



St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
T: 0300 244 4000

SDG Network
SCVO
Edward House
199 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow
G2 3EX

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Dear Co-Signatories

Thank you for your letter to inquire about the Scottish Government's plans to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both here at home and abroad.

The Scottish Government will work towards the UN Global Goals by 2030, recognising the challenge for us all of ending extreme poverty and taking action to address the urgent issues that affect us both locally and globally. I see the SDGs as an important focus for progressive governments to take action, ensuring we 'leave no one behind'.

While Scotland's aims and ambitions – such as tackling inequality and poverty at home and helping developing countries to grow in a fair and sustainable manner abroad – are already a key part of the SDGs, the Scottish Government has been working to further embed the SDGs themselves in our strategic decision-making framework.

Last month, the Scottish Government published a draft refreshed National Performance Framework for Scotland. As you know, a crucial part of the work that underpins the draft is the alignment of Scotland's proposed new National Outcomes with the SDGs. This implements a pledge we made in Scotland's first Open Government Partnership National Action Plan and reflects my personal commitment of achieving the 2030 vision in Scotland and across the world. I would like to thank you for your contributions in discussing the role of the SDGs in the NPF.

Our approach means that in striving to achieve our National Outcomes, we are orienting the Scottish Government's everyday business towards the SDGs. While we have met some goals, and have made good progress on others, we recognise that there is much left to do if we are to achieve them all by 2030.

Through the National Performance framework and the indicators which underpin it, people in Scotland will be able to measure Scotland's progress towards our national outcomes as well as the SDGs. The document is currently before Parliament for discussion until the end of May and I would very much welcome any further comments you might have, especially on the relationship between the National Outcomes and the SDGs.

The Scottish Government's next Programme for Government (published in September 2018) will set out our successes thus far, what we need to build on now, and where we need to stretch further to deliver on our National Outcomes and the SDGs.

The Scottish Government is also committed to working in partnership with other countries to share experiences and learn from one another and so has put in a bid to share our methodology at the next UN High Level Political Forum in July 2018.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development committed States to achieving the SDGs through collective efforts between a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, the private sector and civil society. I am therefore keenly aware that delivering the SDGs is not something that government can or should do alone and that only through a partnership approach and genuine collaboration can we make real progress on our journey to 2030. As such, I very much appreciate the good work the network has already done in bringing together organisations and civil society to raise awareness and initiate action.

My officials will be in touch to discuss with you how we can best continue our work together to ensure Scotland's journey to achieving the 2030 goals is as productive as possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Sturgeon', written in a cursive style.

NICOLA STURGEON