



Department  
for International  
Development

11 JUL 2016



Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State

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6 July 2016

*Dear Iain,*

Thank you for your letter of 28 June concerning the UK Government's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Government has welcomed the International Development Committee's report on the UK implementation of the Goals. We are currently considering the recommendations made in the report and are preparing our response, which the Committee will publish in due course.

We recognise the important role that civil society, including the academic sector, will play in working to implement the Global Goals. The Department for International Development (DFID) closely engages with the sector through our support for higher education in developing countries, and through our funding for high-quality, impact focused development research.

Our new £45million Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform programme aims to deliver systemic and sustainable change within higher education systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Middle East, enabling them to better meet graduate and labour market needs, to support inclusive development and economic growth, and to provide the future leaders needed to deliver the Global Goals.

In addition, we frequently draw on academics to advise on a range of our own policy issues. In June 2015, as the scale of the Mediterranean migration crisis became clear, DFID hosted a policy-research roundtable bringing together leading academics to provide DFID policy teams with an overview of the state of knowledge on drivers of migration, business

models of people smugglers and the context of the Mediterranean crisis. This roundtable was chaired by the DFID Chief Economist, Stefan Dercon and created an opportunity for DFID to obtain a quick summary of a complex evidence base.

The Government's Aid Strategy highlights that all development funding should be informed by rigorous evidence. We will therefore continue to engage with the academic community to ensure we are drawing on the latest research and analysis.

Baroness Verma, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DFID, would be very happy to meet with you and your co-signatories to further discuss the role of civil society in implementation of the goals over the years ahead. I would be grateful if you could get in touch with Maxine DaCosta ([M-DaCosta@dfid.gsx.gov.uk](mailto:M-DaCosta@dfid.gsx.gov.uk)) to arrange this.

*Best wishes,*

*Justine*

JUSTINE GREENING