



National Women's Alliances' and International Gender Equality Commitments

The Australian [National Women's Alliances](#) ('the Alliances') are networks of issues and sector-based groups, representing over 180 women's organisations. Collectively, their roles are twofold:

- 1) bringing together women's organisations and individuals from across Australia to share information, identify issues that affect them, engage women in decision-making to make their voices heard, and identify solutions, especially women from marginalised and disadvantaged groups; and
- 2) actively engaging with the Australian Government on policy issues to enable a more informed and representative dialogue between women and government.

The National Women's Alliances and International Engagement

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) - which came into force on 1 January 2016 - seek to change the course of the 21st century by addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women and girls. The empowerment of women and girls, and achieving gender equality, is a precondition for achieving the SDGs. As advocated for by the Australian government, the SDGs have a 'twin track' approach to achieving gender equality: through a standalone goal (Goal 5) and as a cross cutting issue across all of the other 16 goals. The SDG framework includes targets and indicators across the Goals that contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

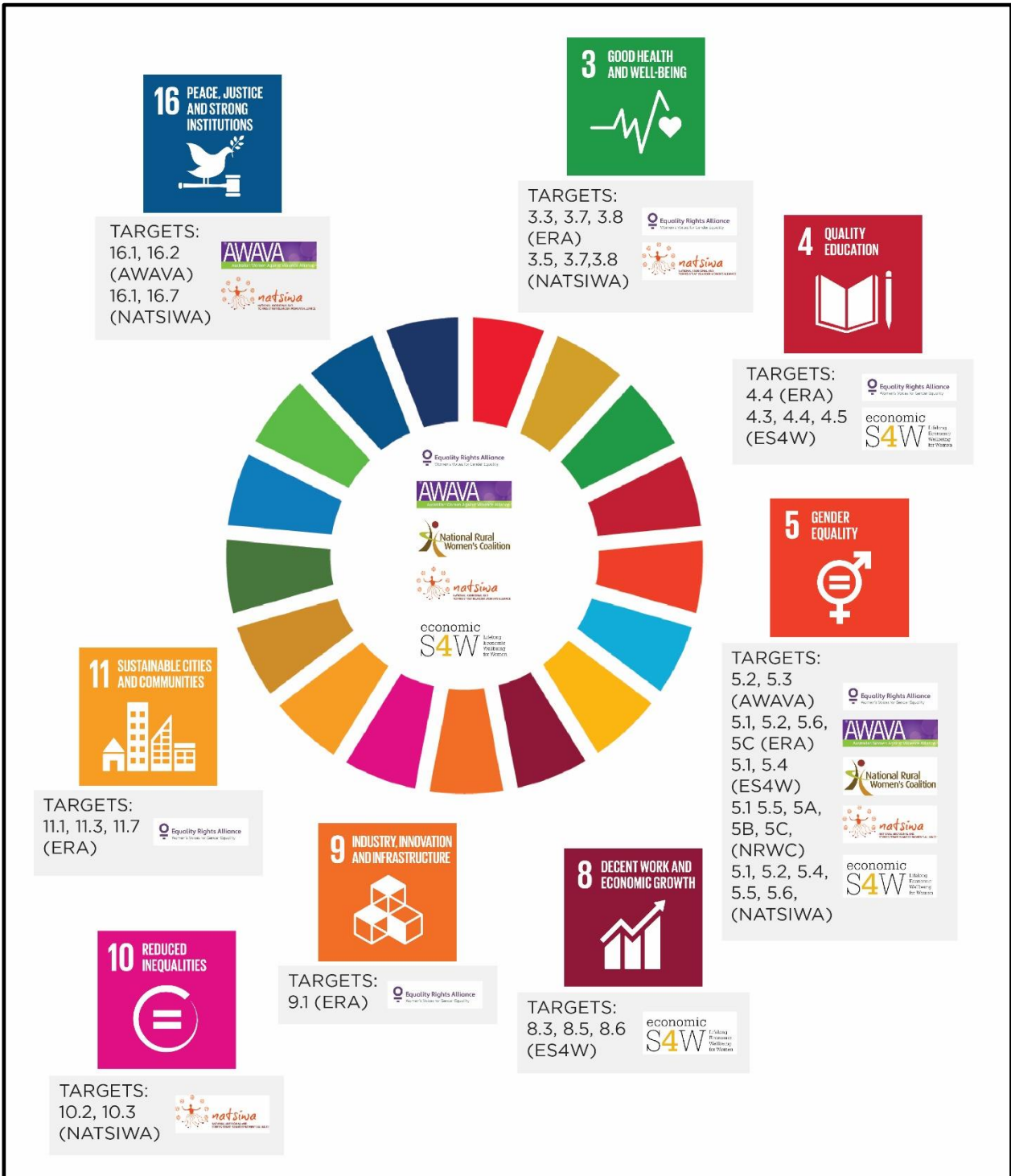
The SDGs apply to all countries. Australia is therefore expected to establish national frameworks for achieving the 'Global Goals' and reporting against progress. In 2018, Australia will present its Voluntary National Review to the UN. The SDGs therefore present a critical opportunity for the Australian National Women's Alliances to enhance their advocacy, effectiveness and impact to advance women's rights and gender equality in Australia, and internationally.

'We will also consider our Voluntary National Report (VNR) through a very strong gender lens. The 2030 Agenda is as much about human rights as it is about development and we firmly believe there is no hope of delivering on the 2030 Agenda unless we deliver for all members of society, including women and girls. ~ [Australian National Statement by Gillian Bird, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN, High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 20 July 2017](#)





National Women's Alliances and the Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 5 - Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

5C Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.



5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.



5B Enhance use of enabling technology to promote women's empowerment.



5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls.



5A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.



5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices including FGM and child marriage.



5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.



5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care.



5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation on all levels of decision-making.





Cross – cutting themes in NWA Priorities

