



Department
for International
Development



The Rt Hon The Lord Bates
Minister of State

Stephen Twigg MP
Chair, International Development Committee
House of Commons
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Our ref

189790

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Thank you for your letter of 12 December, and for your continued interest in and engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals and forthcoming Voluntary National Review.

I am committed to ensuring the forthcoming Voluntary National Review is an inclusive and transparent process. That is why we are engaging with charities, businesses, community groups and others at events across the country and seeking their contributions through the www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals website. We will work closely with those who have submitted case studies to seek to reflect them, so far as possible, in the final Voluntary National Review.

I welcome the inquiry announced by your Committee into the Sustainable Development Goals and hope it will build on the important work already carried out by the Environmental Audit Committee. I can assure you the inquiry will receive our full cooperation and support.

It is crucial that Parliament continues to be involved in our Voluntary National Review. Further to recent correspondence, we will be holding a roundtable event in Parliament in February. Ministers will outline progress with the Voluntary National Review and Parliamentarians will be able to share their views. A Voluntary National Review update on progress and emerging findings document will be shared in advance to support this discussion. While full details for the roundtable are being finalised, I will reflect carefully on the criteria in your letter and share further information with you, and those copied, in good time.

I would like to extend my thanks again for your valuable engagement in this vital area and I look forward to continued collaboration. I am copying this letter to the Minister for Implementation, the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee and the Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee.

LORD BATES