

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP,
Minister for the cabinet Office,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

28th June 2016

Dear Mr Cameron,

Regarding the UK Government's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

We welcome the recommendation from the International Development Select Committee that the Cabinet Office takes the lead on the Sustainable Development Goals. However, we also remain to be convinced that responsibility for domestic implementation should lie with the Secretary of State for International Development.

The Global Goals for sustainable development present us with a new agenda for developed and developing countries alike which now requires a cross-Government approach. To be achieved, the Sustainable Development Goals must be on the radar of every Secretary of State and Minister. Accountability for delivery must be in each Single Department Plan.

As leading further and higher education bodies, the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges, the University and College Union and the National Union of Students are keen to explore how universities and colleges can support the Government in engagement and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals . Our view is that the tertiary education sector has a vital role in ensuring future leaders are ready to deliver the global goals, as well as providing the research, knowledge and learning that will be essential in their success. We call on the government to access this expertise and to engage with tertiary education to capitalise on the opportunities that the Sustainable Development Goals present.

We are already working closely on the Sustainable Development Goals with groups like Universities UK and the Association of Colleges, as well as the funding councils. We hope the crucial role of civil society in achieving the Goals is recognised by the Government and that Government will work closely with civil society organisations such as ourselves on their implementation.

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We believe that we can do more and wish to do so, so we are keen to meet with you to explore how we might be able to support the Government over the years ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

TIGIL A PAHOL

Iain Patton

Sally Hunt

Rob Young

EAUC

UCU

NUS

About the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges. Founded in 1996, the EAUC is the leading sustainability body for the UK tertiary education sector. Representing a strong alliance of universities, colleges, sector bodies and commercial organisations, the EAUC works to represent its Members and drive sustainability to the heart of tertiary education across the UK and internationally. With a growing network of over 5500 contacts and a membership that includes 80% of UK Universities, the EAUC acts as the voice of sustainability in tertiary education.

About University and College Union. The University and College Union (UCU) represents over 110,000 academics, lecturers, trainers, instructors, researchers, managers, administrators, computer staff, librarians and postgraduates in universities, colleges, prisons, adult education and training organisations across the UK

About National Union of Students. The National Union of Students (NUS) is a voluntary membership organisation which makes a real difference to the lives of students and its member students' unions. It is a confederation of 600 students' unions, amounting to more than 95 percent of all higher and further education unions in the UK. Through its member students' unions, it represents the interests of more than seven million students.

<u>Also sent to</u>

The Rt Hon Mary Creagh, Chair of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for International Development, DfID, 22 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2EG

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP, Cabinet office, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA.

The Rt Hon Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET

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