



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**19 July 2016**

Mr President,

Australia is pleased to participate in this important forum to share and develop approaches to implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda.

This first HLPF following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda is an important opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the Agenda and to focus on leaving no one behind.

We were pleased to facilitate with Peru the Ministerial Declaration and we look forward to its adoption.

Australia welcomes the leadership shown by the 22 countries who have shared their experiences through their voluntary national reviews.

It has been invaluable to hear their insights and the lessons they have learned.

We welcome the work to date by the UN system, member states, regional bodies and others to support progress at the national, regional and global levels. We have made a strong start on our journey to 2030.

Mr President, Australia supports the UN's intention to restructure its processes to strengthen delivery of the Agenda.

We want to see a cohesive, coordinated and efficient follow up and review framework that, as much as possible, works within existing structures and processes.

We support the global indicator framework as a positive starting point and look forward to its further refinement.

Australia is also working to give effect to the 2030 Agenda, nationally, regionally and globally. We were pleased to join the Pacific Island Forum statement delivered yesterday by Papua New Guinea.

In determining how we best give effect to the Agenda, we are working with:

- Civil society groups and NGOs
- The private sector – including the Global Compact Network Australia and the Business and Sustainable Development Commission
- Our developing country partners; and
- Other development partners, including multilateral organisations.

We need to work with all these partners to deliver on the 2030 agenda.

Australia's international development priorities are well-aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Building on our existing aid program, which focuses on economic growth, gender equality, peace and governance, health and education, some examples of our early commitments include:

- Our Prime Minister's appointment to the UN/World Bank High Level Panel on Water

- Our Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy and funding ; and
- Our current role as co-chair of the Green Climate Fund and our commitment to provide at least \$1 billion in aid funding over five years to address climate change.

The Financing for Development outcome is equally important to the success of the 2030 Agenda. If we are to achieve the SDGs, all sources of finance must be mobilised and all partners engaged.

As a founding member to the **Addis Tax Initiative**, Australia is helping our developing country partners strengthen their tax systems. We are also committed to spending 20 per cent of our development assistance on Aid for Trade, and are prioritising engagement with the private sector.

Domestically, there are many Australian Government initiatives that go to the heart of the SDGs, including:

- new policies to reduce domestic violence;
- priority on Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians; and

- our National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The 2030 Agenda paves a long, ambitious and complex road ahead. Our challenge is:

- to communicate this complex agenda in a simple way;
- to maintain the momentum of 2015 all the way to 2030;
- to build effective partnerships for action; and
- to focus on both the political and the practical steps we need to achieve our goals.

Only by addressing these challenges will we be able to truly give effect to the promise of the 2030 Agenda - to achieve sustainable development globally and ensure we leave no one behind.