

UK Delivery of the SDGs

Road to 2030



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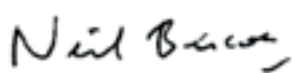
The UK will be presenting its Voluntary National Review of progress towards the UN Global Goals at the UN High Level Political Forum on 16 July. Taking an inclusive approach from the outset, the UK's Voluntary National Review is the product of collaboration between the UK government, devolved administrations, civil society, business and the private sector, and local delivery partners. As a result of this approach, a diverse range of voices and accounts from across the UK are reflected throughout the report.

The 2030 Agenda is not just for and about government initiatives; it involves many stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, local communities and individuals. Many sectors are making substantial efforts to raise awareness, form partnerships and use opportunities in the UK and globally to deliver the Goals, going beyond "business as usual" to make a real impact. Through partnerships and as guided by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, both public and private funding will be necessary to achieve the Goals.

The UK business community has long been considered a leader in ethical and responsible business practice. Now, under the banner of the Goals, UK business has the opportunity to make an even more profound commitment to wider society. The UK's Industrial Strategy (2019) prioritises long-term business growth as central to national prosperity, and the Civil Society Strategy (2018) sets out a vision for supporting responsible business as a force for good in UK society. Responsible businesses are essential to building a stronger society that works for everyone and, as outlined in the Civil Society Strategy, the UK's leading businesses increasingly put social and environmental responsibility at the heart of what they do.

Businesses whose core activities contribute to sustainable development not only realise their stakeholders' expectations, but future-proof their business and enhance their long-term commercial performance as well. Achieving the Goals has a clear business rationale. The Business and Sustainable Development Commission (BSDC) estimates that globally in four economic sectors alone (food and agriculture, cities, energy and materials, and health and well-being), achieving the Goals has the potential to open up US\$12 trillion of market opportunities, in turn creating up to 380 million jobs a year by 2030.

The Voluntary National Review is not an end in itself, but a stepping stone on the journey to 2030. The 2030 Agenda is about universal action, with governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals all doing their bit. Continual innovation is needed to maximise opportunities, working collectively and collaboratively. The UK Government looks forward to working side by side with business to achieve this important and challenging agenda.



Neil Briscoe

Deputy Director and Head of Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness
Department for International Development (DFID)
HM Government



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

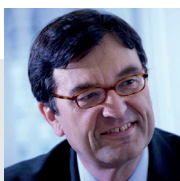
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

SUSTAINABILITY MAKES BUSINESS SENSE

Sustainability is no longer a luxury business investment. It is a core driver of business productivity and growth in the 21st Century. That's why at ICC we are working to define responsible business as the new norm and to ensure that every business model has sustainability and inclusivity at its very heart.

Becoming a sustainability leader require changes in core business practices but the effort to do so is worth it: in environmental, social and economic terms. Putting sustainability first not only enables business to drive the transition to a better world, but it also makes plain business sense.

According to recent studies, sustainable business models could open economic opportunities worth at least US\$12 trillion—creating up to 380 million jobs per year until 2030. But research has also shown that many companies remain unaware of sustainability considerations, particularly small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME).



SDGs provide business with a fantastic strategic framework for leveraging their own strengths towards addressing major social and environmental challenges

Nick Baird

Chair of the Energy & Environment Committee at ICC United Kingdom
and Group Corporate Affairs Director at Centrica



ICC continues to play a key role in promoting responsible business conduct over the world and to help businesses shape their own sustainability strategy.

This includes helping to build an understanding within the SME community of the long-term commercial benefits of sustainable business practices. The ICC Business Charter for Sustainable Development is an accessible and common starting point for companies to develop a business sustainability strategy, regardless of their size, sector or geographical location.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have created enormous opportunities for businesses willing to put sustainability at the heart of their operations. But delivering fully on the promise of a more sustainable and prosperous future for us all requires a collaborative effort to enable the transformation of business practices — including within the small business sector.

Businesses can no longer thrive without considering sustainability as part of their DNA.



Richard Morgan

Chair of the Corporate Responsibility & Anti-Corruption Committee at
ICC United Kingdom and Head of Government Relations at Anglo American

While many businesses are already playing a leading role in promoting sustainable development, there is still some ways to fully engage the global business community into the 2030 challenge. It will take unprecedented cooperation to achieve unprecedented progress but with the right support and incentives from the government, much more can be achieved.

The UK, in particular, was at the forefront of negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals) and the 2030 Agenda and has helped to secure dedicated goals both on gender equality and on promoting peace, security and good governance. HM Government has been playing a vital role in ensuring the successful adoption of these Goals having recently announced even stronger commitments to tackle climate change by drastically reducing carbon emissions by 2050.

The private sector has been also playing a vital role in the implementation of the Goals and the following pages showcase UK business' concrete contributions to sustainable development.



Region: **Africa, Latin America**

Starting Date: 2018

Status: Available

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

16.3 rule of law and access to justice;
16.5 reduce corruption and bribery;
16.6 effective, accountable and transparent institutions;
16.7 responsive inclusive and representative decision-making;
16.10 public access to information and fundamental freedoms

A series of workshops and webinars with a range cross-section of stakeholders to discuss our footprint against the SDGs and in particular the scope under SDG 16 for us to do more in terms of the good governance agenda.

For a mining company such as Anglo American wanting to secure a long-term licence to operate that is widely understood and found to be fair is critical to our success and largely dependent on many of the targets listed above. Measuring the impact of this debate is not easy but it airs some practical ideas and a level of endorsement as to which we should try and support.

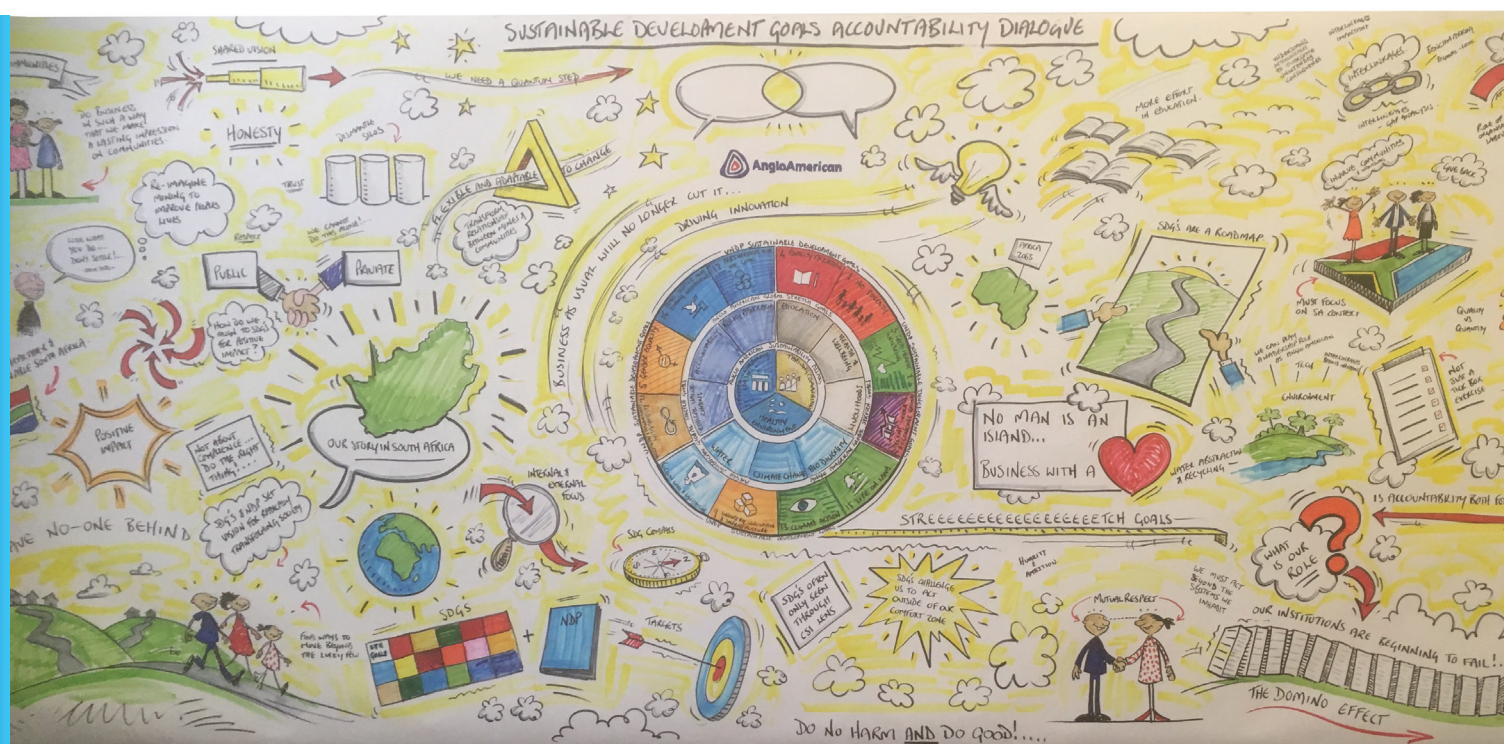


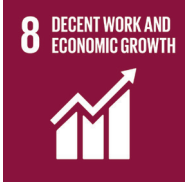
Image: Visual facilitation output that captures the themes from our SDG Accountability Dialogue in South Africa in November 2018

Webinar on SDG 16 held on 26 June

Project name:

Improving LivelihoodsRegion: **Africa, Latin America**Starting Date: **2018**Status: **Available**

Related Goals:

**SDG 8.2 higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation****SDG 8.3 development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services;****SDG 8.6 reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training**

Description

Anglo American has set itself ambitious targets related to improving livelihoods in the communities where we operate, building on our strong record of supporting SMEs and job creation in host communities. We have almost 30 years of experience of running job creation programmes and we now have enterprise development initiatives in almost all emerging market countries of operation. In the last 10 years, we have supported over 64,000 SMEs which in turn supported more than 125,000 jobs in that period across our mining operations. Over the next 10 years, we plan to be even more ambitious. Specifically, by 2025 and 2030 we aim to support 3 and 5 jobs offsite for every job on the mine respectively. We plan to meet these targets through a number of programmatic interventions – most notably enterprise, supplier and youth development; and collaborative regional development.

- **Enterprise, Supplier and Youth Development** involves the mentoring of local entrepreneurs, both within and outside the mine value chain, to sustainably improve their businesses in order to support existing jobs and create new jobs. We also work with youth in our communities on personal and professional development to improve their chances of accessing formal employment or to start their own businesses.

Our flagship programme Zimele is aiming to support 10,000 jobs by 2022 in South Africa alone. In South America, we have a partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank to promote job creation around our mine sites in Brazil, Chile and Peru. The programme assists mining communities to maximize access to markets for labor, goods and services through direct intervention with over 2,400 beneficiaries including local public and private entities, local urban SMEs, agricultural producers and associations and youth and women seeking to strengthen their employability and entrepreneurship skills.

- **Collaborative Regional Development** is an innovative regional partnership approach that aims to identify and realise economic opportunities to deliver at scale over the long term in the regions where we operate. By using spatial planning and value chain analysis and working with partners and stakeholders in each region, we are identifying and delivering long-term development projects that benefit the communities where we operate and leave a positive legacy long after mine closure. This work creates the catalyst for partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders, from business to government, researchers to practitioners, and from community representatives to faith groups. We began this approach in 2016 at Mogalakwena, our largest platinum operation in the Limpopo province of South Africa and it has been incorporated as an important part of our Sustainable Mining Plan. We are already expanding this approach to Brazil, Botswana, Colombia and Peru and we will consider the approach in other regions where we operate.

Through these efforts we will aim to seek gender balance, a focus on youth and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in our efforts, who traditionally experienced greater degrees of exclusion from the workforce in some of our host countries.



Project name:**Carbon Reduction**Region: **London, United Kingdom**

Starting Date:

Status: **Completed**

Related Goals:



Description

BT's climate action journey started over 25 years ago, when we set our first carbon reduction target in 1992. Fast forwarding two decades, we became one of the first companies in the world to adopt a Science Based Target in 2008 to reduce our carbon emissions intensity by 80% by 2020.

After achieving that target four years ahead of schedule, we decided to be even more ambitious. As a result, we became one of the first companies globally to set a new science based target which follows a 1.5 degree Celsius pathway - meaning that we will reduce our carbon emissions intensity by 87% by 2030 and become a net zero emissions business by 2045. This means we are aligned with efforts to cap the global temperature rise to 1.5°C and with SDG 13 around taking urgent action to tackle climate change.

To reach net zero, we're focusing on reducing our emissions in areas we directly control - using renewable electricity, and reducing our energy needs and emissions from our fleet and buildings estate. We've already cut our operational emissions intensity by 80% since 1996. To add some context to those targets, BT uses about 1% of the UK's electricity to power our networks, data centres and offices. Renewable energy is at the heart of our environmental strategy and in the UK 100% of the electricity we purchase directly is now from renewable sources. By 2020, we are aiming to use 100% renewable electricity worldwide, where markets allow.

Indeed - our world leading research and innovation hub at Adastral Park in Suffolk, is powered by a solar farm the size of 40 football pitches.

Importantly - we don't just act to tackle climate change because it is the right thing to do, we also do it because it makes business sense. By investing in a huge range of energy efficiency projects for the past decade, we've saved over £298m. And we made £5.5bn - 23.4% of our revenue in 2018/19 from products and services that enable customers to cut their carbon emissions. Gabrielle Giner, Head of Environmental Sustainability, BT said: Over the course of our journey we have shown that climate action makes sense for business.

Through our people, products and services we've been able to take some dramatic steps towards tackling one of society's biggest challenges, but more needs to be done. As BT works towards its own net zero target, we hope that others join us in setting their own 1.5 degree C targets whilst also calling on policymakers to provide the right frameworks so we can take quicker climate action. But it's not just about us. We're also working with our suppliers to target a 29% reduction in emissions from our supply chain by 2030 (from 2016/17 levels). And we're helping our customers reduce their carbon footprint too. We helped them save 11.7m tonnes of CO₂e this year.

Our work has led us to come first in EcoAct's annual ranking of FTSE 100 companies. We're now well on our way to hitting our renewables target, which is helping support SDG 7, which focusses on sustainable energy.

This isn't just good for the planet. It's good for business too.

Project name:

Centrica Business Solutions energy strategy for St George's Hospital to deliver sustainable savings and reduce its environmental impact.

Region: **London, United Kingdom**Starting Date: **2018**Status: **Completed**

Related Goals:



Description

£1M SAVINGS - Guaranteed savings per annum over 15-year energy performance contract
6,000 TONNES - Annual carbon reduction

Replacing ageing energy infrastructure

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is the largest healthcare provider in South West London. A staff of 8,500 serve a local population of 1.3 million people. Around 800,000 patients are treated in the hospital each year, including more than 5,000 babies delivered.

The Tooting site also acts as a teaching hospital and advanced medical research centre.

The location had been served by a 40-year-old energy centre. This had grown increasingly inefficient, and incapable of meeting new environmental targets.

Energy efficiency to fuel improved patient care

Our Distributed Energy & Power business unit is focussed on enabling large energy users to take control of their energy and turn it into an opportunity. In response, the Trust partnered with Centrica Business Solutions to create a new energy strategy for the hospital as part of a 15-year Energy Performance Contract (EPC).

The contract includes the installation of two Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units and four boilers, which form the energy centre. Centrica Business Solutions also introduced a number of schemes across the site, including lighting, a building management system, chiller replacement and split unit air conditioning optimisation. During the work on the energy centre, it was crucial that the boiler house remained operational as the steam generated by the boilers is used to generate heat and hot water for the rest of the hospital. Centrica Business Solutions managed the installation without any impact on the hospital and its patients.

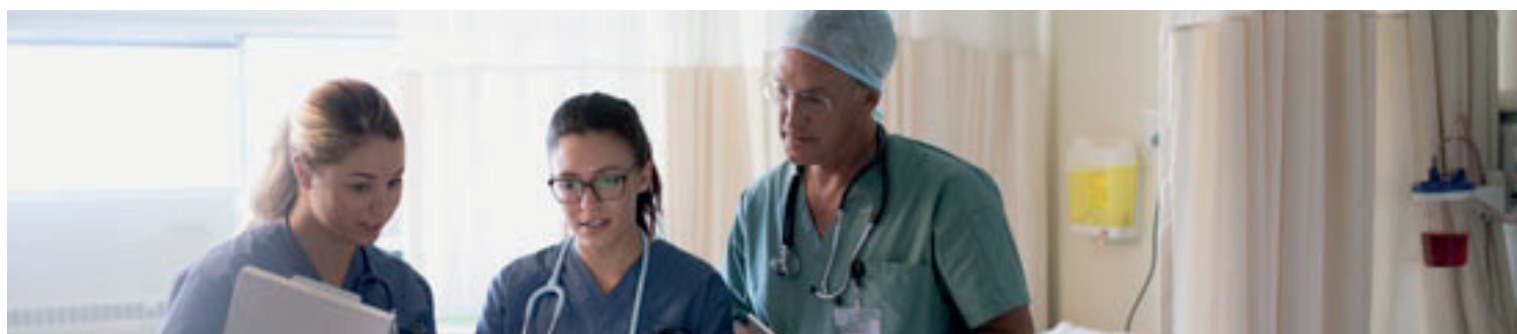
The results

The Trust is guaranteed to save more than £1m a year during the 15-year contract with Centrica Business Solutions. It will also save 6,000 tonnes of carbon a year, the equivalent of the emissions from 3,000 cars. The savings allow the Trust to invest more on patient care and teaching medical staff. The environmental savings help the Trust meet regulatory compliance, and act as a benchmark to other healthcare providers.

Powering the future of healthcare.

Many healthcare providers still see energy as a high fixed cost, a commodity that is delivered to them, something over which they have little control. However, energy technology has come a long way in the past few decades. The days of just focusing on energy efficiency are gone and there are new ways to create financial efficiencies and unlock opportunities to make improvements in patient care. Our Powering the Future of Healthcare report published in 2018 demonstrated that, by adopting the full range of what are called distributed energy solutions, the NHS could save £130 million per year – and that's just a conservative estimate. The savings could be double this. More significantly, we also show how this could help to create 15,000 jobs and boost overall economic growth.

Adopting new energy technology could help our NHS to unlock savings that can be used to support frontline patient care for many years to come.



URL: <https://www.centricabusinesssolutions.com/energy-savings-for-nhs-hospital>

Project name:
New Nuclear Development, Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C

Region: **United Kingdom, South West England and East of England**

Status: **Hinkley Point C – under construction, Sizewell C, in development**

Starting Date: **2018**

Related Goals:



Description

The first UK nuclear power plant to be built in a generation. Hinkley Point C is being built in Somerset, England. Sizewell C is a near identical plant proposed for Suffolk in the East of England.

Our goals are:

- To help the UK achieve net zero emissions through supplying 14% of the UK's electricity with low carbon nuclear power, as part of a future energy mix with no unabated fossil fuels and a large expansion of renewables and other low carbon technologies, including batteries and energy efficiency. The two power stations will support the transition to net zero, including the increasing use of electrification for clean transport and heating. EDF Energy is a major investor in all low carbon technologies, and an investor in research and development into future technologies and digital innovation. By including nuclear in the energy mix, the future electricity supply will be more secure, reliable and affordable for UK consumers, as well as fully low carbon.
- To provide a long-lasting legacy to jobs and for British industry and workers.
- To improve diversity in the workforce and to create a culture where diversity is valued and promoted.
- To drive sustainable regional growth in the SW and East of England, creating opportunities for people, communities and businesses to benefit from the investments being made in their area.
- To use innovation and experience to drive down the cost of low carbon energy

KPIs

At Hinkley Point C in Somerset (less than three years after construction began):

- The plant will power 6 million homes with availability of more than 90%, avoiding 9m tonnes of Co2 a year. The small amount of waste produced will be securely managed.
- 65% of the construction value is due to be spent in the UK
- £1.5bn has already been placed in contracts for businesses in the SW region
- 8,500 people have been trained in construction skills at a new construction skills centre
- £15m has been invested in local colleges to provide specialised construction and nuclear skills training.
- 1,700 workers are from the county of Somerset
- The number of workers from the immediate region is 50%, beating a target of 34%
- We have taken on more than 400 apprentices with a total expected of 1,000 when construction is complete
- Innovation and experience from other construction projects, nuclear and non-nuclear have helped the Hinkley Point C project achieve all its milestones and offers the opportunity to build and finance the next plant Sizewell C at a lower cost.
- Local consortiums have been formed to win contracts for transport and catering, using local employees and produce, supporting farmers and food producers in the area
- In 2018 alone 15,000 local pupils and 500 teachers took part events to encourage their participation in science, technology and maths. The UK wide "Pretty Curious" campaign has been run to boost female participation in STEM subjects
- Access courses for people with special educational needs has seen the first SEN trainees join the project
- Half the EDF Energy apprentices and half of the crane operator apprentices are women
- £9.4m has been spent on local community projects
- Sizewell C, which is at an earlier development phase has the ambition is to match or exceed the performance at Hinkley Point C and it has registered 1,400 local businesses who have expressed an interest in supplying the project.

URL: <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c>
<https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/sizewell-c>

Project name:

**United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Bonds
USD1bn HSBC Holdings Plc & MYR500 million Sukuk
HSBC Amanah**

Region: **Global & Malaysia, Asia**

Starting Date: **2015**

Status: **Available**

Related Goals:



Description

HSBC SDG Bond Framework. HSBC is a committed sustainable finance partner:

- HSBC has committed to provide USD 100bn of sustainable financing and investment by 2025 to develop clean energy, lower-carbon technologies and projects that contribute to the delivery of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- HSBC awarded by GlobalCapital in their Sustainable and Responsible Capital Markets Awards 2018: Most Impressive Financial Institution Green/SRI Bank Issuer and Most Impressive Investment Bank for Asia Pacific Green/SRI Capital Markets.
- In the 2018 Euromoney awards HSBC won the Asia Best Bank for Sustainable Finance.
- HSBC is a long standing member of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) Green Bond Principles Executive Committee
- HSBC was one of the founding writers of the Social Bond Principles and continues to work closely with ICMA on their development
- ICMA have also launched new Sustainability Bond Guidelines to provide guidance for bonds combining green and social projects, which HSBC supported
- HSBC France issued its inaugural EUR500m Green Bond in 2015 and HSBC Holding Plc issued a EUR1.25bn Green Bond in 2018

Second party opinion provided by Sustainalytics, a global provider of environmental, social and corporate governance research, ratings and analysis, evaluated HSBC Holdings plc's SDG Bond and has concluded that the SDG Bond Framework is robust and credible within the meaning of the of the Green Bond Principles, the Social Bond Principles and the Sustainability Bond Guidelines

Group wide information on HSBC's green and sustainability bonds, including annual progress reports, may be found on our website (link below).

Transaction: USD1bn UN SDG Bond, issued by HSBC Holdings, November 2017

Proceeds from the issuance of bonds which comply with the SDG Bond Framework will be used in defined Eligible Sectors relating to the SDGs, as specified in the related goals. The first annual impact report has been published, key statistics show that the bond proceeds have been invested in: SDG 6 - Clean water & sanitation (1%), SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy (18%), SDG 9 - Industry, innovation, and infrastructure (51%) and SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities (30%).

Transaction: MYR500m Sukuk UN SDG Bond, HSBC Amanah Makaysua Berhad, September 2018. HSBC Amanah rationale for issuing a SDG Sukuk:

- Setting a landmark Sukuk transaction the MYR & Global Sukuk Markets
- Supporting the 11th Malaysia Plan Sustainability Agenda
- Supporting Central Bank of Malaysia Value-Based Intermediation (VBI) initiatives
- Supporting HSBC's SDG Bond Framework
- Supporting the 2030 United Nation SDGs
- Demonstrating commitment to the HSBC Group's Sustainability Agenda

The first impact report on this SDG Sukuk will be published in September 2019.



Project name:
Access to Energy

Region: **Africa and Asia**

Status: **Available**

Related Goals:



SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

Description

Around 1 billion people live without access to electricity and a billion more only have access to unreliable power supplies.

In 2018, we outlined our new ambition to provide a reliable electricity supply by 2030 to 100 million people in the developing world. We plan to do this by investing in commercial businesses and by supporting innovation. In this way, we help to achieve the UN's sustainable development goal 7, which calls for access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. We continue to work on developing a longer-term strategy to achieve our ambition.

We see a commercial opportunity to invest in energy access solutions in Africa and Asia. Our approach focuses on proven technologies and business models that can be deployed on a large scale. These include mini-grids and decentralised solar energy systems that can power homes, businesses and communities.

We have invested in several companies that provide electricity systems to residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

In 2018, we invested in Husk Power Systems, a mini-grid company with experience in India that has recently expanded into Tanzania. Husk uses a hybrid solar photovoltaic and biomass gasification system with battery storage to provide reliable and affordable electricity 24 hours a day to customers on a pay-as-you-go basis. We have invested in SolarNow, a business which provides decentralised solar energy solutions to unserved and underserved customers in East Africa. SolarNow operates through a network of branches in Kenya and Uganda, offering customers a range of solar home systems and appliances.

In addition to investing in companies that are bringing more reliable electricity to customers, we are also investing in those that support the broader energy access ecosystem. For example, SteamaCo is an off-grid smart metering technology company, providing utilities in frontier markets with the tools to automate the management of decentralised energy assets. The company automates hundreds of distributed energy assets, which in turn bring electricity to tens of thousands of homes and businesses across Africa. We also invested in SunFunder, a solar debt financing firm that supports the growth of commercial businesses improving energy access. Sunfunder has loaned more than \$55 million to different solar companies.

In addition to commercial energy access activities, we help to provide reliable and safe energy through our social investment programmes. For example, when Shell started to look for potential business opportunities in Myanmar, we also explored ways to deliver the benefits of reliable energy to communities in the Tanintharyi region. Working with Pact, a non-profit organisation, to provide access to sustainable energy, we have improved the livelihoods of around 35,000 people since 2015.

In the Philippines, we launched a project in 2018 at the Logpan village near our Palawan offshore activities to help the remote and off-grid community access energy and clean water. We developed a community-run solar-powered energy kiosk that offers small solar home systems for households and operates a solar-powered water pump to provide safe, filtered water.

We also worked in Malaysia with non-governmental organisations Tonibung and PACOS Trust to bring electricity to Saibibingkol community in Sabah. The pilot programme uses solar panels and a hydro turbine to give 42 households access to a reliable source of electricity. We also set up a socioeconomic development centre in the village for people to use the electricity for income-generating activities, such as sewing or more efficient drying of tapioca chips and flour milling. We plan to scale up these efforts to bring electricity to at least two more villages in 2019.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, marked an important step in addressing the global challenges we all face and in turn improving our quality of life. This landmark commitment, to achieve all seventeen goals by 2030, was extremely ambitious and highlighted the need for action.

Since the adoption of the Goals, we've seen major shifts in global politics that will inevitably impact how these Goals are realised. The role of the private sector in ensuring that these Goals are achieved is therefore more integral now than in previous times.



We've also seen key interventions on a number of these Goals, particularly on how we tackle climate change. The challenge posed by climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report, published last year, on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways', indicated clear global impacts of leaving climate change unchallenged.

Climate-related risks to health, livelihood, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C.

In response to this challenge, the UK Government recently accepted advice from the Committee on Climate Change and legislated for a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target for 2050, becoming the first advanced country in the G20 to do so. Setting this target creates a clear objective for deep decarbonisation across all sectors, whilst maintaining similar GDP cost to the previous 80% emissions reduction target as a result of decreasing technology costs.

UK businesses have been supportive of the move to a net-zero target, with the CBI and its members a leading voice in calling for this change. With a clear target and an ambition levels, it is clear for all sectors and industries the change they must deliver. Consumers and investors demand action, and businesses are ready to deliver.

So while the task of reaching the 2030 and now 2050 targets is significant, there are huge economic opportunities from the transition to clean economies. More than ever, the business and investment community must work alongside governments to deliver a transition to a low-carbon future that delivers prosperity and protects the planet.



As the backbone of our economy, private sector investment and activity lies at the core of efforts to empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality. Businesses large and small are contributing to help achieve our collective ambition on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17.



ICC encourages the private sector to increase the pace and ambition of innovative actions for the SDGs, but also calls on governments to support business's efforts by setting an appropriate policy framework both at the international and national level. This will send a strong signal to business that there is political will to achieve the SDGs, deliver greater certainty on long-term policies and provide an adequate framework and incentives. These are all important factors upon which business can rely to make investments and develop innovative solutions and technologies to tackle sustainable development challenges, and help promote equality and inclusive economic growth through the creation of jobs, opportunities and value for communities around the world. ICC calls on governments to take the following actions:

- 1 **Work with business:** ICC encourages governments to take full advantage of the depth and breadth of business engagement and experience and to partner with business in a meaningful way to help achieve the SDGs. This, for example, includes dialogue with government at international, national and regional levels on expectation and ambition setting; on the type of framework conditions necessary for business to increase investment and innovation in a sustainable and inclusive manner; and on working towards ensuring that no one is left behind. Business should be included in dialogues throughout the policy process, from conception to implementation so as to help ensure that policies are timely, scalable and innovation and investment enabling. The private sector can also help to assess the results of implementation of countries' voluntary national reviews.
- 2 **Build integrated policy frameworks:** Solutions to the SDGs must be both global and local in nature and must take place in tandem with multilateral and rules-based systems that foster a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable global economy. In addition, it is imperative that the policy discussion is holistic across all government bodies. It is essential to ensure that the development of one sector does not have unintended consequences for another. For example, there are many economically viable opportunities for energy and water savings that can relieve pressures on both systems if considered in an integrated manner.
- 3 **Incentivise investment:** It is clear that sustainable, resilient societies require significant scaling up in financing. Business investment—whether in terms of infrastructure investment or research, development and deployment—demands a degree of certainty, not just on sectoral regulations but on governments' long-term policy goals. ICC encourages governments to develop the strategic, forward-looking, long-term regulatory framework necessary to spur investments in support of the SDGs, including by safeguarding open and competitive markets; providing incentives for investment, technology development and transfer; creating a financial climate to facilitate low-cost financing; and addressing barriers to financing for women and SMEs.¹
- 4 **Provide the foundation for public-private partnerships:** Provide the foundation for public-private partnerships: Foster transparent and sustainable public procurement frameworks: Public procurement is an essential instrument to drive change in public investment - it is through frameworks that take into account climate resilience, biodiversity and more generally the use of natural resources that investment will be oriented towards suppliers of sustainable solutions. Public procurement frameworks further need to be transparent.²
- 5 **Support and facilitate trade:** The rules-based multilateral trading system has fuelled seven decades of unprecedented job creation and poverty alleviation. Efforts to drive the transition to a more inclusive world economy requires that we chart a new course for global trade policymaking that places inclusion at its heart. ICC is working with its members and partners to develop substantive recommendations on the ways in which we can improve synergies and eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to help achieve the SDGs.

6

Foster innovation: There are a number of key enabling policies that can help foster effective technological innovation and dissemination. These include predictable, transparent and robust legal and regulatory regimes designed to encourage innovation and factor investment risk, educational policies to develop a workforce with the necessary scientific, technological and professional skills, fiscal and other incentives to encourage research, development and deployment; as well as capital depreciation and protection of intellectual property rights. Access to start-up and scale-up financing for SMEs is of particular importance for innovation.

7

Embrace digitalisation: Information communication technology (ICT) holds vast opportunities to catalyse the SDGs. To successfully leverage ICT for sustainable development, governments must work with the private sector to support all the layers of the ICT ecosystem and address both supply and demand barriers to connectivity and meaningful access.⁴

8

Prioritise gender equality: Gender equality is fundamental to sustainable, inclusive economic development. Companies who make efforts to ensure that women are part of the core business, including in decision making, product development, project assessments and the overall leadership of the organisation, have proven to be more innovative and profitable than companies who fail to do so. It is estimated that achieving gender parity alone would add at least US\$12 trillion to global growth by 2025, and up to US\$28 trillion.⁶ Governments must make gender equality a priority and act as role models on gender for all economic actors in society.

9

Consider skills gaps and encourage life-long learning: A labour market plan developed as a result of dialogue between business and government is essential in order to ensure inclusiveness and equality. This will allow us to re-craft occupational profiles and determine the new occupations necessary to attain the SDGs, determine the skills necessary for these activities, and identify gaps in current educational and training offerings that have to be filled to ensure that the current and future generations are equipped for the jobs of the future. Governments need to work with the private sector to rethink educational systems which must provide students with necessary new skills and expertise, while in the short term managing the transition through reskilling and other support programmes for those whose jobs are being affected by climate change and digital transformation.

10

Take bold action on climate change: Take bold action on climate change: Climate change is a threat to all humanity, and it can only be solved by a global cooperative effort – ensuring that climate solutions are deployed at scale to enable us all to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies. Business will be a necessary driving force in demonstrating that enhanced action is necessary, desirable and – above all – achievable. To address climate challenge, we need a systems wide transformation. This will require us to look at climate solutions in the context of the SDGs and change our business models from linear ones to circular ones that integrate all environmental, social and governance issues. ICC calls on governments to raise the ambition of the Nationally Determined Contributions and provide policy coherence to ensure that we are on a trajectory to limit global warming to 1.5°C and net-zero emissions by 2050 or before.

11

Share experiences and lessons learnt: We will only achieve the SDGs if all stakeholders work together to take action at all levels—whether local, national, regional or international. The sharing of the experiences gained by all stakeholders, including business and governments, is a vital part of achieving the objectives of the SDGs. It is essential that appropriate fora are established to enable the sharing of experiences—both successes and failures—and that successful solutions are replicated and scaled.

12

Address inequality: Reducing inequality within and among countries presents a significant challenge, but one where concerted and collective action from all stakeholders can make a real difference. There are already many examples of companies showing leadership on this vital agenda in different areas: for example, reducing the digital divide by broadening access to technological solutions, ensuring gender parity in the workplace, or devising innovative solutions that provide communities access to previously unavailable information and services.

Investment and economic engagement by companies in less developed regions can play a significant role in addressing economic inequalities between countries but require a stable and supportive policy framework, good governance and adequate institutional and physical infrastructure. The role of business in providing employment and innovative solutions, and its contributions to supporting other SDGs, can have a significant impact in reducing inequality in many areas, but political changes and good governance are needed to reduce inequality more universally.

¹ See ICC's eight principles to mobilise investment for the SDGs: <http://iccwbo.org/media-wall/news-speeches/icc-outlines-8-principles-to-mobilize-investment-for-the-sdgs>

² See the ICC Rules on Combating Corruption: <https://iccwbo.org/publication/icc-rules-on-combating-corruption>

³ See ICC's policy paper on Tax and the UN SDGs: <http://iccwbo.org/publication/tax-united-nations-sustainable-development-goals>

⁴ See ICC's policy paper on ICT policy for sustainable economic development: <http://iccwbo.org/publication/ict-policy-sustainable-economic-development-2018>

⁵ http://report.businesscommission.org/uploads/BetterBiz-BetterWorld_170215_012417.pdf

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ICC is the largest world business organisation representing 45 million companies and 1 billion employees in over 100 countries. We are the only business organisation with UN Observer Status and act as a leading voice for business at the UN, G20 and World Trade Organization. ICC has three central roles:

- 1 **Champion inclusive and responsible free trade**
- 2 **Help companies trade with international best practice rules and guidance**
- 3 **Provide international dispute resolution services**

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