

What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Between 2000 and 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provided an important development framework and achieved success in a number of areas such as reducing poverty and improving health and education in developing countries.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeed the MDGs, expanding the challenges that must be addressed to eliminate poverty and embracing a wide range of the inter-connected dimensions of sustainable development.

The SDGs were born out of what is arguably the most inclusive process in the history of the United Nations, reflecting substantive input from all sectors of society and all parts of the world. Through the UN Global Compact alone, more than 1,500 companies provided input and guidance.

The goals are universally applicable in developing and developed countries alike. Governments are expected to translate them into national action plans, policies and initiatives, reflecting the different realities and capacities their countries possess.

While they primarily target governments, the SDGs are designed to rally a wide range of organisations, and shape priorities and aspirations for sustainable development efforts around a common framework. Most importantly, the SDGs recognize the key role that business can and must play in achieving them.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are

- 1 No poverty
- 2 Zero hunger
- 3 Good health and well-being
- 4 Quality education
- 5 Gender equality
- 6 Clean water and sanitation
- 7 Affordable and clean energy
- 8 Decent work and economic growth
- 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 10 reduce inequalities
- 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- 12 Responsible consumption and production
- 13 Climate action
- 14 Life below water
- 15 Life on land
- 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Why do the SDGs matter for non-government businesses?

Unlike their predecessors, the Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs explicitly call on all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solve sustainable development challenges. The SDGs have been agreed to by all governments, yet their success relies heavily on action and collaboration by all actors.

The SDGs form the global agenda for the development of our societies. They will allow leading companies to demonstrate how their business helps to advance sustainable development both by minimizing negative impacts and maximize positive impacts on people and the planet.

What is the SDG Compass?

The SDG Compass is to guide companies on how they can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to SDGs. For more information about the SDG framework visit www.sdgcompass.org

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Preamble - SDGs

Why do the SDGs matter for non-government organisations like BPW Australia? It matters because we are a signatory and a stakeholder to the United Nations Global Compact and we commit ourselves to being members of the civil society to improve our world

The Goals and targets will **stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet of the Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

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