

Environmental Petition No. 450

Petitioner: Alexandra Keenan, Treasurer - Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN)

Subject: Environmental Petition Concerning the Status of Implementation of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals

Departments Involved: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Global Affairs Canada, and Natural Resources Canada.

Response approach: Collaborative

	<p>1. What are the criteria for distribution of SDG funding, given the absence of an implementation plan and strategy?</p> <p>Budget 2018 committed up to \$59.8 million to fund the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Funding Program over 13 years (\$4.6 million annually), starting in 2018-19. The SDG Funding Program is intended to complement existing Government of Canada efforts by supporting priorities and initiatives related to the 2030 Agenda that do not fall under existing departmental programs. Funded activities are to build on or catalyze action in support of new approaches to existing and emerging issues in sustainable development across the three dimensions (social, economic, environmental). This includes funding to augment existing activities, expanding existing networks and leveraging awareness-raising initiatives, among others.</p> <p>The SDG Funding Program is aligned with the United Nations SDG Fund, which has subsequently been replaced by the Joint SDG Fund in 2020, with the same program objectives. Canada's SDG Funding Program is based on the same two principles which are also foundation criteria for funding projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. multidimensionality: the SDG Funding Program provides support to holistic, integrated, and inter-sectoral approaches to social, economic and environmental issues. This will help recognize that challenges are complex and interlinked. For example, economic growth affects society and the environment; and,2. multi-stakeholder efforts: the SDG Funding Program bridges efforts of different partners, such as all levels of government, Indigenous partners, and civil society, recognizing that everyone has a role to play in supporting Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda. <p>To date, three intake processes have taken place.</p> <p>In 2018-2019, a solicited intake process focused on supporting activities to inform development of the 2030 Agenda National Strategy with a strong emphasis on partnership, engagement and raising awareness.</p> <p>Eligibility for funding a project was principally determined by the applicant's demonstration of initiatives that would support and inform the development of Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.</p> <p>The process targeted partners and stakeholders who are currently actively engaged in Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and demonstrated the capacity to undertake work over the short term to inform Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy.</p> <p>Project proposals that support the following objectives were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• raising public awareness of, and support for, the 2030 Agenda;
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- building partnerships and networks to bridge the efforts of different partners, such as: all levels of government, Indigenous peoples, and civil society to support Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- convening stakeholders in order to provide input and views on options for the National Strategy; and,
- providing support for holistic, integrated, and inter-sectoral approaches to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In 2019-2020, to support Canada's ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, a continuous intake for grants was launched in May 2019. Proposals were evaluated based on their potential for implementing innovative approaches or augmenting existing activities to achieve two or more of the following objectives:

- enhancing multi-stakeholder efforts by promoting partnerships and bridging efforts across sectors in support of the 2030 Agenda;
- raising awareness and support for the 2030 Agenda in Canada;
- ensuring that Canada's progress on the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind, including vulnerable or marginalized groups; and
- fostering and integrating Indigenous and local knowledge into approaches and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Under the call for proposals for contributions launched in September 2019, proposals were evaluated based on their potential for implementing new and innovative approaches or increasing impact of existing activities to achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- identify and address gaps in knowledge and/or data to support Canada's efforts to meet the SDGs;
- enhance collaboration between various sectors to explore new technologies and foster innovation and investment for the SDGs;
- create resources to enhance and share knowledge on the SDGs including the contribution of Indigenous knowledge and practices in relation to advancing sustainable development; and
- establish accountability frameworks to support impact measurement and demonstrate SDG progress.

Project evaluation and selection also took into consideration SDG projects funded to date, through previous intake processes as well as, regional representation, linguistic diversity, and representation across multiple sectors (e.g. public, private, academic, non-governmental organizations).

As of April 2021, approximately \$22 million in funding has been earmarked and/or allocated to 123 SDG-related projects.

Reference documents:

- [Apply for funding under Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program – Grants](#)
- [Apply for funding under the Sustainable Development Goals Program - Contributions](#)
- [Backgrounder: Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program](#)

2. When will Canada complete and publish its 2030 Agenda National Strategy and when it does how will it engage Canadians to implement this across sectors, scales and levels of government?

The Government of Canada released *Moving Forward Together – Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy* on February 17, 2021, another important step in advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Canada and abroad.

Moving Forward Together builds upon the 30 actions and five core principles outlined in *Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy* (June 2019), and the feedback received from in-person and online nation-wide consultations and outreach.

As the 2030 Agenda is a shared responsibility, *Moving Forward Together* aims to create an enabling environment that supports the harmonization of Canada's collective contributions towards the 2030

Agenda, demonstrates federal leadership, fosters opportunities for collaboration, advances targets and indicators to measure progress, and advances a national reporting process.

To advance multi-stakeholder engagement and participation in the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals Unit (SDG Unit) within Employment and Social Development Canada will continue to build and consult with its network of stakeholders and partners across the country. This includes creating opportunities for meaningful and timely dialogue, such as the virtual ministerial event on the National Strategy with Funding Program recipients held on March 19, 2021. The SDG Unit is also actively participating in stakeholder events, cross-promoting efforts through its communications including online and social media, and supporting new partnerships and initiatives through the SDG Funding Program.

All federal ministers, departments and agencies are responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda and advancing the SDGs within their areas of responsibility. Officials across federal departments and agencies are also responsible for engaging with stakeholders and reporting on progress made on the SDGs within their purview. They are encouraged to promote the SDGs as part of their engagement and communication activities with their own stakeholders. This includes engaging with provinces and territories, by leveraging existing federal, provincial, and territorial committees, as appropriate.

Canada will also continue to pursue engagement with Canadian stakeholders on the 2030 Agenda through key international fora such as the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development each July, and the annual SDG Moment at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly each September.

3. What is Canada doing, and what does it commit to be doing, in response to the Auditor General's previous findings that, five years into the 15-year SDG process, Canada is not on track to achieve the SDGs?

The 2030 Agenda is an ambitious and aspirational global blueprint for building a more peaceful, inclusive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable world. Its central aim is to leave no one behind. Canada recognizes that more work remains to be done to advance its 17 Sustainable Development Goals between now and 2030. It also acknowledges that this is a 15-year long process and progress will not be homogenous across all SDGs within this timeframe.

The 2018 audit by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development on "Canada's Preparedness to Implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals" found that Canada lacked the internal structures and processes to engage with partners on the 2030 Agenda, as well as to measure, monitor, and report on progress nationally. It also found that although Statistics Canada had developed a data framework for the global indicators, data had yet to be compiled, therefore making it difficult to assess Canada's overall performance.

Since then, much progress has been made to implement the 2030 Agenda. The SDG Unit at Employment and Social Development Canada led the development and public release of an interim and a final national strategy and the establishment and implementation of a federal governance structure. It also undertook outreach and public awareness initiatives in person and online, and established and launched a funding program for the specific purpose of advancing collaboration, knowledge and action on the SDGs, through which 123 projects have received funding to date.

Through the National Strategy, Canada committed to report annually to Canadians on progress, developing a Federal Implementation Plan, and finalizing the Canadian Indicator Framework. These commitments are expected to advance all 17 SDGs by improving alignment and coordination of efforts both within and outside of the federal government, and improve the availability of data, and capacity for tracking and reporting on results. Employment and Social Development Canada will be leading the development of the annual report, in collaboration with other federal departments and agencies, and will be engaging external partners in a meaningful way so that the perspectives of stakeholders are reflected in Canada's progress towards advancing the SDGs.

Statistics Canada has developed and published an online portal, the SDG Data Hub, which reports on the global SDG indicator framework using data sourced, not only from Statistics Canada, but also from

other government and non-government organizations. Domestically, Statistics Canada is involved in ongoing work to help develop a Canadian Indicator Framework, a refined set of indicators established to measure and report on national data for the SDGs, in a way that aligns more closely with Canada's domestic priorities and realities.

In addition to leading Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Employment and Social Development Canada is also responsible for advancing a number of the SDGs. In 2018, Employment and Social Development Canada released *Opportunity For All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy*, based on extensive consultations with Canadians. Canada's target of reducing the poverty rate by 50 per cent between 2015 and 2030 is aligned with SDG 1 – No poverty. In 2018, Canada had already met its intermediate 2020 target of reducing poverty by 20 per cent. Canada is advancing SDG 4 by taking significant steps to make post-secondary education more affordable for students. The Canada Student Grants amounts for students from lower-income and middle-income families were increased by 50 per cent and eligibility for these grants was expanded. The Government of Canada is also helping Canadians save for the postsecondary education of their children through Registered Education Savings Plans and the associated education savings incentives: the Canada Education Savings Grant and the Canada Learning Bond.

The following initiatives by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Global Affairs Canada, and Natural Resources Canada provide concrete, but not exhaustive examples of how the federal government is organizing to advance and/or making progress towards the SDGs:

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is developing a Departmental Implementation Plan that will align departmental priorities to the SDGs and consolidate linkages that support their advancement. The department's primary focus is renewed nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, and government-to-government relationships based on affirmation and implementation of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. To achieve a coherent whole of government federal approach to Crown-Indigenous relationships, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada works in partnership with other government departments to promote respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's policy work and programming contributes to the advancement of several SDGs (SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 10: Reduced Inequality, SDG 16: Peaceful Just and Inclusive Societies, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals). This includes the goals and objectives of Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework, released in 2019 following its co-development with provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners. For example, working with Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is advancing SDG 5 by responding to the issues identified in the Calls for Justice in the National Inquiry's Final Report into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the development of a National Action Plan as well as of the federal component outlining the Government of Canada's proposed contributions. Supporting SDG 2 and 3, the Nutrition North Program introduced a new Harvesters Support Grant in 2019-2020, developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners, to increase their access to traditional foods by reducing the high costs associated with traditional hunting and harvesting. The grant respects the inherent hunting and harvesting rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada with support for harvesting activities and traditions, from community decision-making to ceremony and celebration of the harvest.
- The 2019-2022 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, developed and coordinated by Environment and Climate Change Canada, supports Canada's overall response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting contributions to 12 of the 17 SDGs. Recent amendments to the Federal Sustainable Development Act came into force on December 1, 2020, and shift the focus of the Act from planning and reporting to increasing accountability of departments and agencies. More than 95 federal organizations (up from 27) will be required to

report on their sustainable development activities, further supporting a whole-of-government approach to reporting on sustainable development policy within the Government of Canada.

- Environment and Climate Change Canada's diverse programs and strategies contribute to more than half of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For example, pricing carbon pollution and implementing associated regulations will comprehensively and directly combat climate change and its impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stimulating investments in clean innovation (Goal 7 and Goal 13), while initiatives such as climate action incentives and partnership funding will promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth (Goal 8). Supporting resilient infrastructure and innovative and inclusive approaches to industrial development will be achieved through Low Carbon Economy Fund incentives (Goal 9), which will also foster sustainable business, employment and consumption practices (Goal 1 and Goal 12). Continued enforcement of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999 and key provisions of the Fisheries Act, coupled with the implementation of the Chemicals Management Plan, implementation of Canada's obligations under the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements, and advancement of regulations to protect air and water quality and promote clean fuels, will support healthy lives and well-being for all (Goal 3), while also advancing the sustainable management of water and sanitation (Goal 6), promoting sustainable production and consumption practices (Goal 12) and fighting climate change (Goal 13). Through the implementation of domestic and international measures focused on responsible waste management, oceans protection, and the elimination and reduction of plastics waste and pollution in the environment, Environment and Climate Change Canada will support sustainable use of marine resources (Goal 14) and promote inclusive approaches to sustainable development, industrialization, and urbanization (Goal 8, Goal 9, Goal 11, Goal 15, and Goal 16). Environment and Climate Change Canada will also continue to be an active partner and leader in global action on pollution prevention and management (Goal 17).
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada is committed to the achievement of the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets, alongside the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The Department has prepared a Sustainable Development Strategy that links specific departmental actions to individual SDGs, accompanied by time-bound targets and indicators. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is also working toward its targets set out in the Canadian Indicator Framework for SDG 14: Life Below Water, and is working with other federal departments to align its efforts to the Federal Implementation Plan under the National Strategy. As a member of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, Canada's Prime Minister joined the heads of state and governments of 13 other ocean nations in December 2020 to adopt *Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy: A Vision for Protection, Production and Prosperity*, which includes a headline commitment to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction by 2025, guided by sustainable ocean plans as well as a number of other priority actions to be achieved by 2030.

As examples of progress towards the SDGs, Canada has surpassed its international target of 10 per cent protection of marine and coastal areas. With all marine protected areas and marine refuges considered to date, Canada has conserved almost 14 per cent of Canada's marine and coastal areas (SDG 14.5). Supported by an historic investment of nearly \$1 billion, Canada is now targeting 25 per cent conservation by 2025, working towards 30 per cent by 2030. In 2022, Canada will also host the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) alongside host First Nations—the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh—to bring together a broad spectrum of individuals, organizations, governments and institutions representing many sectors of society to advance further solutions for the protection and health of the global ocean. Canada has committed \$100M to address plastic waste in developing countries and enable innovative approaches and technologies to help stop the flow of plastics into the Ocean. Canada also spearheads the Ocean Plastics Charter, a global framework endorsed by 26 governments and 70 businesses and organizations that takes a comprehensive life-cycle approach to addressing marine plastic pollution (SDG 14.1). Canada is also investing \$162 million to advance its commitments under the Charlevoix Blueprint for

Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

- Within Global Affairs Canada, a whole-of-department strategy has been developed and is being implemented with the goal of integrating a sustainable development lens across all business lines. The departmental strategy was launched in February 2021 and implementation is underway. The Strategy's deliverables include a departmental mapping of alignment of activities with the 2030 Agenda, and a follow-up action plan to address gaps and challenges; mechanisms to track and report on collective efforts to achieve the SDGs; and a departmental communications plan to convey the department's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the results achieved in support of sustainable development. The departmental Strategy is intended to complement the National Strategy and the Federal Implementation Plan.
- Natural Resources Canada supports Canada's efforts to address the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the achievement of several SDGs. Its science, policy work and programming contribute to the advancement of several SDGs (SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life below Water and SDG 15: Life on Land). More specifically, in support of SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Natural Resources Canada leads on a variety of initiatives to make clean energy accessible for all Canadians. These include the recently launched Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program which provides up to \$964 million for smart renewable energy and grid modernization projects, and the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program that supports a suite of diverse projects to reduce the reliance of rural and remote communities on diesel fuel for heat and power. These types of initiatives will help Canada attain at least 90 per cent of electricity from non-GHG emitting source by 2030 (currently 82%), a target identified in [Natural Resources Canada's 2019-2020 Departmental Results Report](#). In support of SDG 13 (Climate Action), [Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Platform](#) supported by Natural Resources Canada advances climate change adaptation and resilience across Canada by aligning adaptation priorities and resources, synthesizing and disseminating multidisciplinary knowledge on climate change impacts and adaptation, identifying and addressing gaps in knowledge, and facilitating collaboration among business, communities and government. Natural Resources Canada is also operationalizing a plan to plant two billion trees over the next ten years (2021 to 2030) to support natural climate solutions and sequester carbon, including through cooperation with Environment and Climate Change Canada on habitat restoration. This initiative also supports SDG 15 (Life on Land). Finally, in support of SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), green mining and mineral exploration make significant contributions to the Canadian economy. In 2019-20, Natural Resources Canada led a Hydrogen Implementation for Mining Initiative, focused on R&D, to advance hydrogen fuel cell electric power as a clean alternative to diesel power for mining.

4. How does Canada account for the fact that other countries have made such progress on multi-stakeholder engagement while we have not?

When implementing the 2030 Agenda, all countries are encouraged to develop their own approaches that reflect national realities and priorities. The Government of Canada's approach has focussed on engaging with a wide variety of partners to encourage horizontal collaboration and innovation across sectors to help further the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress on the SDGs.

The Government of Canada has made significant progress on engaging Canadians from coast to coast to coast, in person and virtually. To inform the development of Canada's national strategy, a comprehensive consultation reaching out to more than 40,000 people was undertaken across Canada to engage with civil society, private sector, academia, Indigenous peoples, and other levels of government. A concerted effort was made not only to hear from the major stakeholder groups but also from those people who are at the greatest risk of being left behind including: Indigenous peoples,

women and girls, youth, immigrant and refugee populations, persons with disabilities, and individuals identifying with the LGBTQ2IA+ community.

The SDG Funding Program is supporting the creation and expansion of multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks to build awareness, engagement, and advance capacity building and research. The Government of Canada is also providing support to three National Indigenous Organizations (Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Métis National Council) to raise awareness of the SDGs among Indigenous peoples and communities and to engage with Indigenous peoples as key partners to foster and integrate Indigenous and local knowledge into approaches and efforts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

A virtual ministerial event on the National Strategy with Funding Program recipients was held on March 19, 2021, to acknowledge the contributions of Canadian organizations funded through the SDG Funding Program that are championing progress on the SDGs. The Government of Canada will continue to identify upcoming ministerial events to engage with stakeholders and support the advancement of the SDGs.

Internationally, Canada will continue to report on its progress through its participation at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Canada has committed to doing at least one more Voluntary National Review by 2030, and intends to deliver on that commitment. The Voluntary National Reviews provide an opportunity to strengthen policies and institutions of government, and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs. Stakeholders play a central role in the High-Level Political Forum, which is one of the largest gatherings of civil society and other major stakeholders in the United Nations calendar. Every year, the Government of Canada invites a group of stakeholders to join the Canadian Delegation, granting special access to a number of High-Level Political Forum sessions. Canada will also continue to create opportunities to engage with stakeholders at the annual SDG Moment at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly each September.

The Government of Canada will continue to engage with stakeholders through its 2030 Agenda website and social media channels. Furthermore, the SDG Unit will continue to leverage opportunities to speak to and exchange with various communities and build strong relationships with stakeholders.

Employment and Social Development Canada will establish an external advisory committee in 2021 to advise and support the SDG Unit in implementing the 2030 Agenda and provide strategic policy advice to the SDG Unit on matters relating to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda National Strategy. The external advisory committee will be composed of a variety of stakeholders representing youth, civil society, private sector, academia, and others. Umbrella organizations that can represent a variety of voices across groups and regions will also be included (e.g. National Indigenous Organizations, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Canada, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, etc.). The external committee will enable the SDG Unit to work with its partners collaboratively, with meaningful inclusion of all stakeholders in the SDG process.

The Government of Canada also contributed to the 2019 and 2020 editions of Together|Ensemble, Canada's national conference devoted to tracking progress on the SDGs. The conference represents an all-of-society approach to addressing Canada's toughest sustainable development challenges, bringing together the private sector, academia, government, and civil society. This multi-stakeholder conference is a key opportunity for Canada to connect with stakeholders on successes and challenges, best practices, as well as key trends in SDG implementation across Canada.

All federal departments and agencies are responsible for engaging on the SDGs with stakeholders under their purview. The following initiatives by Environment and Climate Change Canada, Global Affairs Canada, and Natural Resources Canada provide concrete examples of how the federal government interacts and builds strong relationships with its stakeholders to support the 2030 Agenda:

- The draft 2019-2022 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy was released by Environment and Climate Change Canada for a legislated 120-day public consultation period with a broad range of partners and stakeholders, including governments, Indigenous

organizations, non-governmental organizations, academics, businesses and individual Canadians. The final Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, tabled on June 19, 2019, includes 13 chapters that set out Canada's environmental sustainability priorities. It also contains a reference to Canada's commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda through the work of Employment and Social Development Canada's SDG Unit, and an Annex that outlines how the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy goals and targets relate to the SDGs.

- Global Affairs Canada has a long history of actively engaging in and convening multi-stakeholder partnerships:
 - Leading Canada's participation on the international stage to contribute to solutions to global challenges necessitates active engagement with a diverse and inclusive range of partners and stakeholders. Some examples of our multi-stakeholder engagement include: the Generation Equality Forum, the International Aid Transparency Initiative, the International Development Innovation Alliance and our engagement and leadership on financing the SDGs, including through co-chairing the United Nations Group of Friends on SDG Financing, co-chairing the multi-stakeholder Tri-Hita Karana initiative on blended finance, and through the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond initiative, co-convened by Prime Minister Trudeau, Prime Minister Holness of Jamaica, and the United Nations Secretary General.
 - Canada is also a founding member of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, a unique and inclusive global multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to sustaining high-level political attention on the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation. It is comprised of governments (from 161 countries), civil society, private sector, parliamentarians, local governments, trade unions, philanthropic foundations, and international organizations. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation was established at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in 2011 to advance the effectiveness principles of country ownership; focus on results; inclusive partnerships; and transparency and shared accountability. Canada was actively engaged in the establishment of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in 2011, and sees the platform as an essential part of achieving the SDGs. As a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, Canada has an opportunity to influence global efforts to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation.
 - Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy is the product of a broad and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement process. Through the 2016 International Assistance Review and the subsequent development of the Policy and its guidance notes, Global Affairs Canada collaborated and consulted with stakeholders from civil society, academia, the private sector, international organizations, multilateral institutions, other donors and partner countries to ensure that the Policy and its implementation are effective, inclusive, and impactful in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. By taking a feminist approach and prioritizing the poorest and most marginalized, Canada believes it is directing its international assistance in the best way possible to help leave no one behind.
- Natural Resources Canada supports the continued advancement, at the domestic and international level, of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by leading the international Equal by 30 campaign. As of April 2021, 165 signatories had joined the campaign, spanning more than 20 countries worldwide and including both private and public sector organizations. Participatory data collection was undertaken in 2020-2021 to prepare a report highlighting the specific challenges and successes within the energy workforce related to diversity and inclusion. Natural Resources Canada also engages with international stakeholders in a number of multilateral fora such as the International Energy Agency, the Clean Energy Ministerial and Mission Innovation, G7, G20, International Renewable Energy Agency, International Energy Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Energy to advance discussions around green, inclusive and sustainable resource development, as well as access to clean energy sources and technologies. These

	<p>international engagements help to advance the transition to the low-carbon economy. Domestically, Natural Resources Canada worked with private sector stakeholders, Indigenous organizations, non-Government organizations, and governments at all levels to inform the development of a Hydrogen Strategy released in December 2020. This Strategy lays out an ambitious framework where hydrogen is expected to contribute to achieving our goal of net zero emissions by 2050 and position Canada as a global, industrial leader of clean renewable fuels.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>When will Canada establish its multi-stakeholder platform/national advisory council, and how will this body engage with stakeholders in the environmental nonprofit sector?</p> <p>The Government of Canada is committed to establishing an External Advisory Committee of experts on the 2030 Agenda initially delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is planned for later in 2021.</p> <p>The External Advisory Committee will be responsible for providing independent, informal expert advice and guidance to Employment and Social Development Canada on Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.</p> <p>The External Advisory Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable the SDG Unit to work with its partners collaboratively, with meaningful inclusion of all stakeholders in the SDG process; • formalize partnerships with multiple stakeholders across different regions and sectors; and • serve as a mechanism for the SDG Unit to maintain ongoing engagement, as needed, through 2030. <p>The External Advisory Committee membership will be comprised of representatives of different segments of society, e.g. the business sector, academia, civil society organizations, Indigenous organizations, and youth.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Government of Canada will continue to use the 2030 Agenda website to support multi-stakeholder engagement, with a view of expanding its features to build a robust multi-stakeholder community to share information and best practices</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Will Canada properly resource, enable and encourage civil society participation in a time bound, transparent and accountable way? Will we draw upon best practices of other countries who lead in this regard?</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda is a shared responsibility that requires all levels of government and whole-of-society effort. Financial resources can come from a range of domestic and international sources, including all levels of government, local communities, businesses, foundations and philanthropic organizations.</p> <p>To encourage civil society participation in the 2030 Agenda, Budget 2018 committed up to \$59.8 million to fund the Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program over 13 years (\$4.6 million annually), starting in 2018-19. One of the primary objective of the Funding Program is to enhance multi-stakeholder efforts by promoting partnerships and bridging efforts across sectors in support of the 2030 Agenda. This funding also helps to support projects that aim to build awareness of the 2030 Agenda, increase partnerships and networks, advance research, and further Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As of April 2021, approximately \$22 million in funding has been earmarked and/or allocated to 123 SDG-related projects.</p> <p>Employment and Social Development Canada will be leading the development of an annual reporting mechanism, in collaboration with other federal departments and agencies, and will be engaging external partners in a meaningful way so that the perspectives of a variety of partners is reflected.</p> <p>Canada actively engages in multilateral forums and bilateral relationships to share best practices, advocate for, and move forward on the 2030 Agenda. We learn from other countries and partners to help improve overall implementation of the SDGs. One example is our work on data and indicator development with the United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group. Others involve exchanges on</p>

best practices such as Partners4Review and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Global Affairs Canada, and Natural Resources Canada partnership approaches are examples of how Canada is supporting and/or enabling civil society participation:

- As a member of eight regional fisheries management organizations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is committed to effectively regulating the harvest of transboundary and migratory fish stocks, while also preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by regional fisheries management organizations members (and non-members). In support of targets under SDG 14, ongoing participation in these organizations ensures Canada's long-term, sustainable access to a number of important international fish stocks, including Pacific albacore tuna, Atlantic Bluefin tuna, Pacific salmon, and numerous Atlantic groundfish (e.g., cod). Canada plays an active role in strengthening the work and oversight of key regional fisheries management organizations by advocating for robust policy tools and enforcement regimes, accountable decision-making in the development of global norms, and measures for responsible fishing. As part of this work, Canada continues to regularly consult with, and encourage, the participation of key stakeholders in advance of and during regional fisheries management organizations meetings, including Indigenous groups, non-governmental organisations and industry representatives, to inform Canadian positioning, while working towards the implementation of a true science-based management approach that will ensure the health and sustainability of fisheries and their supporting ecosystems for the future.
- Global Affairs Canada's *Policy for Civil Society Partnerships for International Assistance: A Feminist Approach* outlines Canada's commitment to working collaboratively with civil society, prioritizing those partnerships, innovations and advocacy activities that have the greatest potential to close gender gaps and advance Canada's priority objectives such as the 2030 Agenda and Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy Action Areas. Through Calls for Proposals and other transparent selection mechanisms, the department allocated \$986 million in international assistance funding to Canadian civil society organizations in 2019-2020 to deliver Canada's international development priorities. To facilitate this programming, Global Affairs Canada has implemented a number of streamlining changes, including measures to improve the predictability and accessibility of funding. The department has introduced a service standard for publishing notifications, issued more detailed information on funding processes and communicates more frequently with partners. New processes have been introduced such as the use of concept notes, which lower the burden of application, and calls for proposals for small and medium sized organizations.
- Domestic and international collaboration is essential to meeting our clean energy goals. That is why Natural Resources Canada and other levels of government along with key stakeholders are working together at the national and international levels to advance Canada's clean energy future. In April 2017, the Government of Canada launched Generation Energy, the largest national conversation about energy in Canada's history. More than 380,000 people, including women, youth and members of Indigenous communities, contributed their ideas and insights. What emerged was a vision of a prosperous energy future that balances environmental sustainability and economic interests, one that creates new energy industries and positions Canada as a leader in the lower-carbon future, outlined in the 2018 Generation Energy Council Report "Canada's Energy Transition: Getting Our Energy Future Together". The Generation Energy report has helped inform the development of Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan, which was released in December 2020 and features a suite of measures to exceed Canada's 2030 emissions reduction and set the path for net-zero by 2050.

7. Along with the previous questions, what will the Minister do to accelerate implementation of the SDGs both in Canada and abroad, and will the Minister fulfill his obligations as the lead Ministry to work toward a whole of society approach? What have been the obstacles to progress? How will the Minister fulfill the government's promises in the next 2 years, and will we report to the HLPF on our implementation a second time? If so, when and will the Minister

reveal the obstacles that have slowed our progress on implementation to be shared among the nations at the HLPF in an honest and transparent discourse?

Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, is responsible for Canada's domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To help advance implementation and advance the SDGs, Minister Hussen has led initiatives to raise awareness about the SDGs and to highlight Canada's contribution to the Agenda. For example, Minister Hussen hosted a virtual event on the National Strategy with Funding Program recipients on March 19, 2021, to acknowledge the contributions of Canadian organizations funded through the SDG Funding Program that are championing progress on the SDGs. Minister Hussen also participated in the 2020 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and hosted Canada's side event, *Preserving and Advancing Global Progress on Eradicating Poverty: Responding to the COVID-19 crisis*. The Minister was joined by Her Excellency, Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and three members of Canada's National Advisory Council on Poverty, Mr. Scott MacAfee, Dr. Kwame McKenzie and Ms. Cheryl Whiskeyjack.

The release of *Moving Forward Together: Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy* in February 2021 is expected to further accelerate implementation by creating an enabling environment for ongoing participation, dialogue, and whole-of-society collaboration to help advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Through its National Strategy, Canada is focusing its efforts on five key objectives: enhancing leadership, governance and policy coherence; raising awareness, engagement and communications; ensuring accountability, transparency, and reporting; advancing reconciliation with Indigenous people; and investing in the SDGs. The Government of Canada is committed to reporting on progress to Canadians openly and transparently and the Annual Report will summarize progress while outlining obstacles and barriers.

The Federal Implementation Plan currently under development will further detail how the federal government will play a leadership role in advancing the 2030 Agenda. The Plan, expected to be finalized in the spring of 2021, will articulate leadership roles assigned for specific SDGs, establish roles and responsibilities of federal departments and agencies, and define the annual process for reporting on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Canada is already reporting progress on the Global Indicator Framework through Statistics Canada's SDG Data Hub. A revised Canadian Indicator Framework will be made public in June 2021 and indicators will be tracked via an enhanced online platform. Canada's first annual report, which is expected in spring 2022, will complement the Global Indicator Framework and the Canadian Indicator Framework and allow for highlighting successes and challenges in SDG implementation.

Internationally, Canada will continue to report on its progress through its participation at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Canada has committed to doing at least one more Voluntary National Review by 2030, and intends to deliver on that commitment.

Karina Gould, Minister for International Development, is responsible for Canada's international implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Canada's international development assistance increases every year towards 2030, reflecting the commitment to realizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Canada is committed to accelerating progress through the United Nations Decade of Action. The Feminist International Assistance Policy guides our efforts to advance the SDGs internationally, with a particular focus on the poorest and most marginalized. By taking a feminist approach, the Policy ensures that Canada's international assistance efforts are as effective and impactful as possible, contributing to progress across all 17 SDGs. Through its six Policy Action Areas, the Feminist International Assistance Policy seeks to eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous world that is more resilient to future shocks. It enables Canada's international assistance programming to be more effective, responsive, flexible, and integrated. Under the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act, all of Canada's Official Development Assistance is mandated to support the eradication of poverty. Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy guides all Official Development Assistance-funded initiatives.

The Government of Canada believes the 2030 Agenda provides a global framework for a people-centered response to the COVID-19 crisis, and the opportunity to build back better and create more resilient and sustainable societies and economies post-crisis.

In its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada has remained steadfast in its commitment to implementing the Feminist International Assistance Policy, which will continue to guide programming choices to help build back better and recover more sustainably from the pandemic. In doing so, we aim to help accelerate progress on the SDGs throughout the United Nations Decade of Action.

In February 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched a departmental SDG Strategy, which aims to integrate a sustainable development lens across all business lines of the department, and contribute to Canada's National Strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda. The departmental strategy will enable us to build upon this existing foundation to foster greater coherence, effectiveness, and impact in support of the SDGs.