

Strategic Priority 2: Increase peace and human security

Recommendation 2.1: The White Paper should acknowledge the intersection between threats to security and prosperity, and adopt a human security approach that enables a broader range of security concerns to be identified and addressed.

Recommendation 2.2: The White Paper should explicitly encourage a multilateral approach to building human security and position Australia as a champion of such an approach.

Recommendation 2.3: The White Paper should explicitly recognise climate change as a threat to security and prosperity, and recommend a climate change strategy to guide diplomacy, trade and development.

Why Australia should prioritise human security

1. Over the next 10 years Australia's security, and that of countries around the world, will be tested. When livelihoods, shelter and subsistence food supplies are decimated through natural disasters and extreme weather; when corruption and impunity concentrate power in the hands of the few; when citizens' voice and agency within society and government are crushed; and when conflicts drive people from their homes and there is no safe refuge to be found, the world is less secure.
2. This has been evident when we see how disease threats crossed borders in the 2016 Ebola outbreak. Syria has reminded us how conflict prompts people movements across borders, and a greater number of extreme weather events driven by climate change will pay no heed to national borders. These challenges tear at the fabric of human security and undermine the stability dividend of individuals living free from fear and want, and free to live with dignity.
3. These are threats that we can neither address alone, nor insulate ourselves from through isolation, conflict, borders or military strength. Recognising that Australia's security is premised on global security, it is both pragmatic and strategic to recast traditional notions of security based solely on defence, to encompass a human security perspective that recognises the true breadth of issues and challenges that can undermine security.
4. To protect Australia from adverse security implications, it is in our interests to help other States build their human security. Human security is defined as 'protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity'.¹ We should recognise that the security of States relies on the security of the individuals who inhabit them.
5. Adopting a human security lens would better link the various portfolios within DFAT: counter terrorism; people trafficking; human rights; development and humanitarian response capacity; health; bio-security; trade; and diplomacy. It may also provide conceptual clarity on how DFAT and Defence relate. The decision to integrate AusAID within DFAT was an acknowledgement of the need for better cross-portfolio clarity and the White Paper process

is an opportunity to deliver this more explicit focus on the inter-related and mutually reinforcing elements of security and prosperity.

Foreign Policy Imperative 1: Tackle climate change

There are no greater threats to long-term global prosperity and stability than climate change. Climate change is the perfect example of a common problem faced by all nations, particularly Australia. The World Bank's 2014 *Turning Down the Heat* report warns:

There is growing evidence, that even with very ambitious mitigation action, warming close to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by mid-century is already locked-in to the Earth's atmospheric system and climate change impacts ... [This] may now be unavoidable. If the planet continues warming ... weather extremes considered highly unusual or unprecedented today would become the new climate normal – a world of increased risks and instability. The consequences ... would be severe as crop yields decline, water resources change, diseases move into new ranges, and sea levels rise. The task of promoting human development, of ending poverty, increasing global prosperity, and reducing global inequality will be very challenging in a 2°C world, but in a 4°C world there is serious doubt whether this can be achieved at all.²

The impact of climate change will also be felt in Australia's immediate region, the Pacific. Such effects are likely to include fresh water contamination, drastically reduced agricultural production, and inadequate food supply from reduced fishing stock, flooding and erosion. These experiences have the potential to trigger climate-induced, and climate-related, forced migration of people from their traditional homelands in small island States.³

The World Bank has found that the consequence of not integrating a climate change approach within development initiatives could be an extra 100 million people pushed into extreme poverty by 2030.⁴

Despite exposure and vulnerability, Australia's Pacific Island neighbours are amongst those least able to marshal the economic resources to address the consequences, and poverty is a key indicator of vulnerability to climate change.

Recommendation 2.4: The White Paper should recommend that urgent action be taken to combat climate change by:

- 2.4.1 Developing a climate change strategy for managing climate risks and tracking climate effectiveness in foreign policy particularly via the Aid Program;
- 2.4.2 Directing 60 per cent of climate change development assistance towards adaptation and resilience, including support for community-based adaptation initiatives, particularly in the Pacific;
- 2.4.3 Taking an integrated approach to poverty alleviation and climate resilience, in recognition that poverty is a key driver of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change;
- 2.4.4 Scaling up Australia's public climate finance contributions to \$600 million in 2017–18.⁵

What does success look like?

6. Foreign policy underpinned by a strategic focus on human security would be characterised by policies, commitments and actions including:
 - a. Greater action on climate change guided by a clear strategy for our leadership within multilateral fora and greater development assistance support for those most affected in our region;
 - b. Advocating for gender equality in the systems, processes and outcomes through all of Australia's diplomatic, trade and development engagements while also better reflecting diversity and equality in its human resourcing, including setting benchmarks to ensure that 50 per cent of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, senior diplomats and advisers are women;
 - c. Engaging diplomatically to promote reforms and champion global governance systems that are better able to identify, and act on, early-warning indicators of conflict and crisis, including a much high contribution to UN peace-keeping deployments (we currently sit as the 61st largest contributor of deployed personnel);^{vi}
 - d. Designing geopolitical engagements to produce stability and security for individuals not just reinforcing borders or stabilising States; for example, greater Australian contributions to regional peace-building and peace negotiations in Myanmar to address the ethnic violence, and in Mindanao;
 - e. Ensuring that Australian trade agreements prioritise the security and rights of workers, land holders and communities and do not produce detrimental environmental or social outcomes; providing guidance to Australian companies on managing these requirements while also holding companies to account legally when they violate the rights of people overseas;
 - f. Acting on counter-terrorism in a way that upholds human rights and takes a root cause and preventive approach, addressing drivers, rather than symptoms, of radicalisation;
 - g. Ceasing Australia's policy of arbitrary detention of asylum seekers and refugees in third countries;
 - h. Undertaking human rights diplomacy (see Strategic Priority 4 on Promoting multilateralism and human rights).

How Australian aid can contribute to meeting the human security imperative

Australia's Development Assistance program is also a key asset to ensuring a coherent approach to human security through our diplomatic, trade and development efforts. Below is a short summary of some of the human security threats that can be addressed through the Aid Program.

Humanitarian conflicts

Recommendation 2.5: Australia should maintain a focus on fragile States while scaling up support for conflict prevention and resolution by:

2.5.1 Developing a rigorous policy framework to guide efficient, effective, timely and accountable responses to protracted crises, including through multi-year funding agreements that strategically address the root causes and chronic indicators of crisis;

2.5.2 Increasing support for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions relating to women, peace and security and the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–18, including through a dedicated budget allocation;

2.5.3 Increasing funding support for women's organisations, networks and coalitions, generally, and those that address the Women, Peace and Security agenda;

2.5.4 Maintaining a focus on bilateral aid directed to fragile States with a focus on programing to improve aid effectiveness, build civil society capacity, and strengthen institutions and the business environment.

Movement of people

Recommendation 2.6: Australia should address root causes of people movements and contribute to global processes to address people's movements within and across borders by:

2.6.1 Taking a rights-based, equitable and humane approach to people on the move;

2.6.2 Responding at scale to regional spikes in violence, human rights abuses, or conflicts to restore the necessary conditions for human security and prevent voluntary or forced people movements;

2.6.3 Demonstrating leadership by proactively supporting the establishment of a regional protection framework for asylum seekers and refugees in South East Asia, through re-energised engagement with new or existing multilateral fora;

2.6.4 Addressing children on the move as a unique category, considered primarily by their status *as children*, and ensuring that the protections of the Convention of the Rights of the Child are fully upheld;

2.6.5 Increasing Australia's humanitarian intake to 30,000 by 2018–19 with flexibility to accommodate spikes in regional or global refugee numbers.

¹ United Nations, Human Security Unit. *Human Security in Theory and Practice: An overview of the Human Security Concept and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security*, p. 5.
http://www.un.org/humansecurity/sites/www.un.org.humansecurity/files/human_security_in_theory_and_practice_english.pdf, accessed 17/2/17.

² World Bank. *Turn Down the Heat: Confronting the new climate normal*. 2014.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/20595> accessed 27/2/17. p.5.

³ John Campbell 'Climate Change and Population Movement in Pacific Island Countries.' In Bruce Burnson. *Climate Change and Migration: South Pacific Perspectives*. 2010.
<http://ips.ac.nz/publications/files/6666ee71bcb.pdf> accessed 5/1/17.

⁴ World Bank Group. *Shockwaves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*. 2016. p.2.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22787/9781464806735.pdf> accessed 6/1/17.

⁵ Michell and Pickering, *op. cit.*

^{vi} United Nations Peacekeeping. *Troop and Police Contributors: Contributions by Country*.
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml>, accessed 17/2/17.