

Sustainable Development Goals for Australia

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Presentation Outline: Set the stage for this workshop

Summary of the State of the World and Australia, and why the SDGs are important and an opportunity for all countries, including Australia

Summary of the first and second Australian workshops (workshops were also held in Malaysia and Indonesia)

Summary of the International Policy Processes related to the SDGs

Comparison of the Suggested SDG goals and targets for Australia developed through the first two Australian Workshops and those developed by the UN Open Working Group

Brief discussion of indicators, financing and declarations

Potential Workshop Statement

Why the SDGs are needed: the global situation

- We have an inequitable world, both within and between countries
- We have unacceptable levels of:
 - poverty and income inequality
 - hunger and malnutrition
 - ill-health and premature deaths
 - illiteracy
 - gender, racial and religious discrimination
 - violence within and between communities and nations
 - a lack of access to clean water, sanitation and modern/clean energy
- The world is on an unsustainable pathway:
 - production and consumption patterns
 - economic systems
 - cities
- We have ineffective governance systems
- We are witnessing rapid environmental changes (local, regional and global)

Why the SDGs are important for Australia

The Sustainable Australia Report 2013 reported that: (i) Australia is in a good position and has made great progress in many areas, including rising incomes, low unemployment, longer life expectancy, increasing levels of educational attainment and performance, relatively low crime levels, increasing levels of community participation, improvements in water efficiency and good air quality; and (ii) overall, Australia is ranked second in the world on the Human Development Index and first on the OECD “Your Better Life Index”.

However, some key issues for Australia need to be considered particularly around rising inequality and environmental impact. Given current trends in the indicators and global and regional “megatrends” and drivers, the report identified key challenges for Australia, including:

- reducing the link between educational performance and disadvantage
- boosting innovation and connectivity in Australian businesses
- planning for an ageing population
- planning more sustainable cities
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change
- reducing the environmental impact of economic growth
- protecting biodiversity and ecosystems
- sustainable food and agriculture
- tackling inequality and disadvantage

Why are SDGs important for Australia?

- The Sustainable Australia report 2013 and the Measures of Australia's progress report both show that while Australia was in a good position, there are reasons for concern and continuing business-as-usual will likely lead to a decline in economic prosperity for many Australian's, increased inequities, and a degradation of the environment which underpins economic growth – these problems are being realized by most other countries and hence addressed in the proposed OWG SDGs
- Hence, it is Australia's self interest to chart a new vision and strategy for the future, with Government, business and civil society all working together
- Given no country is an island unto itself, and the world is becoming increasingly inter-connected, an Australian strategy must place Australia in the regional context of an ever-more powerful Asian economy as well as the global context (workshops in Malaysia and Indonesia addressed the SDGs)
- Australia is well-positioned to succeed but actions are needed by all stakeholders, especially Government and business – the proposed SDGs can provide the framework for success

Summary of the findings from the first Australian Workshop

- There is a need to depoliticize and promote a common understanding of sustainability
- Create a limited integrated and cohesive set of SDGs, which should integrate social, economic and environmental considerations
- Strong governance is critical, nationally and globally, with young people playing a significant role in achieving change
- One focus for Australia is how a set of SGDs relate to Australia's indigenous communities – these should be developed in partnership with, and based on the self-identified needs and solutions of, indigenous communities – **consistent with the concept of no one left behind – a key principle of the OWGs**
- Business should play a lead role in sustainable development as sustainability in its various forms is good business (a business workshop convened by MSI and the Global Compact Network Australia was held in February 2015)
- Key sustainability issues for Australia include water, energy, food, cities, education, health and social inclusion and move away from GDP being the sole measure of economic performance for Australia

Summary of the findings from the second Australian workshop

- A series of ten thematic concept papers were discussed and further developed that set out the global and Australian challenges, and a proposed set of goals, targets and, in a few cases, indicators for Australia – however, most of the targets were not quantified
- A paper that identified synergies and trade-offs among the individual goals and suggested common targets was discussed and further developed

For example,

- Agriculture and food security are linked to: (i) health; (ii) education; (iii) economic prosperity (e.g., trade); (iv) water quantity and quality; (v) environmental conditions (air quality, climate change and ecosystem health); (vi) energy; (vii) social inclusion and gender; (viii) governance; and (ix) cities
- Health is linked to: (i) economic prosperity (e.g., employment); (ii) water quantity and quality, and sanitation; (iii) education; (iv) gender equality; (v) nutrition and population dynamics; (vi) energy; (vii) social inclusion and gender; (viii) environmental conditions (air quality, climate change and ecosystem health); and (ix) cities

Example of a Proposed MSI SDG Goal

Goal 1: Ensure food security, good nutrition and a sustainable food system

Ensure all Australians have safe, nutritious and affordable food (no-one goes to bed hungry) and our food resources, and skills, contribute to world food security. Ensure the agriculture sector in Australia is managed sustainably using innovative practices that improve productive and environmental outcomes.

Target 1a Ensure everyone in Australia has access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food, e.g., Ensure all people have a daily intake of x calories per day of affordable nutritious food

Target 1b Ensure agriculture practices are productive and sustainable based on high efficiency use of water, land, nutrients and energy, e.g., (i) Increase Australia's sustainable agricultural productivity by xx% by 2030; (ii) Improve soil health, including erosion, soil acidification, soil carbon stores and soil salinity grades by location by xx; (iii) Increase the profit margin for farmers and the value of Australia's agriculture exports from sustainably produced agriculture by xx% (in real terms) by 2030; (iv) Decrease the run-off of agricultural effluents, sediments, and chemicals (site specific); (v) Reduce energy/carbon intensity of agriculture and food systems (reducing GHG emissions, increasing energy security, protecting viability of food system and biodiversity); (vi) Reduce the use of fossil-based chemicals in agricultural production; and (vii) Increase investment by government and private sector in agricultural research and development

Target 1c Increase the resilience of agricultural businesses and their dependent communities to changes in the global environment, including markets, climate change, drought, flood and fire

Target 1d Adopt sustainable ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels, e.g., 100% of fish stock under Australian Government control are classified as "not overfished"

Target 1e Reduce loss and waste throughout the food production value chains, e.g., Post-harvest loss is reduced from xx% to xx

Examples of potential Inter-linkages among the proposed goals

	Energy security and low-carbon economy	Water security	Human health	Social inclusion and gender	Education	Sustainable economic growth	Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Governance	Cities
Food security and agriculture	Reduced energy / carbon intensity of agriculture (agri-chemicals and mechanisation) and food systems reduces GHG emissions and increases energy security	Increased water use efficiency improves water security Reduced agricultural run-off improves water quality Clean rivers and lakes increase fish production	Affordable nutritious food and a good diet reduce hunger and obesity and the incidence of NCDs Reduced water pollution from agriculture improve human health	Affordable nutritious food is crucial for the poor and for disadvantaged communities	Affordable nutritious food for school children improves their ability to learn A populace educated about healthy living and nutritious diets	Agriculture is a source of wealth creation and employment Rural development policies can stimulate the agricultural sector	Increased agricultural production through intensification or the increased use of chemical inputs can cause biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation	Reduced trade barriers and subsidies will stimulate efficient agricultural systems	Urban agriculture can complement rural agricultural supply An efficient food system is needed to feed an urban population

Potential targets to address the inter-linkages

	Energy security and a low-carbon economy	Water security	Human health	Social inclusion and gender	Education	Sustainable economic growth	Biodiversity and ecosystem services	Governance	Cities
Food security and agriculture	Reduce GHG emissions and improve energy efficiency in agriculture and the food system Reduce the use of fossil based chemicals	Increase agricultural water use efficiency by x% by... Decrease agricultural chemical inputs into water bodies by x% by...	Reduce hunger and obesity by x% and y% by... Decrease agricultural chemical inputs into water bodies by x% by...	Ensure all people have a daily intake of x calories per day of affordable nutritious food by...	Ensure every child has a nutritious breakfast through school meal programs (P) by... Every child learns about healthy diet	Increase the value of agricultural exports by x% from sustainably produced agriculture by...	Eliminate agricultural intensification and restore x% of degraded lands by...	Eliminate all agricultural production subsidies Provide payments for Ecosystem services (PES) to farmers by...	Increase publicly available allotments by x% by...

Examples of six key inter-linked targets

- Improving energy efficiency in agricultural and food systems, reduces costs in these sectors, increases energy security and reduces greenhouse gas emissions – thus addressing three goals
- Increasing water-use efficiency in the agricultural sector reduces costs to farmers, contributes to water security and is an essential adaptation measure to human-induced climate change
- Ensuring every child has a nutritious breakfast through a school meals program contributes to the child's food and nutritional security, a social equity issue, and has well-demonstrated educational benefits
- Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and providing short-term financial incentives to overcome market barriers for energy efficient and renewable energy technologies would contribute to catalyzing a transition to a low-carbon economy, energy security and sustainable economic growth
- Promoting reforestation and restoring degraded lands contributes to protecting biodiversity, water security and reducing GHG emissions
- Complementing GDP with other forms of capital (natural, social, human, and built) would promote sustainable economic growth, protect biodiversity and ecosystems and stimulate investment in education and other social issues

International Sustainable Development Processes

- In 2015 the MDG process is scheduled to be completed, with some successes and some shortcomings (e.g., two goals which were not met were those for environmental sustainability and new partnerships for development)
- In 2012 Ban Ki Moon established a High-Level Panel to advise on a post-2015 Development Framework, and a Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- The High-level Panel and the SDSN released reports in 2014 that provided input to the UN Open Working Group
- Governments at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 established an Intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) to advise the General Assembly on a set of Sustainable Development Goals, applicable to all nations – their report was presented to the General Assembly in September 2014

OWG Goals and links to MSI goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere (targets within MSI 5)
2. End hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture (MSI 1)
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (MSI 4)
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all (MSI 6 and targets within MSI 5)
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (targets within MSI 5)
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (MSI 3)
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all (MSI 2)
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (MSI 7 and targets within MSI 5)
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (no equiv MSI)
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries (no equiv MSI, but targets within MSI 5)
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (MSI 10)
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (No equiv MSI but one target within MSI 1)
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (MSI 2)
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (MSI 8 reflects this goal)
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (MSI 8 reflects this goal)
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (MSI 9)
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (No equiv MSI but one target within MSI 9)

Proposed SDG Goals for Australia with links to OWG goals

1. Ensure food security, good nutrition and a sustainable food system (OWG #2)
2. Curb human-induced climate change, including through an affordable and sustainable low-emissions energy system (OWG #7 and #12)
3. Ensure water is managed to sustain people and the environment (OWG #6)
4. Ensure healthy lives (OWG #3)
5. Achieve social inclusion, respect and equity for indigenous people, gender equality, peaceful and inclusive societies, and human rights for all (OWG #“1” and #5)
6. Ensure quality education and lifelong learning (OWG #4)
7. Achieve a sustainable and inclusive economy (OWG #8)
8. Achieve healthy and productive ecosystems (OWG #14 and #15)
9. Ensure good governance (OWG #16)
10. Empower inclusive, productive and resilient cities (OWG #11)

- Elements of OWG 1 (End Extreme Poverty in all its forms everywhere) are incorporated into #5;
- No equivalent to OWG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), but clearly some aspects are relevant to Australia
- No equivalent to OWG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), but clearly relevant to Australia - some elements are incorporated into #7 and #9
- OWGs 14 and 15 are equivalent to #8
- No equivalent of OWG 17 (strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development: means of implementation)

Comparison of OWG and Australian SDG targets

2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	MSI 1 reflects this goal	1. Ensure food security, good nutrition and a sustainable food system
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	The most relevant MSI target is 1a – but needs to be quantified	1a Ensure everyone in Australia has access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	Not addressed in MSI SDGs - relevant in some indigenous communities in Australia – check Closing the Gap for relevant targets	
2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	MSI SDG 1b reflects this goal, but needs to be quantified	1b Ensure agriculture practices are productive and sustainable based on high efficiency use of water, land, nutrients and energy
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	MSI SDG 1b and 1c reflect this goal but need to be quantified	1b Ensure agriculture practices are productive and sustainable based on high efficiency use of water, land, nutrients and energy 1c Increase the resilience of agricultural businesses and their dependent communities to changes in the global environment, including markets, climate change, drought, flood and fire
2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed	No matching MSI target	

UN Indicators for the SDGs

Significant amount of work has been initiated to develop a set of indicators for the SDGs and their targets:

- The Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) has been charged with providing the necessary statistical support for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda
- The UNSC endorsed the formation of an Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), consisting of national statistical offices, plus regional and international organizations and agencies as observers
- The IAEG-SDGs is charged with fully developing a proposal for the indicator framework for the monitoring the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets at the global level
- An initial assessment of 304 proposed “provisional indicators” has been developed, with an assessment of their feasibility, suitability and relevance, hence a rating of AAA would mean the indicator is easily feasible, suitable and very relevant to measure a respective target and proposed by 60% or more of national statistical offices
- In general there are 2 indicators per target, and only 16% were evaluate as AAA

OWG Goal 2: Food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture

Target	Indicators	Global Rating (UN)	Australian Rating (ABS)
2.1 Access to food	2.1.1 Undernourishment 2.1.2 Food insecurity	BAA CBB	BAA CBA
2.2 Malnutrition and nutrition	2.2.1 Stunting 2.2.2 Overweight children	BAA BAA	BAA AAA
2.3 Agricultural productivity and access to land	2.3.1 Agricultural production per hectare	BBB	BCC
2.4 Sustainable food production	2.4.1 Greenhouse gas emissions 2.4.2 Absolute levels of emissions	BBB BBB	BBB ABB
2.5 Genetic diversity	2.5.1 Ex-situ crop collections indicator 2.5.2 Extinction risk	CBB BBB	BBB BBB
2.a Agricultural production	2.a.1 Agriculture Orientation Index	BBB	CCB
2.b Agricultural trade restrictions	2.b.1 Trade restrictive and distortive measures	CBB	CCC
2.c Food commodity markets	2.c.1 Indicator of (food) Price Anomalies	CBB	ACB

SDSN Indicators for the SDGs

- The SDSN has developed set of 100 global monitoring indicators that all nations would monitor and report (unless the indicator is irrelevant), and a suggested list of 142 complementary national indicators, which would be optional
- The suggested set of global indicators were developed recognizing that many of the goals and targets are interdependent, thus their suggested indicator framework would track cross-cutting issues
- The report suggests 10 principles for the global monitoring indicators: (i) limited in number and globally harmonized; (ii) simple, single-variable indicators, with straightforward policy implications; (iii) allow for high-frequency monitoring; (iv) consensus-based, in line with international standards and system-based information; (v) constructed from well-established data sources; (vi) disaggregated; (vii) universal; (viii) mainly outcome-focused; (ix) science-based and forward-looking; and (x) a proxy for broader issues or conditions.

SDSN indicators for OWG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 End Hunger by 2030	8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
2.2 End all form of malnutrition by 2030	9, 10, 11, 2.1, 2.2, 2.8
2.3 Double agricultural productivity by 2030	5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 82, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.11, 2.12
2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems by 2030	6, 13, 15, 83, 85, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13
2.5 Maintain genetic diversity of seeds	14, 2.7, 2.10, 17.5
Global Indicators 5. Percentage of women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources, measured by (i) percentage with documented or recognized evidence of tenure, and (ii) percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected 6. Losses from natural disasters, by climate and non-climate-related events (in US\$ and lives lost) 8. Proportion of population below minimum dietary energy consumption 9. Percentage of women of reproductive age with anemia 10. Percentage of stunting and wasting in children under 5 years age 11. Percentage of infants under 6 months exclusively breast fed 12. Percentage of women (15-49) who consume at least 5 out of 10 defined food groups 13. Crop yield gap (actual yield as a % of attainable yield) 14. Number of agricultural extension workers per 1000 farmers 15. Nitrogen use efficiency in food systems 16. Crop water productivity – TBD 82. Percentage of fish tonnage landed within MSY 83. Annual change in forest area and land under cultivation 85. Annual change in degraded or desertified arable land (% or ha)	Indicative National indicators 2.1 Percentage of population with shortfalls of iron, iodine, folate, vitamins A, B12, D 2.2 Percentage of INFANTS 6-23 months who receive a minimum acceptable diet 2.3 Percentage of children born with low birth weight 2.4 Cereal yield growth rate (%pa) 2.5 Livestock yield gap 2.6 Phosphorus yield gap – TBD 2.7 Share of calories in non-staple crops 2.8 Percentage of total daily energy intake from protein in adults 2.9 Access to drying and storage facilities – TBD 2.10 Indicator on genetic diversity – TBD 2.11 Indicator on irrigation access gap – TBD 2.12 Farmers with nationally appropriate crop insurance – TBD 2.13 Public and private R&D expenditure on agriculture and rural development (% of GNI) 17.5 Indicator of technology sharing and diffusion – TBD

Financing the post 2015 Development Agenda

- In parallel to the work of the OWG, an Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing was established
- The UN General Assembly launched a preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, July 2015, co-facilitated by Guyana and Norway. This conference builds upon the Monterrey Consensus in 2002 and the Doha Declaration in 2008, recognizing much has changed since the Monterrey Consensus
- Heads of State and senior political leaders are scheduled to formally endorse a global framework for financing sustainable development in Addis Ababa in July 2015
- A draft Outcome document has been developed and is under review and revision
- The draft outcome document acknowledges that there is an enormous unmet financing needs for sustainable development

SDG Declarations

SDSN in Germany issued a strong statement exhorting the G-7 countries to embrace strong commitments towards a sustainable and just world and in particular:

- In their own countries: Overcome non-sustainable consumption and production patterns
- In their global policies: Align the rules of globalization with sustainability and fairness
- In their cooperation with others: Effectively support the implementation of the SDGs globally

Twenty Swedish and Swedish-rooted companies committed themselves to:

- Make sustainable development a part of our operations and business models
- Systematically reduce our environmental impact and create higher efficiency in the way we use resources
- Create decent jobs and development opportunities for people including those who work for us and our suppliers
- Fight corruption and unethical business methods in countries where we operate

The World Connectors issued a charter: *The role of the Private Sector, Civil Society and Cross Sectoral Partnerships in the Post-2015 Agenda* – it is a compelling vision for a private sector and civil society contribution in development, and encourages its signatories to start or intensify concrete initiatives in this area

Draft Workshop Statement

The organizers of this workshop have drafted a statement that, after discussion and revision, would be issued at the end of this workshop:

- Given the importance of a vibrant and healthy economy, a socially equitable society and the preservation of the environment to Australia, the workshop would like to encourage local, state and federal Government, business, academia and civil society in Australia to embrace the principles of sustainable development and support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals both nationally and internationally.
- Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals provides an opportunity for Australia to sustainably build upon the significant progress made in previous decades in areas such as family income, employment, education, health, water use efficiency and air quality. It will also address the concerns identified in the *Sustainable Australia Report 2013* and the *Measures of Australia's Progress, 2013* that business-as-usual would likely result in declining economic prosperity for many Australians, increasing inequities and increasing degradation of the environment which underpins Australia's economic growth.
- Therefore, we urge that a national Sustainable Development Goals implementation plan be developed that, given Australia's dependencies and interconnectedness both regionally and globally, includes the role of Australia internationally. The plan would define the roles and responsibilities of different actors and sectors, and endorse a set of targets and indicators against which progress could be measured. A national conference of leaders from government, business, academia and civil society should be organized immediately after the General Assembly endorses the Sustainable

Conclusion

- It is almost certain that the proposed OWG SDGs and targets will be formally adopted in the General Assembly in September 2015
- These will apply to all countries
- This workshop can contribute to the discussion of how the targets can be tailored for Australia and what the roles of different actors are (Government (local, State and Federal), Businesses, NGOs and Academia)
- Australia has the opportunity to show international leadership by demonstrating how these will be implemented
- This workshop could suggest the way forward to the Federal Government and urge all stakeholders to embrace the SDGs and implement them