

Civil Society Statement of Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals

“Should we realize all 17 Goals, we will transform our world for the betterment of humankind.”

The Hon Julie Bishop, UN Declaration, September 2015

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated 169 targets were agreed by all countries at the United Nations in September 2015 and constitute a shared global framework of development priorities to 2030. They aim to reduce poverty and inequality, promote prosperity and well-being for all, protect the environment and address climate change, and encourage good governance and peace and security.

The SDGs are ambitious and ‘business as usual’ will not be enough. Achieving the goals will require all stakeholders to play their part – governments, civil society and business – and to collaborate as never before.

We as Civil Society recognise the positive efforts being undertaken towards sustainable development, and our responsibility to play a leadership role. It is our collective aim that Australia is seen as a global leader on Sustainable Development.

To this end, we commit to:

- Implementing the Goals at home;
- Supporting the Goals In our region; and
- Championing the Goals around the world.

To **Implement the Goals at home**, the undersigned organisations who work in Australia agree to:

- Embed the SDGs across relevant policies, programs and service delivery work
- Hold other actors to account through advocacy at local, national and international levels
- Support public engagement on the SDGs, working with and for communities
- Set targets and monitor and report on our progress
- Collaborate across sectors to scale up efforts and maximise impact

To **Support the Goals in our region**, the undersigned organisations who work internationally agree to:

- Support the partners and civil society organisations with whom we work to embed the SDGs across their relevant policies, programs and service delivery work
- Set targets and monitor and report on our progress
- Hold other actors to account through advocacy at national and international levels
- Collaborate across sectors to scale up efforts and maximise impact

To **Champion the Goals around the world**, we all commit to upholding and advocating for the *Guiding Principles* that inform the SDGs:

- Leaving no-one behind, universality and human rights, focused on the poorest and marginalised (*Universality*)
- A commitment to involve and empower people and communities (*Participation*)
- Integrating environmental, social and economic development goals (*indivisibility*)
- Working to support systemic change to addressing underlying drivers of poverty and inequality (*Systemic change*)
- Commitment to transparency, accountability to communities and stakeholders and evidence-based practice and policy (*Accountability*)

