them. It would also be a useful exercise for the Government, bringing together different departments to ensure there is a coherent approach to Post-2015 development policy across all of Whitehall and all branches of DFID, from Westminster and East Kilbride to country offices across the world. (Paragraph 108)*
33. *The legislative framework determining much of the UK's aid spending is also not fit for the post-2015 development agenda. The Government should use this critical juncture to consolidate and update the four International Development Acts (2002, 2006, 2014, and 2015) into one single Act. With the passage of the International Development (Official Development Assistance) Act 2015 and the agreement of the SDGs, many of the clauses within the 2002 and 2006 Acts are now obsolete. We recommend that the Government should consolidate these acts and update the provisions to reflect:*
  - a) *A legal requirement that poverty reduction (including through the provision of global public goods) is the primary purpose of all ODA spending (including by Other Government Departments);*
  - b) *A commitment to support the achievement of the SDGs, to incorporate them throughout DFID's policy and programmes, and a legal requirement to report regularly on its contribution to progress in countries where it has bilateral programmes; and*
  - c) *A legal requirement of more systematic efforts towards, and reporting on, policy coherence across Government in support of the SDGs, substantially improving on the reporting currently conducted through DFID's annual report which merely 'cherry picks' examples of collaboration. (Paragraph 109)*

### Data for development

34. We welcome the Secretary of State's continued commitment to increasing the capacity of developing countries to collect and use data. We recognise that establishing where countries currently stand will be essential for identifying how far they have to go to achieve the Goals. We appreciate the vital role that data can play in enabling national governments to track progress against the SDGs, and for citizens and civil society to hold government to account on areas where they are falling short. We understand the importance of collecting disaggregated data to ensure no one is left behind, despite the clear challenges this presents. (Paragraph 117)

35. *We urge DFID to continue to take a leading role in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, encouraging innovation, localisation and partnership to find new ways of collecting data to establish baselines and track progress towards the SDG indicators. DFID should also continue to support capacity building in developing countries, through Paris 21 and the World Bank, but also bilaterally sharing the skills and knowledge housed within the Office of National Statistics to provide support and training for others. (Paragraph 118)*

### UK reporting against the SDGs

36. *The UK Government should report annually on its contribution to SDG progress in all of DFID's priority countries. This would be a helpful internal process for DFID, to assess where they are contributing to success and where their efforts are falling short, and thus where they need to take further action or reprioritise its efforts. It will also enable us, as a Committee, to scrutinise the efforts of the Government to support implementation of the SDGs overseas. The report should include the contributions of all government departments towards progress in those countries, including the positive and negative effects of government policies such as on tax, trade, the environment, migration and peace and security. (Paragraph 122)*
37. *The Government will be reporting against its domestic progress on the SDGs annually, as part of its responsibility to the UN's global monitoring process. This report, and a full breakdown and analysis of the data (disaggregated where relevant) must be made publicly available, to enable the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) and departmental select committees to track progress and hold relevant Government departments to account on any areas where it is falling short. (Paragraph 123)*
38. *We welcome the Environmental Audit Committee's continued engagement with the SDGs and the recent interest shown by the Women and Equalities Committee. We also note the establishment of the cross-party, bicameral All Party Parliamentary Group on the SDGs, the numerous debates in the House of Commons and House of Lords Chambers on the SDGs and the substantial number of Parliamentary Questions, which have been submitted relating to the Goals. The continued support for, and interest in, the domestic and international implementation of the SDGs is clear across Parliament and should be noted by the Government. (Paragraph 126)*
39. *We also welcome the Environmental Audit Committee's ongoing work monitoring domestic sustainable development performance, which will be a big part of the UK's response to the SDGs. We believe also that it is in the interests of other departmental select committees to engage with the Goals early, in order to assess any potential gaps in progress against the SDGs for which their department is responsible. It will also enable them to push for ambitious national indicators in a broad range of areas and to hold the government to account on anywhere it may fall short on these over the next 15 years. (Paragraph 127)*
40. *We recommend that all House of Commons departmental select committees engage with the SDGs, particularly those goals and targets most relevant to their departments. We encourage committees to: push for ambitious national indicators against the SDGs; monitor departmental progress against these indicators, once formulated, and use the data produced by the ONS annually to hold departments to account on their*

*performance. Ideally, this scrutiny would culminate with an annual session with the relevant Secretary of State in advance of the High-level Political Forum on global SDG progress in July. The Liaison Committee may also wish to question the Prime Minister annually on progress. (Paragraph 128)*

# Appendix: The Sustainable Development Goals

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## *Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere*

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
- 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

## *Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*

- 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

- 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
  - 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
  - 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
  - 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

### *Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

*Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable

development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

- 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

### *Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

### *Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

### *Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*

- 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

*Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
- 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
- 8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
- 8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

### *Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*

- 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
- 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
- 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
- 9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

### *Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries*

- 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

- 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
- 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

### *Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

- 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

### *Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

- 12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

- 12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

### *Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\**

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
- 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

### *Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*

- 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

- 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation<sup>202</sup>
- 14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries
- 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”

*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*

- 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

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<sup>202</sup> Taking into account ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandate.

- 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
- 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

*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*

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decisionmaking at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

### *Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*

#### **Finance**

- 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
- 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

#### **Technology**

- 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
- 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

## Capacity-building

- 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

## Trade

- 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- 17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- 17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

## Systemic issues

### *Policy and institutional coherence*

- 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

### *Multi-stakeholder partnerships*

- 17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

### *Data, monitoring and accountability*

- 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

\*Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

# Formal Minutes

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**Wednesday 18 May 2016**

Members present:

Stephen Twigg, in the Chair

Fiona Bruce	Jeremy Lefroy
Stephen Doughty	Albert Owen
Pauline Latham	

Draft Report (*UK implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 128 read and agreed to.

Summary agreed to.

A Paper was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

*Ordered*, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available (Standing Order No. 134).

Adjourned till Monday 6 June at 2.25 p.m.

## Witnesses

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The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

### Tuesday 8 September 2015

*Question number*

**Jonathan Glennie**, Director of Policy and Research, Save the Children, **Jamie Drummond**, Co Founder and Executive Director, ONE, and **Melissa Leach**, Director, Institute of Development Studies

[Q1–33](#)

### Tuesday 15 September 2015

**Rt Hon Justine Greening MP**, Secretary of State for International Development, **David Hallam**, UK Envoy and Director on the Post-2015 Goals, and **Anna Wechsberg**, Director, Strategy, Department for International Development

[Q34–71](#)

### Tuesday 3 November 2015

**John Pullinger CB**, UK National Statistician and Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, **Harpinder Collacott**, Executive Director, Development Initiatives, and **Johannes Jütting**, Manager, PARIS21 Secretariat

[Q72–93](#)

**Dr Steve Waygood**, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Aviva Investing, **Penny Fowler**, Head of Private Sector Team, Campaigns, Policy and Influencing, Oxfam GB, **Gibril Faal**, Director, GK Partners and Chair, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)

[Q94–113](#)

### Tuesday 1 December 2015

**Ben Jackson**, Chief Executive, Bond, and **Nik Sekhran**, Chief of Profession, Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Programme

[Q114–133](#)

**Dr Andrew Norton**, Director, International Institute for Environment and Development, **Jessica Woodroffe**, Director, Gender and Development Network, and **Thomas Wheeler**, Conflict and Security Advisor, Saferworld

[Q134–151](#)

### Monday 11 January 2016

**Rt Hon Justine Greening MP**, Secretary of State for International Development, **Gwen Hines**, Director, International Relations and **Neil Jackson**, Chief Statistician, Department for International Development

[Q152–193](#)

### Monday 25 April 2016

**Rt Hon Mr Oliver Letwin MP**, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Cabinet Office

[Q194–250](#)

## Published written evidence

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The following written evidence was received and can be viewed on the [inquiry publication page](#) of the Committee's website.

SDG numbers are generated by the evidence processing system and so may not be complete.

- 1 Action for Global Health ([SDG0084](#))
- 2 Actionaid Annex A ([SDG0100](#))
- 3 Actionaid UK ([SDG0071](#))
- 4 Adam Smith International ([SDG0076](#))
- 5 Add International ([SDG0078](#))
- 6 Age International ([SDG0087](#))
- 7 Anti-Slavery International ([SDG0040](#))
- 8 Anti-Slavery International ([SDG0069](#))
- 9 APPG on Agriculture & Food for Development ([SDG0015](#))
- 10 Article 36 ([SDG0041](#))
- 11 Aviva ([SDG0101](#))
- 12 Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law (British Institute of International and Comparative Law) ([SDG0083](#))
- 13 Bioreginal ([SDG0036](#))
- 14 Bond Annex A ([SDG0098](#))
- 15 Bond Beyond 2015 Annex A ([SDG0099](#))
- 16 Bond Disability and Development Group ([SDG0066](#))
- 17 Bond for International Development ([SDG0046](#))
- 18 British Council ([SDG0049](#))
- 19 CAFOD ([SDG0045](#))
- 20 CAFOD Annex A ([SDG0096](#))
- 21 Catarina Tully ([SDG0093](#))
- 22 CBM UK ([SDG0077](#))
- 23 Christian Aid ([SDG0080](#))
- 24 CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) ([SDG0058](#))
- 25 Coffey International Development Ltd ([SDG0031](#))
- 26 Concern Worldwide ([SDG0016](#))
- 27 Dalit Solidarity Network UK ([SDG0073](#))
- 28 Department for International Development ([SDG0062](#))
- 29 Development Initiatives ([SDG0070](#))
- 30 Dr Bernadette O'Hare ([SDG0086](#))
- 31 Dr Graham Long ([SDG0068](#))
- 32 Dr Lorenza Fontana ([SDG0020](#))
- 33 ECPAT UK ([SDG0059](#))

- 34 Fairtrade Foundation ([SDG0023](#))
- 35 FIA Foundation ([SDG0014](#))
- 36 Gender and Development Network ([SDG0024](#))
- 37 Gender and Development Network Annex A ([SDG0097](#))
- 38 Generation Nutrition (Action Against Hunger) ([SDG0072](#))
- 39 Global Alliance for Rabies Control ([SDG0055](#))
- 40 GSK ([SDG0019](#))
- 41 Handicap International UK ([SDG0028](#))
- 42 Health Poverty Action ([SDG0082](#))
- 43 High-Level Task Force for ICPD ([SDG0009](#))
- 44 Institute of Development Studies ([SDG0008](#))
- 45 International Centre for Evidence In Disability, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine ([SDG0051](#))
- 46 International Institute for Environment And Development (IIED) ([SDG0065](#))
- 47 International Justice Mission ([SDG0089](#))
- 48 International Partnership for Microbicides ([SDG0032](#))
- 49 International Rescue Committee ([SDG0053](#))
- 50 Leonard Cheshire Disability ([SDG0017](#))
- 51 Local Government Association ([SDG0102](#))
- 52 Lumos ([SDG0042](#))
- 53 Malaria Consortium ([SDG0025](#))
- 54 Marie Stopes International ([SDG0075](#))
- 55 Medicines for Malaria Venture—MMV ([SDG0090](#))
- 56 Medsin-UK ([SDG0094](#))
- 57 Michael King OBE and Mrs Elspeth King PhD ([SDG0038](#))
- 58 Mr Matt Berkley ([SDG0057](#))
- 59 Mr Robert Yates ([SDG0027](#))
- 60 Mr Simon Maxwell ([SDG0006](#))
- 61 National Oceanography Centre ([SDG0007](#))
- 62 Orchid Project ([SDG0003](#))
- 63 Oxfam ([SDG0060](#))
- 64 Path ([SDG0063](#))
- 65 Peace Child International ([SDG0033](#))
- 66 Plan UK ([SDG0085](#))
- 67 Population Matters ([SDG0001](#))
- 68 Practical Action ([SDG0074](#))
- 69 Rebuild Research Programme Consortium ([SDG0081](#))
- 70 Results UK ([SDG0039](#))

- 71 Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health ([SDG0013](#))
- 72 Royal Society ([SDG0034](#))
- 73 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds ([SDG0103](#))
- 74 SABMiller ([SDG0064](#))
- 75 Saferworld ([SDG0043](#))
- 76 Save the Children ([SDG0018](#))
- 77 Scotland Malawi Partnership ([SDG0004](#))
- 78 Sightsavers ([SDG0011](#))
- 79 Stonewall ([SDG0054](#))
- 80 STOPAIDS ([SDG0037](#))
- 81 The One Campaign ([SDG0092](#))
- 82 The Overseas Development Institute ([SDG0056](#))
- 83 The Scottish Government ([SDG0088](#))
- 84 UK Health Forum ([SDG0030](#))
- 85 UK Malaria Ngos ([SDG0091](#))
- 86 UNDP ([SDG0021](#))
- 87 UNICEF UK ([SDG0005](#))
- 88 VSO ([SDG0035](#))
- 89 Wateraid UK ([SDG0079](#))
- 90 Women and Children First (UK) ([SDG0026](#))
- 91 Women for Women International UK ([SDG0067](#))
- 92 World Coal Association ([SDG0010](#))
- 93 World Vision UK ([SDG0002](#))
- 94 WWF ([SDG0029](#))
- 95 WWF-UK Annex A ([SDG0104](#))

## List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

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All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

### Session 2015–16

First Report	Syrian refugee crisis	HC 463
Second Report	Ebola: Responses to a public health emergency	HC 338
Third Report	UK aid: allocation of resources: interim report	HC 927
Fourth Report	Crisis in Yemen	HC 532
Fifth Report	The World Humanitarian Summit: priorities for reform	HC 675
First Special Report	The Future of UK Development Co-operation: Phase 2: Beyond Aid: Government Response to the Committee's Tenth Report of Session 2014–15	HC 339
Second Special Report	Jobs and Livelihoods: Government Response to the Committee's Twelfth Report of Session 2014–15	HC 421
Third Special Report	DFID's bilateral programme in Nepal: Government Response to the Committee's Fourteenth Report of Session 2014–15	HC 422
Fourth Special Report	Department for International Development's Performance in 2013–14: the Departmental Annual Report 2013–14: Government Response to the Committee's Fourteenth Report of Session 2014–15	HC 420
Fifth Special Report	Syrian refugee crisis: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2015–16	HC 902
Sixth Special Report	Ebola: Responses to a public health emergency: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2015–16	HC 946