

ACFID Resolution No. 3/2018

Resolution on Australian ODA and aid program Tabled at ACFID Council AGM 30 October 2018

Preamble:

Noting that:

- A. The world is changing and Asia and the Pacific growing more competitive and contested;
- B. Australia's leadership to maintain the global rules-based order and address the challenges facing this region is now more important than ever;
- C. A strong and effective aid program is a crucial outlet for representing and projecting Australian values, facilitating Australian diplomacy and enhancing regional prosperity and stability.

We express our concern that:

- D. In recent years, significant cuts have impacted the effectiveness and reach of Australia's aid program;
- E. In FY2020-21, will give just 0.19% of our national income to Official Development Assistance (ODA) – the lowest level we have ever given as a nation;
- F. This reduced ODA budget has damaged Australia's reputation as a partner of choice for countries in our region, reduced our foreign policy influence, and impacted the human security and development of partner countries.

We reaffirm that:

- G. Australia's commitments under global agreements (such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement) provide both principles and means for boosting the wellbeing of communities in our region, and for Australia's continued prosperity;
- H. Australia's aid program is an essential vehicle through which Australia can meet these important global commitments, while also creating better relationships with neighbouring countries.

ACFID Council resolves to:

- I. Engage with our 1.5million supporters and communicate proudly to them them the stories of how their contributions are helping Australia to engaging strategically in the region and the world and lift communities out of poverty;
- J. Continue to advocate for Australia to meet its global commitments – particularly to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

In the lead up to next year's Federal Election, ACFID Council calls on all major federal political parties to:

- K. Ensure that Australia's development assistance is assigned the same level of priority as defence, trade and diplomacy within Australia's foreign policy architecture;
- L. Commit to increasing Australian ODA by 10 percent each year for next the six years, as a minimum first step in rebuilding the aid budget;
- M. Outline a trajectory that ensures our ODA levels reach 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2030 – in line with our international commitment;
- N. Make eliminating poverty and achieving the SDGs the primary purpose of Australia's aid program.

Moved: Helen Szoke

Seconded: Matthew Maury