

# AGENDA 2030: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

### A BRIEF BACKGROUND

This document provides a brief background to Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Australia's commitment for 2018 and links to further information. The document has been drafted to provide useful background information to support conversations at the RDI Network Sydney Networking Event – Thursday 23 November 2017.

#### WHAT ARE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS?

*As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.*

*The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.*

More information can be found at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

#### AUSTRALIA'S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

So far, a total of 65 countries have presented VNRs: 22 in the first year, 2016, and 43 in the second year (Iran pulled out), 2017. 48 countries have committed to presenting VNRs at the 2018 HLPF, in July 2018, including Australia.

*Australia will deliver its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the 2030 Agenda at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2018. The VNR provides an opportunity to highlight Australia's achievements, priorities and challenges – both domestically and internationally – in advancing the 2030 Agenda.*

*DFAT and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet are leading a whole-of-government process in order to coordinate Australia's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the drafting of our first VNR. Relevant Commonwealth agencies will, in turn, coordinate with State and Territory and Municipal Governments. DFAT looks forward to consulting civil society and private sector partners and peak bodies closely in the process of developing Australia's VNR.*

<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/2030-agenda/Pages/default.aspx#vnr>

DFAT have engaged in a process of consultations including round table in Canberra (21 Nov), consultations with ACFID members in Melbourne (28 Nov) and also calls for case studies.

#### WHO ELSE IS ENGAGED?

Many organisations are getting involved Australia's VNR:

- Australian Council for International Development <https://acfid.asn.au/media-releases/acfid-statement-australia%E2%80%99s-first-voluntary-national-review-2030-agenda>
- the Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) <http://www.unglobalcompact.org.au>
- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) <http://unsdsn.org>
- ACOSS <http://www.acoss.org.au>