



ALIA



Australian libraries support the **Sustainable Development Goals**



THE 2030 AGENDA

The Australian Government is a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – an international agreement to make the world a better place for all its citizens by setting targets related to 17 goals.

It is an Agenda that will become increasingly visible in federal, state, territory and local government strategies and policies over time, and which is being adopted by Australian professions, businesses, banks, universities, and a whole range of organisations in the public, private, for-profit and not-for-profit sectors.

IFLA ADVOCACY AND RESOURCES

IFLA (the International Federation for Library Associations and Institutions) lobbied hard at the international level for public access to information to be incorporated into the targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Having successfully achieved this objective, IFLA has set out the role of libraries in the 2030 Agenda and created valuable resources for its members, [available on its website](#)¹. The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is a participant in IFLA's International Advocacy Programme.

¹ <https://www.ifla.org/libraries-development>



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7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



ALIA ACTIVITIES

We have been working to assist Australian library and information professionals and their organisations to be part of this international drive for greater social equality, improved economic prosperity and a more sustainable environmental approach.

- We have been part of the conversation with the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) since 2015.
- In 2016, we connected peak bodies for galleries, libraries, archives, museums, historical societies and other collecting institutions with our DFAT colleagues and, in March 2017, we hosted a briefing session on the SDGs for Professions Australia members at ALIA House.
- In April, we received an IFLA grant to support a Summit on the SDGs for library and information professionals in the Asia-Pacific region, to be held alongside the Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference on the Gold Coast, on 29 July 2018.
- We put forward a motion for our AGM in May seeking the inclusion of an additional Object for our Constitution, incorporating the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 19 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Our initiatives are based on three roles for libraries:

1. Supporting freedom of access to information outcomes
2. Providing examples of success, which can be used as part of Australia's reporting
3. Helping to communicate the 2030 Agenda to the general population

ALIA FOCUS FOR 2017-2018

ALIA's SDG focus over the next 12 months will be on four activities.

1. Organising and delivering a successful Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Summit for Library and Information Professionals in July 2018.
2. Creating a report for the federal government about how libraries in Australia are helping to meet the objectives and indicators for the SDG goals and targets.
3. Embedding the SDGs in our own Constitution, strategic plan, policies and guidelines.
4. Providing the awareness, encouragement and resources to enable Australian libraries to incorporate the SDGs in their own strategic plans and policy statements.



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MORE ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This is what the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade says on [its website](#)².



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UN's 193 member states formally agreed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) on 25 September 2015 in New York. The new agenda provides a roadmap for global development efforts to 2030 and beyond.

While non-binding, the 2030 Agenda will be highly influential, shaping development cooperation and finance flows from a range of sources, including nation states, multilateral organisations, the private sector and philanthropic entities.



Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda succeeds the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but is a more comprehensive, progressive and innovative agenda that responds to the many challenges faced by the world today and into the future.

It includes [17 sustainable development goals \(SDGs\)](#)³ and 169 targets within those goals. The full list of goals and targets is available at: [UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#)⁴.

In addition to building on the MDGs, the SDGs include important new goals on economic growth, infrastructure, peace and effective governance, and oceans.



The 2030 Agenda helps Australia in advocating for a strong focus on economic growth and development in the Indo-Pacific region, and in promoting investment priorities including gender equality, governance and strengthening tax systems.

It is also well aligned with Australia's foreign, security and trade interests especially in promoting regional stability, security and economic prosperity.

The 2030 Agenda is non-binding but has unprecedented buy in as a result of consultation and negotiations involving all 193 UN member states, the private sector and civil society.



Australia actively participated in international discussions to design the SDGs and supported the involvement of all development actors, including civil society organisations, the private sector, philanthropic organisations and academia.

² <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/global-development-agenda/Pages/global-development-agenda.aspx>

³ <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/global-development-agenda/Pages/sustainable-development-goals.aspx>

⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>



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HOW LIBRARIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE AGENDA

This is what IFLA says on [its website](#)⁵.

In the UN 2030 Agenda, access to information has been recognised as a target under Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels:

Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Culture (target 11.4) and ICT (targets 5b, 9c, 17.8) have also been included in the SDGs.

Half of the world's population lacks access to information online. In our knowledge society, libraries provide access and opportunity for all.

And, universal literacy is recognised in the vision for the UN 2030 Agenda.

We envision...a world with universal literacy.

For more information

Stay in touch with us via [our website](#)⁶. Any questions, email advocacy@alia.org.au.

⁵ <https://www.ifla.org/libraries-development>

⁶ <https://www.alia.org.au/advocacy-and-campaigns/think-global-act-local>