

# Resources for the New International Development Policy

ACFID has created a set of resources which will help inform your thinking for the Australian Government's new international development policy.

1. Table 1 comprises a reference list, including foundational documents and some analytical or commentary pieces to inform your thinking, submissions and communications.
2. Table 2 comprises selected extracts from the foundational documents, to indicate where ACFID will look to inform its arguments.

**TABLE 1**

KEY DOCUMENTS	COMMENTARY/ANALYTICAL PIECES
<a href="#">ACFID Policy Platform</a> (April 2019) Authorised by Marc Purcell and authored by ACFID  <a href="#">"Clarity or chaos? Development cooperation in a time of contestation."</a> (October 2019) ACFID Conference	<a href="#">What can Australia do?</a> (Oct 2019) Allan Gyngell AO FAIIA
<a href="#">Deteriorating environment requires development rethink</a> (May 2019) Joint Statement by ACFID and IDCC	<a href="#">'Aid review is chance to put Australia back on the map'</a> (Dec 2019) Marc Purcell
Australia's <a href="#">Foreign Policy White Paper</a> (Nov 2017)	<a href="#">2019-20 ACFID Federal Budget Analysis</a> (April 2019) ACFID  <a href="#">From Rhetoric to Reality: Towards A Feminist Foreign Policy</a> (April 2019) IWDA & CARE Australia  <a href="#">2019 Aid Budget Breakfast Brief</a> (April 2019) Stephen Howes  <a href="#">'An incoherent aid budget'</a> (April 2019) Stephen Howes
New Zealand's policy for <a href="#">International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development (ICESD)</a> (2019)	<a href="#">DFAT-AusAID integration review</a> (Feb 2019) Richard Moore
OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: Australia (2018) ( <a href="#">Main Findings</a> and <a href="#">Full Report</a> )	<a href="#">ANU Asia &amp; the Pacific Policy Studies looks at Australia in the Asian Century</a> (May 2016) (Ken Henry, Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies, vol. 3, no. 2, pp.132-139)
Canada's <a href="#">Feminist International Assistance Policy</a> (2017)	<a href="#">Diagnosing Asia's Australia Problem</a> (Oct 2015) Melissa Conley Tyler.
Committee Report (April 2019) <a href="#">First Report</a> (Inquiry into the strategic effectiveness and outcomes of Australia's aid program in the Indo-Pacific and its role in supporting our regional interests first report)	<a href="#">Asia Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue – Chair's Statement</a> (November 2019)
<a href="#">Australia in the Asian Century</a> (2012)  <a href="#">'Investing in regional partnerships'</a> (2018) Office of Development Effectiveness	<a href="#">'Stepping up in the Pacific at the expense of Pakistani women and girls'</a> (November 2019) Stephen Howes
<a href="#">Benchmarks for an Effective and Accountable Australian Aid Program</a> (Jan 2014) ACFID	<a href="#">'Why Australia's aid is a key soft-power asset'</a> (November 2018) Dane Moores
	<a href="#">Australia Ahead of The Curve: An agenda for international development 2025</a> (2016) ACFID Thought Leadership Series

**TABLE 2**

SELECT PHRASES/CAPTIONS
<p><u>From ACFID Policy Platform (April 2019)</u></p> <p>“Dramatic shifts in our partners’ priorities and geostrategic dynamics have not been matched by changes to the Australian aid program. The program is underfunded and lacks strategic coherence and sufficient capability.”</p> <p>“A new development cooperation policy and performance framework should be driven by the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure Australia is supporting the poorest people and most fragile states, while creating regional peace, stability and prosperity and the mutually beneficial relationships to achieve it.”</p> <p>[The review ought to prioritise:] “establishing the principles and priority of sustainable and inclusive development as a driving force behind Australian Foreign Policy; resetting Australia’s engagement in Asia including middle income countries, to develop more and deeper partnerships; identifying pathways for investment in the Australian Government’s international development analytical and implementation capability; establishing a framework for locally led partnerships in mutual pursuit of the SDGs; aligning the new development cooperation program with a new national strategy for the SDGs, agreed with states and territories; and increasing the transparency and communication of the Australian development cooperation at home and internationally to build domestic public support and demonstrate that Australia is a good international citizen and reliable partner.”</p> <p>[Australia should:] “ Australian Government should work to establish a bipartisan commitment to rebuilding the Australian development cooperation budget which includes a floor for Official Development Assistance (ODA) levels enshrined in legislation and with a budget trajectory that ensures levels reach 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2030.”</p> <p>“ACFID supports the bipartisan report of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade to establish a timeframe of no more than five years for increasing Australia’s funding for development cooperation to at least 0.5 per cent of GNI, and to a second timeframe of no more than 10 years for increasing funding to at least 0.7 per cent of GNI. This should be achieved and enshrined in legislation so funding floors are established for Australian development cooperation.”</p> <p>“Infrastructure – and the associated lending – must be guided by criteria which has sustainable and inclusive development principles embedded. Loans must also be accompanied with high levels of social and environmental safeguards and transparency. Debt-servicing to Australia should also not remove public resources for supporting essential services in recipient nations. It is essential that loan-financed infrastructure consider sustainability, including resilience to climate change and ongoing benefits to local communities. This can be achieved through complementary grants to support the systems and institutions for education, health and governance.”</p> <p>[Australia should] “invest in the civil society of developing nations as a means of helping create peaceful, stable and democratic societies. [Success looks like:]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall Australian development assistance channelled to and through civil society rises to 20 per cent commensurate with comparative donors and the importance of democratic accountability in our region;</li> <li>• Civil society strengthening is a standalone feature of the new development cooperation program;</li> <li>• A new civil society partnerships strategy is established by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for peace and stability building through local and Australian CSOs. This should include initiatives such as fostering engagement between CSOs and the private sector through trilateral partnerships, blended finance instruments or matched funding;</li> <li>• A civil institution target is established as part of the development cooperation program performance framework to drive development cooperation program performance on matters of building civil society;</li> <li>• Tenderers – as part of Australian development cooperation procurement processes – demonstrate how they propose to engage, strengthen and work with civil society; and</li> <li>• Local and Australian civil society representatives are formally and consistently engaged in the design of new development programs.”</li> </ul> <p>[Australia should] “commit its fair share of global humanitarian financing and ensure humanitarian assistance reaches those in greatest need. [Success looks like:]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia is contributing its fair share of global humanitarian financing by increasing humanitarian program funding to at least \$570 million every year;</li> <li>• Australia’s humanitarian assistance is allocated on the basis of need, and fully complies with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;</li> </ul>

- At least 20 per cent of Australia's humanitarian funding is delivered directly through Australian and local NGOs, in line with the OECD average, and in support of the localisation of humanitarian responses;
- Australia is delivering at least 5 multi-year funding packages to address protracted crises, for example in Yemen, Myanmar/Bangladesh, South Sudan/Somalia and DRC;
- Australia is ensuring that it closes the divide between humanitarian and development programming, to ensure that life-saving assistance is provided, while the root causes of crises also are addressed; and
- Australia increases the transparency of its humanitarian program and provides information on how humanitarian response funding is determined by crisis and by funding modality."

### From Foreign Policy White Paper

#### The Framework

"We identify five objectives of fundamental importance to Australia's security and prosperity. The Government will: promote an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region in which the rights of all states are respected; deliver more opportunities for our businesses globally and stand against protectionism; ensure Australians remain safe, secure and free in the face of threats such as terrorism; promote and protect the international rules that support stability and prosperity and enable cooperation to tackle global challenges; and step up support for a more resilient Pacific and Timor-Leste."

#### On Values

"Australia is pragmatic. We do not seek to impose values on others. We are however a determined advocate of liberal institutions, universal values and human rights. The Government believes that our support internationally for these values also serves to advance our national interests. Societies that observe these values will be fairer and more stable. Their economies will benefit as individual creativity is encouraged and innovation rewarded. Australia's development assistance program similarly reflects our values while supporting our interests. Our investment in the stability and resilience of developing countries works to improve our own security and prosperity."

"Australia's values are a critical component of the foundation upon which we build our international engagement. Our support for political, economic and religious freedoms, liberal democracy, the rule of law, racial and gender equality and mutual respect reflect who we are and how we approach the world. They underpin a strong, fair and cohesive society at home and are a source of influence for Australia internationally."

#### On Development Assistance

"Our assistance alleviates suffering and serves our national interests by helping countries to advance economic reform, fight threats such as extremism, guard against the spread of infectious diseases, and build resilience to natural disasters and economic shocks. We support better state capability to improve governance and reduce poverty and inequality. Our development program magnifies the influence that Australia brings to bear on pressing regional and global problems, including efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (Chapter 6).

"Australia's commitment to solving regional and global challenges underpins our standing as an influential and successful nation. Our development partnerships also expand our points of engagement and international influence."

"We know growth alone will not guarantee prosperity and stability. That is why we focus on poverty reduction and promoting the participation in the economy and society of the most disadvantaged, including women and girls and people living with disabilities."

"Australia will use its overseas development assistance, including through aid for trade, to catalyse sustained and inclusive economic growth to help reduce poverty."

"Where appropriate, we will work with countries to advance and protect human rights through development assistance and humanitarian support."

"use our development assistance to help partner countries join and comply with international rules-based processes."

"Australia will continue to provide development assistance to help partner countries maximise benefits from their

natural resources and energy sectors.”

“We will continue to assist communities in our region, including through our development assistance, to sustainably manage fish 95 stocks and marine ecosystems, and improve aquaculture production.”

“Responding to climate change will continue to be a priority for Australia’s development assistance.”

“When allocating development assistance, we apply four tests: is this in our national interest?; will this promote inclusive growth and reduce poverty?; does Australia’s contribution add value and leverage partner funding?; will this deliver results and value for money?”

#### On NGOs

“NGOs in particular are vital partners in our effort to encourage greater prosperity and stability in our region through the delivery of development assistance. They bring strong connections to local communities, a comprehensive understanding of poverty in local contexts, and deep development expertise. NGOs can often reach vulnerable groups that are otherwise difficult to access, such as those in areas hit by natural disasters. They also make significant contributions to 108 multilateral processes on issues like climate change and sustainable development, often participating in official Australian delegations.”

#### New Zealand’s policy for International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development (ICESD)

“New Zealand cooperates for sustainable development as a Pacific country and a global citizen. The environmental, economic, governance, and human development challenges facing our region and the world are many and complex. They impact us and we are committed to working with others to meet them.”

“The purpose of our cooperation under this policy is to contribute to a **more peaceful world, in which all people live in dignity and safety, all countries can prosper, and our shared environment is protected.**”

“This policy also confirms our support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. New Zealand will work for global solutions to global sustainable development challenges and particularly accelerated action to address climate change and its impacts, in line with the Paris Agreement. We will support an effective contribution from multilateral and regional institutions to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.”

“This policy confirms our global and regional cooperation to affirm:

- human rights, effective governance and democracy;
- the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict;
- gender equality and women’s empowerment;
- sound stewardship of the environment and climate; and
- child and youth well-being.”

“Our relationships and ODA in the Pacific will be informed by principles of understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, sustainability and collective ambition.”

“New Zealand will pursue impact development outcomes that are: effective...inclusive...resilient...and sustained.”

“New Zealand will ensure its development cooperation is effective through the following principles for how we work:

- a values-based and transparent approach to engagement;
- a strong focus on mutually accountable partnerships;
- adaptive approaches driven by local context and continuous learning; and
- fostering a culture of results using evidence-based decision making.”

#### From Australia in the Asian Century White Paper 2012

Our aid program is one of the main avenues through which we provide support for human development and human security in the region. In 2010, 58 per cent of our aid budget was expended in Asia, the second-highest proportion among all OECD Development Assistance Committee donors, after South Korea. We were the sixth-largest international donor to the region. Our focus is on poverty alleviation and assisting the most vulnerable, but by helping to build skills and strengthen institutions, we also contribute to Asia’s economic development. (pg. 248)

As demonstrated effectively in the past, Australian non-government sector networks, including business, universities, think-tanks and other networks, are a valuable resource for promoting foreign policy priorities, and an avenue for mobilising a broader set of resources. These networks can be used and deployed strategically to make Australian initiatives more likely to succeed and Australian foreign and trade policy more effective. Australia's public diplomacy efforts over time will continue to grow in influence. (pg. 261)

#### From Diagnosing Asia's Australia Problem

"On aid, two recent rounds of cuts have been noticed and the argument that 'Australians are doing it tough' doesn't cut it among the poor of the region. Australia is well below the international target of [0.7% national income](#) in foreign aid. On climate change, Pacific nations in particular have been pushing for a stronger response. At the Pacific Islands Forum last month, there was pressure on Australia to take more action or its membership would be [reconsidered](#). Australia had the [highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions](#) in the world in 2012."

"in some parts of Asia, there is the perception that Australia can be moralistic and hypocritical. Australia can be seen as willing to lecture others on their behaviour: for example whaling in Japan or, in Indonesia, the death penalty and live cattle exports. Australia uses its aid program to promote values such as democracy and rule of law; when Australia's own record is not stainless, this can be viewed as hypocritical."

"Do Australians want their country to be seen as, in [Robert Manne's](#) words, 'the developed world's most comfortable, complacent, privileged, self-absorbed and selfish nation'?"

#### From What can Australia do? (Oct 2019)

"I noted earlier that Australia does not have the resources to induce others to act as we wish, but we can still have influence through aid. This mostly comes not by buying support for Australian policy but by reaching beyond transactional exchanges with recipient governments to help align our national development objectives and shape shared standards and systems. That sort of agency, too, is becoming more difficult, however, as our aid budget shrinks to an all-time low as a percentage of GNI."

"In a world like this, it will be important for Australia to rediscover how to use the instruments of persuasion. That means investing in foreign policy and funding our diplomatic networks, our aid program, our soft power outreach – as effectively as we fund our military and security services."