

2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

Background on SDGs and 2030 Agenda

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (2030 Agenda) was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and has been affirmed over 40 times since. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that articulate global action to eradicate poverty and set a forward-looking path to a sustainable, prosperous planet with resilient peoples.

The Government of Canada has decided to make the SDG commitments a priority and is working on developing a 2030 Agenda national strategy to track progress on SDG implementation domestically ([Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy](#)). For Canada to fulfill its commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and leave no one behind, a rights-based approach that is coherent, comprehensive and balanced is needed, that will guarantee the meaningful inclusion and decision-making of First Nations in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.



Relevance of SDGs to Indigenous Peoples

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are founded on the principles of universality, human rights, participation, equality and environmental sustainability, with a focus on ensuring “no-one is left behind.” All these are core elements that are of great relevance to First Nations.

Sustainable development encompasses environment, economic and social dimensions in a holistic manner, closely mirroring First Nations’ holistic vision of development, which has always emphasized environmental sustainability along with social and economic development, within the overall framework of human rights.

The SDGs also have substantial links to humans’ rights and to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), which is the most comprehensive framework against which progress on SDG implementation should be measured from a First Nations perspective. The Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples ([A/RES/69/2](#)) identified several

linkages between the Declaration and the achievement of sustainable development. Overall, **15 of the 17 SDGs** are closely linked to human rights and **73 out of the 169 targets** have substantial links to the UN Declaration. Moreover, Indigenous peoples are referenced six times in the UN resolution ([A/RES/70/1](#)), three times in the political declaration, two in the targets under Goal 2 on Zero Hunger (target 2.3: Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular... indigenous peoples...) and Goal 4 on education (target 4.5: Ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training ... for indigenous peoples) – and once in the section on follow up and review that calls for indigenous peoples’ participation. See the [SDGs and Indigenous Peoples Infographic](#).

These linkages can provide the necessary guidance for States and Indigenous Peoples around the world to design SDG strategies and plans in accordance with the UN Declaration.

AFN’s work on the SDGs

Chiefs-in-Assembly have provided many mandates to AFN that align with the individual SDGs. For example, the AFN has been working on reducing poverty (SDG 1), addressing discrimination and inequality (SDG 10), climate change (SDG 13), increasing economic opportunities for First Nations and reducing barriers to accessing capital for business development (SDG 8), improving health and well-being outcomes for First Nations (SDG 3), supporting education infrastructure for First Nations (SDG 4), and ensuring water and environmental sustainability (SDG 6 and 15). Moreover, the AFN has a mandate to carry out work on the SDGs via an Executive Motion from the May 27-29, 2019.

In 2020, the AFN signed an agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) through the SDG Funding Program to work on developing awareness, capacity and partnerships around SDGs, with a long-term goal of providing direction towards the development and implementation of Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy.

Links

[2019 AFN AGA – 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)