



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.australia-unscc.gov.au

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
15 October 2019

Adoption of the Political Declaration for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit

Statement by H.E. Tegan Brink
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

(Check against delivery)

Mr President.

The Sustainable Development Goals embody Australian values and our ambitions for our region, the Indo-Pacific. Prosperity, stability and inclusivity.

We were pleased to join others in reaffirming our commitment to the 2030 Agenda at the SDG Summit and through this political declaration and we congratulate Ambassador Skoog and Ambassador Carey for their effective stewardship of the negotiations.

Australia is proud to be working at home and with our international partners to progress the SDGs, in our own region and globally.

We know that harnessing and developing the skills of women and girls to advance equality and empowerment is critical to achieving not only SDG 5: ‘gender equality’ – but also all 17 of the SDGs.

Last year, Australia launched our inaugural Women's Economic Security Statement, to boost economic opportunities for Australian women and realise our vision for a vibrant, safe and cohesive Australia. We are combatting violence against women through our National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

We are also developing our second Women Peace and Security National Action Plan, to guide long-term work on women and girls' meaningful participation in peace and security processes.

The Pacific is Australia's home. It faces significant and unique challenges. This is why we are undertaking our Pacific Step-Up, putting the region front and centre of our foreign policy. Australia is working in close consultation with our Pacific partners to tackle the region's long-term development challenges – including tackling climate change.

Together, we are building climate and disaster resilience in the region, improving ocean health and tackling plastics pollution.

We are also working together to assist communities in the region to address underlying causes of gender inequality and reduce gender based and family violence.

Australia is opening access to our labour markets for Pacific workers, which drives up remittances and supports skills development across the region. The Coral Sea Cable is linking Australia with Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, to increase internet access and connectivity with our neighbours. This is truly a transformative project. We are working across the multilateral system to ensure additional resources needed to meet the SDGs are flowing to our neighbourhood.

The 2030 Agenda is ambitious, we look forward to working with all partners to meet the challenge that we have set ourselves of transforming our world and leaving no one behind.

(Duration: 3 minutes)

(Word count: 387)