



The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

Summary findings and recommendations
from The People's Report for New Zealand



What are the SDGs and why do they matter?

For the SDG easy-read go to bit.ly/2YctPjK

In September 2015, knowing that the world is threatened by climate change, massive migration and inequality, the member states of the United Nations (UN) decided on an ambitious global agenda – *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to end poverty, promote peace, share wealth, and protect the planet by 2030. Based on 17 goals, the 2030 Agenda calls for action from poorer and richer countries. In particular, actions should benefit those who are the most marginalised to make sure no one is left behind, at home or across the globe.

“It is a roadmap to ending global poverty, building a life of dignity for all and leaving no one behind...to ensure peace and heal our planet for the benefit of this and future generations,” said former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. This was followed by the landmark Paris Climate Agreement.

In 2016 countries began to translate the goals into plans and frameworks.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister, as head of the UN Development Programme, Helen Clark played a key role in leading the United Nations in its efforts to encourage all sectors

to be actively engaged: “Leadership is required at every level: global, regional, national, local and individual...the public and private sectors, NGOs and civil society. The role of government must be complemented by those of local governments and other stakeholders”¹.

The high-level political forum (HLPF) is the main UN mechanism for monitoring global and country progress against the Agenda, and most countries have provided voluntary national reviews (VNR) on their progress, some twice. In 2019, the New Zealand government is reporting for the first time.

Civil Society must partner with government to shape New Zealand's response to a more equal and sustainable society. Progress begins at home and starts with acknowledging the place of indigenous knowledge, culture and contributions to solutions. The People's Report is part of this progress.

¹ Helen Clark (2018), *Women, Equality, Power: Selected speeches*. p 384, published in Allen & Unwin

Where are we now?

The People's Report includes 17 reports contributed to by more than 20 New Zealanders from different organisations. They share a commitment to a more just, equal and sustainable world and have individual or organisational perspectives on a particular goal or target. The reports vary in style and thinking, demonstrating the rich diversity of the sector, and their work, and focus of the organisations.

The People's Report also includes newly released data; links to reports and reviews; case studies; interviews; recommendations and high level results from a survey of organisations in June 2019.

It is clear that NGOs and others in civil society are making a real contribution towards the areas encompassed by the goals.

It is also clear that the government has not yet adopted a formal framework to guide and measure our country's contribution to realising the ambitious vision of the SDGs. Nor has government engaged yet with civil society to implement and evaluate specific SDG programmes, and partnerships, or to provide funding to achieve the goals at home. There has been some effort by the government to work with some New Zealand NGOs and businesses to implement the SDGs with overseas partners, mostly in the Pacific.

New Zealand has a reputation as a leader in human rights, a country with a clean, green image, committed to a better world and to addressing many of the issues included in the SDGs. However, the chapter reports indicate uneven progress. This is in spite of efforts nationally, regionally and locally, and progress and successes in some areas. This is particularly true for Māori who have disproportionately poorer health and education outcomes, lower incomes, inadequate housing and higher rates of incarceration as a result of repeatedly failed Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments from governments.

A second area of deficit is in gender equity. Although New Zealand rates 7th in the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap report, it ranks poorly (107th) for women's health and survival. Women still face discrimination in terms of income, senior leadership and governance, particularly in the private sector, as well as high levels of unpaid work through caregiving, household and voluntary activities. Māori women face the further burden of post colonial racism. Women living with disabilities and rare disorders; trans and gender diverse women; Pacific people, migrant and refugee women also face inequity that has a serious impact on their lives. The challenges for women are also multiplied by intersectionality, so that many women are confronted by a range of multiple challenges. Yet there are achievements to celebrate such as the largest number and proportion of women in our parliament in 125 years, and higher numbers of women from diverse backgrounds in higher education.

New Zealand faces a major threat to its land, bio diversity, waterways and marine life is also highly threatened. We have been slow to recognise the full impact on our eco systems and prevent further climate change. This will require action by local and central government, the private sector, unions, schools and all New Zealanders in a multifaceted, just and urgent transition process.

The massacre of Muslim New Zealanders in March 2019 has demonstrated New Zealanders' ability to work proactively together in the face of terrible violence born of racism and prejudice. It has proved the importance of leadership from government, communities and individuals.

The many people who have contributed to the People's Report in various ways hope that it, and the government's VNR report, will provide a basis for moving forward together—in greater partnership to implement a vision and framework that clearly link Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the SDGs and the Living Standards Framework, to create a more just, equal and sustainable future.

To achieve this we need to ensure 'No one is left behind'. We can do this by seeking opportunities to learn about what is not known, to understand other people's struggles and to act accordingly and appropriately.

THE GLOBAL GOALS



What can we do?

There is a lot we can do, and while many of the recommendations here are for governments, they cannot do it on their own and we must all play our part. This list of recommendations is from the People's Report, an alternate report on the SDGs. The full report can be found online at sdg.org.nz/peoples-report.

Government policy

1. The NZ government to fully engage in its commitment and obligations to the global 2030 Agenda and the SDGs within a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership model, and through meaningful engagement with civil society.²
2. Government as Treaty Partners are reminded that under Article One of Te Tiriti they have a duty and responsibility to protect Māori in the pursuit of Article Two, Rights to Taonga, which includes ngā Hua Māori.
3. Full participatory engagement in the global 2030 Agenda means:
 - Young people are supported to progress the SDGs by participating in decision making mechanisms, such as local government, and peace and citizenship education
 - central and local government policies that lead to bold and effective actions and recognise the value of the involvement of civil society;
 - commitment to building mana enhancing futures together, through the shared visions of hapū and community;
 - alignment of current and future policies and programmes, including clearer linkages between the Living Standards Framework, Wellbeing budget and the 2030 Agenda;
 - establishment of an SDG ministerial portfolio;
 - placement of responsibility for the government's SDG response with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
 - just and effective transition to a low carbon and low emission economy;
 - maximising the civil society engagement through full implementation of the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.
4. Government to promote and facilitate the involvement of all people in volunteering for the achievement of the SDGs in line with the 2015 UN Resolution: Integrating volunteering in the next decade
5. NZ government aid policy to continue engaging with partners on the SDGs, namely:
 - increased focus on poverty reduction; Aid for Trade strategy;
 - joining the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children;
 - fuller implementation of the Pacific reset;
 - working in partnership to reduce violence against women and children and
 - working together to develop resilience and mitigation and adaptation in the face of climate change.

A more just and equal world / Kua takoto te manuka

1. Central and local government and NGOs to work inclusively to recognise the vital role of Māori designed frameworks that address the multiple inequalities and provide solutions that are Māori led and adequately funded.
2. Central and local government, NGOs and the private sector to apply urgent attention to align housing, health, education and employment policies to support people experiencing inequalities to live a better life.
3. Government to adopt a target to increase the share of the bottom 40% of incomes by between 1–2 percentage points by 2030, similar to the most equal OECD countries.
4. Targets to reduce the Gini coefficient to 26 and/or Palma Ratio to 0.9 or less are necessary to achieve levels which are similar to the most equal OECD countries.
5. Central government to increase equity funding for schools in lower socio-economic communities
6. Agencies responsible for education and support that impact upon children to:
 - lead integrated history programmes that educate NZ children on the history of their country, beginning with Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
 - ensure that children's rights underpin the implementation plan for the Child, Youth and Wellbeing strategy and the SDGs.
7. Central and local government and NGOs to apply more collaborative and cross cutting approaches to understand and address the many causes of poor mental health, and provide better access to services and pathways for continuum of care from primary to secondary services. This also requires greater monitoring of new funding and progress against best practice.
8. More focus and goal setting are needed to ensure:
 - people have "the right to the highest attainable standard of health" and universal quality health care, through a more cohesive approach;
 - priority is placed on those with most need: Māori, Pacific, people living with disabilities and those living with rare disorders and other vulnerable groups;
 - the role and funding model of Pharmac to be reviewed, to align the percentage of health care budget for access to a range of medicines for treatment, in line with Australia and the OECD, and build a collaborative approach with stakeholders;
 - the Joint Venture to Address Sexual Violence to be implemented with urgency together with other steps to address high levels of family violence and violence against women and children;
 - resourcing of sexual and reproductive health and sexuality and relationship education are increased, including accessible services for young people, and sexuality and relationship education, with the development of national strategic plans for sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS; and
 - abortion is treated as a health issue, removed from the Crimes Act 1961 and related legislation amended.
9. Government to Implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and to implement a National Women's Action Plan as recommended by CEDAW.

10. Central and local government to work with stakeholders to change the pervasive gender stereotypes, attitudes and norms that drive sexual and family violence and gender inequality.
11. Partnerships between government agencies and iwi, appropriate Māori providers and community services need to be expanded to encourage community and cultural solutions to NZ's high levels of violence against women and children and to support families.
12. To create pay equity and parity, central and local government to:
 - increase the number of women in governance and leadership across sectors;
 - ensure greater flexibility in work places; and
 - encourage a culture of support for men to take parental leave.
13. SDG 5 fails to recognise gender diversity and fluidity, including takatapui and fa'afine and the LGBTIQ+ community. Government to implement recommendations, from the Universal Periodic Review including explicit prohibition of discrimination against transgender people in the Human Rights Act. Legislation and policy are needed to enable people across the gender continuum to "be who I am" and express their identity, and enjoy equal opportunity without discrimination.
14. Government to fully put into action the concluding observations from the third periodic review of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
15. A national homelessness strategy to be co-designed by the sector and resourced by central and local government to ensure housing is affordable and sustainable. This needs to include wrap around services to address the special needs of youth and other vulnerable groups.
16. Central and local government to fully implement commitments under international conventions such as the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Convention in Combating Bribery.

A sustainable world / He kai kei aku ringa

1. The high level of contamination of water and deterioration of eco systems must be urgently addressed with central and local funding and volunteer support.
2. Urgent individual and collective actions are required to:
 - support zero waste and carbon zero solutions;
 - encourage resilience and support marginalised communities impacted by climate change without causing further disadvantage;
 - use a gender analysis framework when planning climate, development or community activity;
 - reduce emissions including those from households and cars, and increase sources of renewable energy;
 - equip hapū with the necessary access to upskilling, and participating in alternative energy solutions for maintaining rangatiratanga, or sovereignty of their own whenua; and
 - provide climate finance, and establish climate aligned investment and finance mechanisms to ensure mitigation and adaptation at the local level.
3. Central and local government and the private sector to:
 - improve efficient public transport and incentivise the use of low or no emission; transport options, including vehicles;
 - discourage emission producing transport (through disincentives).
4. Moving to a low carbon environment and low emissions economy requires a Just Transition so that affected communities are not further disadvantaged. The 2019 report Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in NZ has important recommendations to ensure economic inclusion.

5. Central government to increase NZ's climate-related support in line with the promise from developed countries of US\$100 billion by 2020, part of this to be used for sustainable energy access that also limits deforestation and fossil fuel use, contributing to both SDG 13 and SDG 7.
6. Central and local government to reduce energy cost and hardship and enable community-owned generation and distribution networks, providing income-generating activities.
7. Central and local government to assist vulnerable and medically dependent people in marginalized areas with improvements in energy efficiency and transitions to renewable energy, thus also reducing energy costs and energy poverty.
8. Map and publicise non-sustainable practices and native species at risk of extinction. Involve communities in the response.
9. International marine agreements to be implemented.
10. Reinvalidate and review the Oceans Policy project and ocean/seawater management legislation to achieve a more sustainable ecosystem, and address pollution of marine reserves.
11. NZ's national plan of action on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to be reviewed and enhanced.
12. Supporting Hua Parakore / organic farming / regenerative agriculture with a holistic approach to landcare management by:
 - subsidising farmers and producers to adopt natural, non-harmful methods of pest and disease management; and
 - encouraging localised bio regions supporting cultural, social and economic values.
13. Stricter enforcement with higher penalties for any harm from pesticides, and immediately phase out the most toxic harmful herbicide such as glyphosate.
14. Ensure our cities and their people are increasingly resilient through preparing for short and long term challenges related to earthquakes, flooding, fire and rising sea levels, and in managing their impact with the involvement of central and local government, communities, networks and volunteers.

² The term civil society is used in a broad sense, including the tangata whenua, community and voluntary sector, communities, universities, wananga, schools, iwi, hapū, Pacific people, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), people living with disabilities and rare disorders, children and young people, the elderly, recent migrants, refugees, ethnic communities, LGBTIQ+, philanthropic trusts, unions, the private sector and the private sector.

**Kotahi te
hoe, ka ū te
waka ki uta**

When we paddle in unison,
we will reach the shore together

For the full report, go to
sdg.org.nz/peoples-report

The People's Report was overseen by a steering group convened by Hui E! Community Aotearoa. It was co-written by Dr Gill Greer and Moko Morris, Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, Te Atiawa. Many more contributed their expertise, support, connections and experiences. He mihi tēnei ki te koutou.

For a list of collaborating organisations and steering group members please visit the SDG website.

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TEU

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