

Email to Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, 30th May, 23rd August 2015.

Email also included attachments: [AG21](#), and [AG21 in Australia](#).

[Ms Kushla Munro Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

[Mr Sean Batten, Director Global Development Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

[Follow-up and Review of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Sean Batten](#)

The Hon Julie Bishop
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 2010
Subiaco WA 6008

Dear Minister Bishop,

Although also supplied to you in hard copy, I have yet to receive a response to the below enquiry.

The post-2015 UN agenda is [described on your web site as 'non-binding'](#). However, for more than 2 decades you have been forcing Australians to abide by the dictates of the UN's Agenda 21 program, even though this too was described as 'voluntary' or 'non-binding'. The Commonwealth admits introducing legislation to force Australian citizens to comply with the requirements of this undemocratic UN program, even though giving Australians no democratic choice for an astonishing period of more than twenty years. As the Australian government admits in their "[Road to Rio+20](#)" [fact sheet](#):

"Australia has participated in sustainable development discussions for more than four decades. We have signed international treaties, supported regional initiatives and enacted international commitments through new laws and policies at home....."

The Australian government were not satisfied to simply introduce Commonwealth legislation to force Australians to comply with the 'voluntary' UN Agenda 21 program, but further, by funding, by [issuing instruction booklets](#), and [by ERO schemes, the Commonwealth sought to coerce local Councils to also force residents to comply with the UN](#). Astonishingly, by 2006 the Commonwealth even accused ([Chapter 11 SOE](#)) local Councils of exceeding their statutory authority in implementing the UN Agenda 21 program.

In spite of this sorry saga of deceit and betrayal of the Australian people, in 2012 then Prime Minister Julia Gillard renewed Australia's undemocratic commitment to AG21 at the [Rio +20 Conference](#), and further committed Australia to implement AG21 through the [SDG's](#) & the [UN post-2015 agenda](#). Details were recorded in the outcomes document from Rio +20 – "[The Future We Want](#)".

The Abbott government has not withdrawn from this process but rather is continuing the commitments made by Gillard. Is this correct?

This situation must be clarified. Do you intend to continue this process? Do you intend to continue to refuse to give Australian citizens a democratic choice? Do you intend to continue to pretend these UN agreements are 'voluntary' while at the same time taking legislative action to force Australian citizens to comply with the undemocratic dictates of the UN? Do you intend to continue to force Australian citizens to comply with voluntary UN agreements? Or, on the other hand, will you proactively modify the Constitution to strengthen sovereignty and prevent domestic interference from foreign agencies?

Currently we have an unsustainable system built on deception and betrayal. Will you be continuing this?

Regards

Graham Williamson

From: Graham [mailto:grahamhw@iprimus.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2015 11:59 AM
To: Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au
Subject: FW: Australia contributes to UN Sept Sustainability Summit

The Hon Julie Bishop
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 2010
Subiaco WA 6008

Dear Minister Bishop,

This is a reminder that I have yet to receive a response to my below communication. The urgent need for a detailed response to the matters raised therein is further highlighted by the release of the [UN's Zero draft Outcome document](#) (see enclosed) for the upcoming [Post-2015 Sustainability Summit in September](#).

According to the draft document:

Introduction

1. *We, the Heads of State and Government of the 193 member States of the United Nations, meeting in New York from 25-27 September 2015 as the Organization celebrates its seventieth anniversary, have agreed today on new global goals for the sustainable development of humanity and of our planet.*
2. *On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic agreement on a comprehensive and far-reaching set of universal goals and targets. If these are realized, they will transform for the better the world in which we all live.....*
4. *It is important to recognize the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought particularly in Africa, the third Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Forum on Forests.*
19. *The new goals and targets will come into effect on 1 January 2016 and will guide the decisions we take over the next fifteen years. All of us will work to implement the Agenda within our own countries and at the regional and global levels.....*
42. *What we are announcing today – an agenda for global action for the next fifteen years – is a charter for people and planet in the twenty-first century.....*

Data, monitoring and accountability

17.18 *By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts*

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.....

III. Follow-up and Review

1. A robust, effective, inclusive and transparent follow-up and review framework, operating at the national, regional and global levels, will promote effective implementation of this Agenda and accountability to our citizens.
2. All member states will engage voluntarily in review processes, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, outcomes from national-level processes will inform reviews at both regional and global levels.
3. Follow-up and review processes shall be guided by the following principles:
 - a. They will address progress in implementing the goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in a manner which respects their integrated and inter-related nature.
 - b. They will maintain a longer-term orientation, identify achievements and critical success factors, support countries in making informed policy choices and mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships;
 - c. They will be open and inclusive, supported by an enabling environment for the participation of all people and stakeholders.
 - d. They will build on existing platforms and processes, evolve over time and minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.
 - e. They will be rigorous and evidence-based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Support for developing countries, particularly LDCs, to strengthen national data systems is critical.

National Level

4. Building on existing reporting and planning instruments, such as national sustainable development strategies, we encourage all member states to develop ambitious national responses to the SDGs and targets as soon as possible.
5. Each member state could, at least once every four years, conduct robust and inclusive reviews of progress, based on a publicly available government progress report and complemented by contributions from civil society, academia, local government, the UN system, private sector and other actors. National Parliaments can play an important role in review processes as well as other national institutions such as National Sustainable Development Councils and local authorities.

Regional Level

6. Follow-up and review at the regional level can, as appropriate, provide useful opportunities for mutual learning, cooperation on trans-boundary issues and discussion on shared targets. Regional reviews, including peer reviews, can draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF).
7. We encourage all member states to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, using existing regional mechanisms including UN regional commissions where possible. We encourage the HLPF, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to discuss, at its meeting in 2016, progress in establishing regional reviews of the Agenda.

Global Level

8. The HLPF will be the apex of a global network of review processes, working coherently with the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other relevant actors, in accordance with existing mandates.....

12. Follow-up and reviews at the HLPF would be informed by the Global Sustainable Development Report, the scope and methodology of which will be agreed as soon as possible. An annual SDG Progress Report will be prepared by the UN Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators, based on data from national statistical systems.

14. In line with Resolution 67/290, the HLPF will support meaningful participation in follow up and review processes by civil society, the major groups, the UN System, relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships, the private sector and other stakeholders.

16. We request the Secretary General to prepare guidelines for national reports and review processes. We also request the Secretary General to provide recommendations on the organizational arrangements for state-led reviews at the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, including steps to improve complementarity, coherence and efficiency of follow-up and review processes at the global level in the area of sustainable development.

As mentioned below, the SDG's are an expansion of, and consolidation of, the 23 year old UN Agenda 21 program, commitment to which was renewed by the Australian government in 2012 at Rio+20, unless of course your government has completely withdrawn from that agreement (please state if so). As you can see from the AG21 flyer and AG21 summary enclosed, successive governments have destroyed democracy in this country by refusing, for more than 20 years, to give the people a democratic say in the decision to authorise the UN to interfere in the domestic affairs of this country. Furthermore, an undeclared amount of public funds continues to be devoted to this process even without any announced goal or end point.

Even though you have still not 'come clean' about the 23 years of deceit and subversion of democracy re AG21, now you seek to continue this covert anti-democratic process, and undeclared and endless wastage of public funds, by supporting the SDG summit, of which the political global climate change agenda is just one part. Previously I asked the following, yet to be answered questions.

- *What is wrong with Australia being monitored democratically by its own citizens (instead of foreign agencies such as the UN)?*
- *Isn't it time for change? How much longer do you seek to shut Australians out of this "transformational" agenda? How much longer will you refuse to allow Australians to cast an informed democratic vote?*
- *Why not spell out the full details to all Australians now, including the reason/s why the government has decided it is best to let the UN drive the agenda rather than the Australian people?*

What is your position, and that of the government, regarding the September SDG summit and the UN's post-2015 agenda?

Do you intend to continue to refuse to let the people make an informed democratic choice?

If so, do you intend to continue to authorise the UN to interfere in Australian domestic affairs?

Or, on the other hand, do you intend to ban undemocratic UN interference in Australia?

This letter, and accompanying documents, will also be sent by post.

I look forward to your response.

Regards

Graham Williamson

From: Graham [mailto:grahamhw@iprimus.com.au]
Sent: Saturday, 30 May 2015 6:54 AM
To: Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au
Subject: Australia contributes to UN Sept Sustainability Summit

The Hon Julie Bishop
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 2010
Subiaco WA 6008

Dear Minister Bishop,

I refer to the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDG) and Australia's role in this program. You, and the government, have stated that Australia is actively involved in negotiating this UN program ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)), yet most Australians seem to know nothing about this program or the details of Australia's involvement. It was certainly not presented as an election issue so there is no democratic mandate. Yet, in spite of this, [a draft document has already been prepared](#) to outline the various funding options for participating countries such as Australia. And the [UN Data Revolution Group](#) has produced their report, [A World that Counts](#), as they explore the best means of monitoring all people, and all countries, to ensure they are complying with the sustainability dictates of the UN.

The ongoing relevance of the SDG's is established by the Commonwealth's renewed commitment to Agenda 21 at Rio + 20 under Prime Minister Julia Gillard. That commitment was not just to Agenda 21, it was also a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals which are based upon AG21. Details of that commitment were recorded in the outcomes document from Rio +20 entitled, [The Future We Want](#):

"We, the heads of State and Government and high level representatives, having met at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20-22 June 2012, with full participation of civil society, renew our commitment to sustainable development, and to ensure the promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations.....We reaffirm our commitment to fully implement the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation....."

We recognize that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. We further recognize the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which are based on Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, fully respect all Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, are consistent with international law, build upon commitments already made, and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major Summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including this outcome document. These goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter-linkages. They should be coherent with and integrated in the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and serving as a driver for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We also underscore that SDGs should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We also recognize that the goals should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development, being guided by this outcome document. Governments should drive implementation with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

We resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on SDGs that is open to all stakeholders with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the United Nations General Assembly.”

Clearly, the SDG’s are a continuation of the 2 decade old Agenda 21 program, a program which has been implemented nationwide for twenty years without any democratic mandate whatsoever. And yet, many politicians, including the Environment Minister, say that it does not exist, is ‘dead’, or is a ‘conspiracy’. Do you agree?

In spite of this, the ongoing UN agenda is abundantly clear, even though still completely lacking any democratic approval. Ms Kushla Munro, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [recently advised the United Nations](#), in respect of financing for the UN post-2015 agenda, *“There should also be a single and simple process for monitoring and follow up.”* [Ms Munro underlined the importance](#) of a “global partnership” to fulfil the “new agenda”:

“One issue that needs more attention is how we can renew and strengthen the global partnership to support implementation of the new agenda. The goals and targets are ambitious, and we must have an equally ambitious global partnership to match.....For Australia, a renewed global partnership illustrates the important role played by a range of actors including the governments, private sector, philanthropics and civil society. These partnerships must be founded on openness, trust and mutual respect and responsibility and focus on where we can capitalise on our respective expertise.”

While steps may be proceeding to lock Australia into financing for the UN’s “new agenda”, most Australians no doubt would like to know the full details of this agenda and why it is being undemocratically driven by the UN with the approval of the Australian government. [According to Mr Sean Batten, Director Global Development Section](#), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, this UN agenda will be “transformational”:

“Under your guidance, we have made good progress towards crafting an inspiring post-2015 development agenda that will focus global efforts on poverty eradication and sustainable economic growth.

As we enter the final phase, we look forward to the timely release of the zero draft outcome document, and subsequent iterations, to allow time for our capitals to consider the text.

On the zero draft itself we have the following comments.

The declaration *should be short and inspiring with strong references to the transformational potential of gender equality, governance and economic growth and a revitalised global partnership.*

It should speak to our shared ambition for the new agenda, as well as common values to guide its implementation.”

Still there are no details of this new agenda and no explanation of why it is driven by the UN and Australians continue to be denied any democratic say. But [according to Mr Batten](#), the UN should *“continue to hold the pen and lead us in this process”*:

“You have also sought our views on the process going forward

We think it is important that you, co-facilitators, continue to hold the pen and lead us in this process. We are very grateful for your positive leadership to date and strongly supportive of it continuing through the final phases.

This will be particularly important if we are to deliver the short and compelling declaration, to which we all aspire.

Finally, we need to maintain the very positive traditions of these negotiations and maintain ways of working that are transparent and encourage a diverse range of voices to be heard both from a wide range of member states and groups and from civil society and other major groups.”

Interestingly, according to the [Chairman of the Group of 77](#), “poverty eradication” by applying the principles of Agenda 21, is one of the main goals of the new post-2015 UN agenda. But top of the agenda is not just wealth transfer, but also [“technology transfer”](#). [Beyond 2015 stressed again](#) the importance of *“comprehensive and robust monitoring and accountability”*:

“First, the monitoring mechanism should be multi-level, focusing on the global, regional and national levels. A universal post-2015 agenda demands global action, based on the accountability of member states inwards, towards their own citizens. And it must extend its scope upwards and outwards, to assess how effectively countries, the UN system and other stakeholders are cooperating to achieve the SDGs.

Secondly, the extraordinary efforts made by people in defining the goals should be matched by efforts to include people in the implementation and monitoring. Who better to measure and track success than the people at their center? After all, it is their lives, and the lives of their children, that depend upon the achievement of the goals. A strong way to ensure all women, men, children, young people, people with disabilities and indigenous people are reached, particularly those experiencing poverty, inequality and marginalization - is through clear pathways to jointly monitor whether promises are being delivered – from the local to the global level. The most important of those pathways exist at local level and there is a clear need for investment on that.”

Kate Donald from the Center for Economic and Social Rights and co-convenor of the Post-2015 Human Rights Caucus, [recommended a process of peer review to ensure compliance with the UN’s agenda](#):

“Imagine this: representatives of States from across the world get together to do a peer review of the impact that their laws and policies are having on their populations. Morocco recommends that the United States tackle the stubbornly large size of its homeless population. India suggests that Bhutan improve implementation of its access to information law. Brazil recommends that the UK establishes a national strategy on violence against women. All of this informed by reports by the countries themselves, UN agencies and civil society.

This is not a crazy fantasy. This happens in Geneva every year, at the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council. In the 8 years since it started, every single Member State has voluntarily submitted to this peer review.

The UPR isn’t perfect. But it is a process and a model that can offer us many lessons for the post-2015 follow-up and review.”

Disturbingly, this peer review process is also supported by Australia, [as noted by Sean Batten](#):

“Australia is currently being reviewed by our partners and we value the dialogue it generates.”

But what is wrong with Australia being monitored democratically by its own citizens? So far of course, this has been prevented for the entire duration of the UN Agenda 21 program as a result of both major political parties preventing transparency and refusing to allow Australians to cast an informed vote and participate democratically.

Isn't it time for change? How much longer do you seek to shut Australians out of this “transformational” agenda? How much longer will you refuse to allow Australians to cast an informed democratic vote?

Why not spell out the full details to all Australians now, including the reason/s why the government has decided it is best to let the UN drive the agenda rather than the Australian people?

In [September this year, in New York](#), the UN will seek to lock the world into their sustainability agenda. Will Australia be attending? What will be Australia's position? Will you be seeking input from the people of Australia?

I urge you to urgently restore democracy and take this entire matter to the people.

Regards

Graham Williamson