



Briefing

Local Government and Communities Committee Debate: Consultation on the draft National Outcomes 24th May 2018

Scotland's International Development Alliance (the Alliance) is the membership body in Scotland for over 130 organisations committed to creating a fairer world, free from poverty, injustice and environmental threats. Our members operate in over 140 countries and include NGOs, academic institutions, the public sector and businesses.

Overall, the Alliance broadly welcomes the new National Performance Framework (NPF), and is supportive of the overall improvements the Scottish Government has tried to achieve through their additions, streamlining and changes to wording.

The Alliance particularly welcomes the addition of an internationally focused outcome, and the attempt to align the new NPF to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, we suggest the government must consider the following three recommendations to make these additions reflect the ambition of the NPF:

1. A coherent application of indicators across different outcomes

The Alliance welcomes the fact that the new NPF includes an internationally focused outcome:

'We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.'

It is an important addition to the NPF because it demonstrates a willingness that as a nation we judge ourselves not only by how we treat each other here in Scotland, but by considering what effects our decisions in Scotland have on other parts of the world as well.

The way we are perceived in other countries, the way we choose to trade internationally, the global partnerships we develop, and the development approach we take are all interconnected and contribute towards our ability to create a truly successful country. So while the addition of the internationally focused outcome is welcome, we need to recognise that many of the other NPF outcomes have the potential to impact on our international contribution.

Therefore, we suggest any indicators used to assess our realisation of the NPF outcomes must recognise the interconnected nature of outcomes domestically *and* internationally. This means that we must be [coherent in our approach](#) to how indicators are used across different outcomes to measure our success.

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The Alliance supports the use of environmental, educational and business indicators to measure how positive our international contribution is, as well as measuring success domestically. If there is not explicit connection between the impact of outcomes domestically and internationally, then we are not approaching our new NPF through a coherent lens.

2. A cross-departmental mechanism for implementing and reviewing progress on the SDGs

The Alliance welcomes the fact that efforts have been made to align the new NPF with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, we are pleased to see that SDG 17 'Partnerships for the Goals' is explicitly linked to the internationally focused outcome within the NPF.

However, the Alliance supports the development of mechanisms to ensure that genuine implementation and progress is made towards this SDG, specifically, SDG indicator 17.14 – 'Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development'. To do this, a whole of government approach is required, and mechanisms must be constructed that enable policy analysis between departments and sectors that take into account Scotland's domestic *and* international commitments and desired outcomes.

As a National Implementation Plan is developed, the Alliance therefore supports wider calls for responsibility for driving action on the SDGs to lie with a cross-departmental structure.

3. A National Implementation Plan that will enable clear reporting on progress towards the SDGs to the UN High-Level Political Forum

It should also be noted that the 11 new NPF outcomes do not map perfectly onto the 17 SDGs. This means it may be difficult to report to the UN on the progress towards achieving the SDGs. Therefore, we support SCVO's recommendation that: *The Scottish Government develops a National Implementation Plan that outlines how the revised National Performance Framework will support reporting on each of the indicators and targets associated with the SDGs to the UN High-Level Political Forum. This should be co-created with Scotland's people and civil society.* [Click here for full SCVO submission.](#)

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