Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Key to RAG ratings

GREEN: Global or proposed UK target has been met, exceed or close to being met

AMBER: Some progress or aspect of the targets met

RED: Off target, poor progress, not addressed in existing policies

Prepared by Supported by
FINANCE

Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td>“By source” (in conjunction with the wording of the target) implies that what is of interest here is countries moving away from government dependence on overseas aid. It would be wrong to count UK government income from EU and other international organisations it belongs to as “overseas aid”, so overall the UK figures for government revenue are 100% from UK and 0% from “international support”.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National SDG target

UK commensurable indicator

- Tax revenue (ONS definition) as % of GDP.
- There are separate, lower, figures available from OECD on the basis of their narrower definition of “tax revenue”.

Baseline status / performance

- According to ONS definitions, UK tax revenue is equivalent to 44.5% of GDP (2015) [45.2% 2016]
- https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/17-1-1/

Other relevant UK indicator/s

- Assessment of current state RAG Rating: AMBER
  - The UK has a generally efficient (by international standards) tax collection service but loses money through UK business involvement with tax havens, many of which are UK Crown Dependencies & UK Overseas Territories, and through tax evasion. The question of tax havens, though highly relevant to SDG17, is however not referred to in Target 17.1.

Comment: In addition to taxes forgone through tax havens, there is also the problem of taxes unpaid due to either tax evasion, or from non-domiciled businesses. HMRC provides estimates of tax avoidance, and see here for an article which illustrates its likelihood of underestimation: https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/20/experts-dismiss-hmrsc-shrinking-tax-gap-estimate

Notes/ Disaggregation

Coherence issues & synergies

- Loss of money to tax havens could be seen as a coherence issue

Comment: There is a link to trade policy. Asking countries to liberalise and open up their markets reduces revenue that could be collected from tariffs. The government would argue that increased growth from free trade would make up for this. (Helen, Fairtrade Foundation)

Comment: And see point made above. Also worth on that basis showing links to many other SDGs on the basis that a reduced tax base partly disables their realisation.

Local to International Dimensions

- There are cyclical movements in the UK economy and political aspirations to reduce % of GDP taken in tax but overall in the medium and long term there is little change.

Comment: Surely there is something to say here about the need for international cooperation to tackle this issue

Trends

Actions needed

- The UK should take action to reduce tax avoidance through tax havens, especially its own Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. It should take part in international co-operation on this issue, including with the EU.

Indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National SDG target

### UK commensurable indicator
Percentage of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (total figures, including local authorities & devolved bodies)

### Baseline status / performance
75.9% (2015). 75.4% 2016

**Comment:** Will/are these levels be affected by the tax raising powers of the Scottish and Welsh Governments?

### Other relevant UK indicator/s

#### RAG Rating: GREEN
Indicator already achieved and expected to be maintained through to 2030.

### Notes/ Disaggregation

### Coherence issues & synergies

### Local to International Dimensions

### Trends

### Actions needed

**Target 17.2:** Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

#### Indicator 17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors’ gross national income (GNI)

#### Applicable UK policy / legislation
UK overseas aid programme.

#### National SDG target
UN target of 0.7% of GDP widely supported by stakeholders. Main concern has been how it is spent.

#### UK commensurable indicator
OECD (standard definition) figure for overseas development assistance as % of Gross National Income.

#### Baseline status / performance
Total overseas development assistance: 0.704% in 2015 [0.700% 2016].

**Comment:** Are these levels affected by the foreign aid programmes of devolved administrations? e.g. [http://gov.wales/topics/international/walesforafrica/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/topics/international/walesforafrica/?lang=en)

### Other relevant UK indicator/s

[https://data.oecd.org/oda/net-oda.htm#indicator-chart](https://data.oecd.org/oda/net-oda.htm#indicator-chart)

ODA to least developed countries: 29.7% of total UK bilateral aid. Assuming the same pattern in multilateral aid, this is equivalent to 0.21% of GNI, meeting the SDG target.

### Assessment of current state

**RAG Rating:** GREEN

Target already achieved and expected to be maintained through to 2030. Concerns focus on problems of definition of overseas aid, with pressures within government to transfer spending from Ministry of Defence, Foreign Office, and Business (BEIS) department to take a share of overseas aid money.

### Notes/ Disaggregation

**Coherence issues & synergies**

1. Overseas aid should be considered in conjunction with problematic trade, tax, debt and investment arrangements, all of which have the potential to take money out of developing countries. There is also a need to be wary of proposals to divert aid money according to UK foreign policy and commercial objectives in place of development and emergency assistance. [See https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/administration-of-oda-inquiry/](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/administration-of-oda-inquiry/)

2. This indicator does not appear to give a clear measurement of performance in relation to the target, which is specifically about improving domestic capacity for revenue collection.

**Comment:** Additionally, need to monitor the impact of proposals to redefine ODA - re spending on which countries and for what purposes [https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/administration-of-oda-inquiry/](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/administration-of-oda-inquiry/)

### Local to International Dimensions

**Trends**

UK overseas development assistance has been rising strongly but has been stable at around 0.7% of GNI since 2013.

**Actions needed**

Overseas development assistance is sufficient for SDG Target 17.2 but should be increased further in pursuit of other SDGs. With new trade and investment agreements being discussed as a result of Brexit, it will be important to transfer control over new agreements from Crown prerogative to Parliament.

### Target 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Outside of the scope of the research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td>This indicator, in the context of this target, is specifically about money coming into developing countries, so is not applicable to the UK.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comment:** I would agree that I think we need to look for opportunities to support developing countries in the sourcing of funding.

**Comment:** Is that right? Or is it about assessing what the UK government is doing to encourage investment into developing countries (as well as through ODA). You could look at CDC here and also export credit. From our perspective we would want to see these instruments used to incentivise good labour and sustainability standards, poverty reduction etc.

### National SDG target

**UK commensurable indicator**

**Baseline status / performance**

**Other relevant UK indicator/s**

**Assessment of current state**

**RAG Rating:** None

**Notes/ Disaggregation**

**Coherence issues & synergies**

There is a coherence issue about the potential for dependence on foreign direct investment to make it harder to achieve other SDG targets, for example on equalities (SDG10), biodiversity (SDG15) and food security (part of SDG2).
Local to International Dimensions

Trends

Actions needed
Greater scrutiny of the social and environmental impacts of foreign direct investment.

Indicator
17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

Applicable UK policy / legislation
This indicator, in the context of this target, is specifically about money coming into developing countries, so is not applicable to the UK.

National SDG target

UK commensurable indicator

Baseline status / performance

Other relevant UK indicator/s

Assessment of current state
RAG Rating: None

Notes/ Disaggregation

Coherence issues & synergies
If Brexit leads to stricter controls on immigration, this is likely to reduce remittances from the UK. However Brexit may lead to the replacement of EU27 labour by immigration from developing countries (e.g. India, potentially as a result of new trade agreement) and so tend to increase remittances to developing countries.

Local to International Dimensions

Trends

Actions needed

Target 17.4: Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

Indicator
17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

Applicable UK policy / legislation
This indicator is about debt and interest payments specifically by developing countries and is not applicable to the UK. However UK involvement in PFI schemes overseas affects debt service as a proportion of export income for those countries; as does UK Government policy on debt in international bodies such as the World Bank and IMF.

National SDG target

Comment: Maybe it is worth though including here the volume of remittances sent from the UK and to which countries. The figures for this are set out in a previous SDG and so could be reproduced here to provide the underpinning in the point made under ‘coherence’.

Comment: I think Jubilee Debt Campaign would probably disagree. There are others working on this too (not us!) e.g. what are the impacts of certain PFI initiatives overseas on long-term debt sustainability?

Comment: But this is about assisting developing countries in dealing with debt. Surely this is relevant to the UK through the WB, IMF, OECD, etc. As well as DFID and trade policies. Are we sure this is N/A?
UK commensurable indicator

UK net government borrowing: £71.7 billion (2015-16).
https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/334/uk-economy/uk-national-debt/

UK exports of goods and services: £134 billion (2015).
https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/OverseasTradeStatistics/Pages/ArchiveOTS.aspx

This implies a ratio of 53.5%.

However only about 25% of UK government borrowing is from sources outside the UK. If the ratio is adjusted to take account of this, the ratio becomes 13.4%.
https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/4098/economics/who-does-the-uk-owe-money-to/

Baseline status / performance

Other relevant UK indicator/s

Assessment of current state  RAG Rating: N/A

Notes/ Disaggregation

Coherence issues & synergies

Local to International Dimensions  UK trade policies will influence this indicator through affecting the value of imports from developing countries. UK policies on international debt will also influence this indicator

Trends

Actions needed

Target 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Indicator 17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Applicable UK policy / legislation

DFID activity encourages investment promotion for least developed countries.
Comment: Does the UK not have a DFID policy to help with investment potential of LDCs? I would be surprised if not

National SDG target

UK commensurable indicator

ONS reports current lack of relevant UK data:
https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/partnerships-for-the-goals/

Baseline status / performance

Other relevant UK indicator/s

Assessment of current state  RAG Rating: GREEN

Notes/ Disaggregation
Coherence issues & synergies
There is a coherence issue about the potential for dependence on foreign direct investment to make it harder to achieve some of the other SDG targets, for example on equalities (SDG10), biodiversity (SDG15) and food security (part of SDG2), whilst making it easier to achieve others (e.g. SDG4 on skills)

Comment: However, this needs to be balanced with the benefits to be gained from such relationships in relation to eg SDG1, 8, 4 (skills)

Local to International Dimensions
Trends
Actions needed

TECHNOLOGY

Target 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

Indicator 17.6.1 Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation

Applicable UK policy / legislation
The UK’s closest (North-North) cooperation arrangements currently are as part of the EU and associated bodies such as Euratom. These forms of cooperation are likely to be reduced as a result of Brexit. There are also various bilateral (North/South) arrangements, for example with India.

Comment: See http://gov.wales/topics/international/walesforafrica/?lang=en for an example at the devolved level.

National SDG target
UK commensurable indicator
Baseline status / performance
Other relevant UK indicator/s
Assessment of current state
RAG Rating: GREEN
The UK is part of many international scientific cooperation programmes and this can be expected to continue, although possibly on a reduced scale as a result of Brexit.

Comment: Favour an amber rating - as due to the unknown impacts we should keep an eye on how we maintain and build these mechanisms in the future.
Comment: Agreed, the UK has been good (Green), but Brexit throws so much uncertainty on this topic that it should be an Amber.

Notes/ Disaggregation
Coherence issues & synergies
The main coherence issue here concerns Brexit and its implications for science funding, and the UK Government’s intention to leave Euratom.

Local to International Dimensions
Trends
Actions needed
If Brexit goes ahead, ways should be found to maintain science and technology cooperation with remaining EU member states.

Comment: And funding
### Indicator 17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

**Applicable UK policy / legislation**

UK policy has depended principally on market forces to bring about more widespread and improved broadband connection. Some debate and government attention has focused on the areas and people left behind, e.g. those in rural areas and those which poor digital skills who may be excluded from employment as a result. The UK government has also been keen to ensure that, where possible, government services (e.g. concerning taxation) are available online.


**National SDG target**

**UK commensurable indicator**

Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 population. Estimates of distribution of these subscriptions by speed of connection are generally acknowledged to be unreliable.

**Baseline status / performance**

2015: 37.9 [2016: 38.4]

[https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/17-6-2/](https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/17-6-2/)

**Other relevant UK indicator/s**

**Assessment of current state RAG Rating: GREEN**

The target is not precisely defined, but by global standards the UK has good internet connection, and this can be expected to continue to improve.

Comment: We are not in the top 10 countries for connection speed and 10th for coverage: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Internet_connection_speeds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Internet_connection_speeds) and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_Internet_users](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_Internet_users)

**Notes/ Disaggregation**

**Coherence issues & synergies**

Comment: This relates to SDGs 8/9/10 for example

**Local to International Dimensions**

The dominance of US companies in this field can cause difficulties for other countries and their governments.

Comment: There could be an additional point about speeding up individual connections and speeds for rural areas and/or finding innovative solutions to areas without. This is part of reducing the unbalanced economy of the UK.

**Trends**

Broadband connection speeds may vary for different types of content as a result of changes in US legislation concerning “net neutrality”.

Comment: There could be an additional point about speeding up individual connections and speeds for rural areas and/or finding innovative solutions to areas without. This is part of reducing the unbalanced economy of the UK.

**Actions needed**

The UK should make representations to US regulators urging the maintenance of “net neutrality”. There is also a need for action to improve internet connection in most rural areas in the UK.

Comment: There could be an additional point about speeding up individual connections and speeds for rural areas and/or finding innovative solutions to areas without. This is part of reducing the unbalanced economy of the UK.

---

**Target 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed**

**Indicator 17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies**

**Applicable UK policy / legislation**

The transfer of environmental technologies is included within parts of the UK overseas aid programme and within efforts by universities to seek practical applications for their research.

**National SDG target**

**UK commensurable indicator**

There is no specific UK indicator. UNCTAD has proposed “average applied tariffs imposed on environmental goods” as an indicator for which more data is available.
### Baseline status / performance

There is a lack of data (as well as problems of definition). Overall, however, it is clear that the need for environmental technology transfer is on a much larger scale, especially for low carbon and non-nuclear technologies, than is currently being achieved.

Comment: Many partnerships exist to support tech transfer, this may be an area where guidance can be taken from a collaboration of businesses as to what would help them increase the support, I would guess the big factor is financing.

### Other relevant UK indicator/s

#### Assessment of current state

**RAG Rating: Not known – data insufficient**

The target is not precise enough to assess this.

Comment: Therefore is this not applicable due to lack of data rather than Red?

#### Notes/ Disaggregation

**Coherence issues & synergies**

There is a coherence issue about maintaining intellectual property rights whilst at the same time promoting technology transfer.

Comment: And surely the drive for profit is also a barrier to tech transfer?

**Local to International Dimensions**

#### Trends

**Actions needed**

There is a need for government action to increase the transfer of environmental technologies from the UK to developing countries.

Comment: And I think that the UK can transfer some tech elsewhere for its own use. This isn’t one way anymore.

---

**Target 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology**

#### Indicator

**17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet**

#### Applicable UK policy / legislation


#### National SDG target

**UK commensurable indicator**

Indicator: percentage of adults who have used the internet in the past three months. However the target itself refers to internet use in least developed countries.

Comment: Is this again not about the support the UK can give others?

#### Baseline status / performance

**UK 2015: 86.2% [2017: 88.9%]**

[https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/17-8-1](https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/17-8-1)

For an overview of the situation internationally, see:


Comment: ONS NRP reports % of adults who have used internet in last 3 months at 86.2% (2015)

#### Other relevant UK indicator/s

#### Assessment of current state

**RAG Rating: GREEN**

The target is not precise enough to assess this. However overall surveys show a steady increase in internet use in least developed countries, led by rising use amongst young men, including through mobile phones.

Comment: But surely this about more than internet use. This is about capacity building for science, tech and innovation. There is much work to be here in LDCs and everywhere. I would suggest Amber, given the Actions Needed below

---

**Notes/ Disaggregation**

**Coherence issues & synergies**

**Local to International Dimensions**
### Trends

**Actions needed**

Expand the promotion, through the UK overseas aid programme, of information and communications technology for least developed countries.

### CAPACITY-BUILDING

**Target 17.9** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target 17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td>UK overseas aid budget.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National SDG target</th>
<th>UK commensurable indicator</th>
<th>Dollar value of UK overseas aid budget.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline status / performance</td>
<td>£12,099 million Net ODA 2015.</td>
<td>Dollar value (at average 2015 exchange rate): $8,239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other relevant UK indicator/s</th>
<th>Assessment of current state</th>
<th>RAG Rating: GREEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UK Government has maintained and achieved its commitment to 0.7% of GNI going to overseas aid. Despite the fall in the pound’s exchange rate, and the dollar value of this expenditure falling this commitment and achievement needs is positive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes/ Disaggregation</th>
<th>Coherence issues &amp; synergies</th>
<th>There is a problem of coherence between the target and the indicator here: it should not be assumed that all overseas aid is helpful for capacity-building for the achievement of the SDGs. There is also a danger that the usefulness of overseas aid projects will be undermined by UK trade and economic activity, such as the import of goods with a high water content from areas of high water stress.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: Agree with this - unless there is a clear statement or audit of use we need to be sure we are not misreporting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local to International Dimensions</th>
<th>Trends</th>
<th>Despite an increase in terms of pounds, the most recent trend in this indicator has been downwards, away from the SDG target, because of the fall in the exchange rate of the pound. Future trends depend largely on how foreign exchange markets respond to the UK’s new economic arrangements following Brexit.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Actions needed</td>
<td>Political defence of the overseas aid budget is essential in response to criticisms of it from some newspapers. At the same time, it is important to be able to demonstrate value for money in terms of the contribution which aid makes to the achievement of the SDGs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comment: ONS NRP reports on Net ODA in GBP using data on international development from DfID

Comment: ONS NRP reports £12,099million Net ODA in 2015

Comment: Given the coherence point below, I think that this equally about DFID lack of appreciation and understanding of SD, which still promotes traditional economic growth models

Comment: Agree with this - unless there is a clear statement or audit of use we need to be sure we are not misreporting.
TRADE

Target 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td>The key area here is the UK’s trade policy and what gets agreed with trading partners. In particular, this depends on the outcome of the Brexit negotiations (and especially the UK’s relationship to the EU single market) and on the outcome of trade talks with non-EU countries in the context of Brexit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment: You could link here to the Trade White Paper published last October. Two pieces of legislation are going through parliament at the moment - the Trade and Customs Bills. We could also cite UK government priorities at the WTO (which has not been to conclude the Doha round).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National SDG target

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UK commensurable indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline status / performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other relevant UK indicator/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of current state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes/ Disaggregation

| Coherence issues & synergies | Lower tariffs overall can be expected to increase the volume of international trade. There are questions here about the consistency of this with the sustainable development agenda more broadly, as this would imply greater use of international transport, with increased carbon emissions from shipping and aviation; and a reduced degree of self-reliance and resilience for national, regional, and local economies. |
| Local to International Dimensions | UK policy in this field is clearly geared to an agenda centred on Brexit rather than to any consideration of SDG17 or the SDGs more generally. Comment: Agreed. Fairtrade and Traidcraft have suggested that commitment to SDGs should be at the heart of trade policy, and should be referenced in legislation. No success as yet! |
| Trends | Trends for UK trade are currently highly uncertain and will depend on negotiations both with the EU27 and the US and other governments outside the EU. |
| Actions needed | Ideally, because of the coherence issues involved this target and indicator would be amended to take into account the other SDGs. There is also a need to rewrite WTO objectives and rules to take the SDGs as a whole into account, for example as regards climate change, biodiversity loss, and equality. |
## Target 17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries’ share of global exports by 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.11.1 Developing countries’ and least developed countries’ share of global exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicable UK policy / legislation</strong></td>
<td>This is a target principally for developing countries, but clearly their exporting will be directly affected by policies affecting importing into developed countries. In the UK this is currently in flux because of the uncertainties surrounding Brexit, including the UK’s future relationship with the EU-connected African Caribbean &amp; Pacific (ACP) group of developing countries, which consists principally of ex-colonies of Britain and France. The ACP group has special trading arrangements with the EU through the Lome Conventions and other agreements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comment:** Agreed although you could point to the government’s statement last June which pledged to roll-over duty-free, quota-free access to LDCs post-Brexit and maintain market access for other developing countries. The Customs Bill (still being debated) references the LDC commitment explicitly. Also to note that some UK Aid is being used to support trade & infrastructure in developing countries (which in turn supports exports) e.g. Trademark East Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National SDG target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UK commensurable indicator</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline status / performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other relevant UK indicator/s</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment of current state</th>
<th>RAG Rating: AMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing country exports can be expected to increase along with their general economic development, but the target of “doubling” appears very ambitious. See: UN Comtrade Yearbook 2016 Table A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes/ Disaggregation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherence issues &amp; synergies</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Local to International Dimensions** | UK policy is focused more on export promotion than on increasing imports from developing, or any other, countries. |

| **Trends** | Developing country exports can be expected to increase along with their general economic development, and this can be expected to include their exports to the UK. It is unlikely that post-Brexit trade agreements with developing countries will change this. |

| **Actions needed** | Brexit (EU27) and post-Brexit (non-EU) trade agreements should be negotiated partly with the interests of developing countries in mind. This includes attempting to reach a new arrangement with the ACP group of states, most of which are in Africa. Some ACP arrangements (the Cotonou Agreement) with the EU are in any case due to come to an end in 2020. |

## Target 17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicable UK policy / legislation</strong></td>
<td>Comment: See above. Current proposal is to roll over everything from EU - this includes DFQF access for LDCs and other preferential arrangements for developing countries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| National SDG target |
### UK commensurable indicator

Trade-weighted average tariff on imports to the UK from developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states.

### Baseline status / performance

ONS is not currently providing any figures for these indicators.

### Other relevant UK indicator/s

The UK will be negotiating a new set of trade agreements following its expected exit from the EU. Currently it is unclear what the details of these will be. Indications so far are that, although major developing countries such as India will be prioritised, there will be no such priority for least developed or small island states. In many cases the UK Government is aiming to replicate the existing arrangements it has as an EU member.

### Assessment of current state

**RAG Rating: GREEN**

Tariffs are only one element in trade negotiations, and it is difficult to predict which direction they will move in when they will be part of negotiated packages also involving product standards, customs arrangements, import quotas, rules on foreign direct investment, and disputes resolution.

Similarly import quotas are also one part of negotiations and may be traded off for other benefits or concessions.

### Notes/ Disaggregation

#### Coherence issues & synergies

A reduction in tariffs and in the use of import quotas can be expected to increase the total volume of international trade. There are questions here about the consistency of this with the sustainable development agenda more broadly, as this would imply greater use of international transport, with increased carbon emissions from shipping and aviation; and a reduced degree of self-reliance and resilience for national, regional, and local economies.

#### Local to International Dimensions

UK policy is likely to be far more focused on what is seen as the needs of the UK economy following Brexit than on the needs of developing countries, least developed countries, and small island states.

#### Trends

There is a mixed picture here, with protectionist policies in the USA now tending to bring about a possible reversal of previous trends in the direction of free trade.

#### Actions needed

Post-Brexit trade agreements with developing countries, least developed countries, and small island states should be negotiated with the interests of those countries in mind, and not only the interests of the UK.

### 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

#### Indicator

**17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard**

#### Applicable UK policy / legislation

The SDG framework does not make it explicit what the “dashboard” includes. ONS says it is “exploring data sources”. Conventionally the key macroeconomic indicators are regarded as referring to: inflation, balance of payments, GDP growth, and unemployment. The whole of macroeconomic policy impacts on these indicators, along with policies on infrastructure, the labour market, education, trade, etc.

#### National SDG target

CPI inflation, balance of payments surplus/deficit, GDP growth rate, and claimant count.

#### Baseline status / performance

These figures are published and vary frequently but overall the UK currently has low inflation, a payments deficit, low economic growth, and high unemployment.

#### Other relevant UK indicator/s
Assessment of current state  
RAG Rating: GREEN

Although UK macroeconomic performance may be regarded as unsatisfactory, it is unlikely to contribute to global macroeconomic instability.

Notes/ Disaggregation

Coherence issues & synergies  
There are major coherence issues about the relationship between the indicators conventionally included in a macroeconomic dashboard and many of the indicators included in the SDG framework, for example the relationship between GDP growth and the desire to curb carbon emissions and biodiversity loss. Indicators concerned with inequality, wellbeing, environmental conditions, etc, are not generally regarded as “macroeconomic” and so macroeconomic indicators on their own can easily give a misleading impression of the success of an economy and the nature of its international impact.

Local to International Dimensions

Trends

Actions needed  
Reform of macroeconomic indicators is needed in order to provide a more accurate picture of the UK economy and to bring them more into line with the SDG framework as a whole. In particular, action is needed to acknowledge the limits of both GDP and claimant count for policy-making. Economic performance is in general worse than GDP figures indicate, because of a range of environmental and social costs which GDP does not take into account; and many people who are unemployed are not included in the claimant count.

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

Indicator 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

Applicable UK policy / legislation  
Policy coherence for sustainable development was attempted through the mechanisms set out in the 2005 'Securing the Future' white paper (the UK sustainable development strategy). However currently no such mechanisms are in place within government. An important scrutiny role is, however, carried out by the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and the DFID Select Committee, and an important advisory role is played by the Committee of Climate Change.

Comment: In Wales the Future Generations (Wales) Act is one way in which this has been done. Arguably also the Social Value Act potentially could if better implemented apply a more sustainable development approach to local government procurement.

National SDG target

UK commensurable indicator  
The relevant indicator is whether the UK has such mechanisms in place, which currently it does not.

Baseline status / performance  
The relevant indicator is whether the UK has such mechanisms in place, which currently it does not.

Other relevant UK indicator/s

Assessment of current state  
RAG Rating: RED

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove, has announced a consultation process on the establishment of a new environmental watchdog body to ensure that high environmental standards are maintained after Brexit. It is possible that such a body will have a wide-ranging sustainable development role, although this currently appears unlikely.

Notes/ Disaggregation
### Coherence issues & synergies

There is a whole range of coherence issues concerning the relationship between sustainable development and policy on infrastructure, trade, education, agriculture, energy, transport, etc.

### International Dimensions

Devolved institutions in Scotland & Wales have been more willing to consider sustainable development policy coherence mechanisms – for example, the Wales Commissioner for Future Generations and the High Level Group – Sustainable Scotland.

### Trends

#### Actions needed

It is important to not only go ahead with the setting up of the environmental watchdog body announced by Michael Gove, but also to give it a wide-ranging sustainable development policy advice remit. More ambitiously, the Treasury should be reformed to give it sustainable development as its overarching objective, with the establishment of a Cabinet-level post of Sustainability Secretary to the Treasury, as advocated in a report published by WWF in 2015:

http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/greening_the_machinery_of_government__final_.pdf

### 17.15 Respect each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td>DFID overseas aid programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Policy space in developing countries is impacted by conditionalities, and also from a trade &amp; investment perspective, by mechanisms like ISDS (investor-state dispute settlement) mechanisms, which can allow private investors to sue governments when policies change (e.g. tax changes, higher minimum wage). The UK could choose to rule out ISDS from any future trade deals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### National SDG target

#### UK commensurable indicator

ONS reports: “exploring data sources”.

### Baseline status / performance

#### Other relevant UK indicator/s

### Assessment of current state

RAG Rating: GREEN

### Notes/ Disaggregation

#### Coherence issues & synergies

There are coherence issues concerning the relationship between the results frameworks reported by governments and the SDG framework itself. In some cases there are also concerns about the quality of statistics.

#### Local to International Dimensions

Comment: Which countries are we talking about? Only those outside the UK? I would have thought it essential for Westminster to work with, not against, the interests of the devolved countries. Currently too much work is focused on/in London.

### Trends

#### Actions needed

UK should contribute (in domestic policies, statistical advice and overseas aid programme) to realignment of country results reporting to link more closely with the SDG framework as a whole.
### SYSTEMIC ISSUES – Multi-stakeholder partnerships

**Target 17.16** Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

#### Indicator

| 17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals |

#### Applicable UK policy / legislation

- **National SDG target**: UK reporting so far is of government and overall national performance rather than about stakeholders.
- **UK commensurable indicator**: The UK Government has not convened stakeholders for a government/multi-stakeholder effort to implement the SDGs

#### Baseline status / performance

**Comment**: No but might be useful to check with particularly Scottish colleagues about the process that happened and is happening there.

**Baseline status / performance**

- **Comment**: Furthermore, the UK has not undertaken any formal multi-stakeholder engagement exercises for the SDGs as has been done in many other countries.
- **Comment**: I agree that this is ‘red’ but don’t agree that the reporting framework will be pivotal in changing this. Cross-sectoral partnerships will be key to ensuring the achievement of many of the goals whether businesses and NGOs working abroad or stakeholders within the UK. This will be true at both national as well as devolved, local and sectoral levels.
- **Comment**: Also seen in isolation form the assistance given by devolved nations to developing countries - see my earlier comment about the Wales for Africa programme as an example.
- **Comment**: Might it be possible to reflect here the efforts made by UK civil society to, in the absence of a national framework, feed information on multi stakeholder initiatives to the UN High Level Political forum. The APPG on Sustainable Development is (officially) led by both DFID and the Cabinet Office, I believe. Is it correct to say that the whole of government sees the SDGs as a matter for DFID?

#### Assessment of current state

- **RAG Rating**: RED

  A movement in this direction can be expected as a result of the international reporting framework, and possibly through collaboration between businesses, NGOs, and other organisations outside government, but essentially the UK Government sees the SDGs as a matter for DFID rather than for a widely supported national effort. The UK Government has not convened any formal multi-stakeholder engagement around the SDGs.

- **Comment**: Furthermore, the UK has not undertaken any formal multi-stakeholder engagement exercises for the SDGs as has been done in many other countries.
- **Comment**: I agree that this is ‘red’ but don’t agree that the reporting framework will be pivotal in changing this. Cross-sectoral partnerships will be key to ensuring the achievement of many of the goals whether businesses and NGOs working abroad or stakeholders within the UK. This will be true at both national as well as devolved, local and sectoral levels.
- **Comment**: Also seen in isolation form the assistance given by devolved nations to developing countries - see my earlier comment about the Wales for Africa programme as an example.
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#### Notes/ Disaggregation

**Coherence issues & synergies**

- **The current Government, as compared to previous UK governments, has tended to distance itself from stakeholders, through limitations on campaigning by charities, a drive to by-pass trade unions, and difficulties with major business organisations over Brexit. Despite some specific environmental initiatives, it has also not generally given a high priority to a broad sustainable development agenda.**

**Local to International Dimensions**

**Trends**

- **It is difficult to see how the present situation can be sustained, due to a variety of pressures: from the UN, other governments, stakeholders, and the electorate. There is a good chance that greater multi-stakeholder cohesion will emerge in the process of SDG implementation.**

**Actions needed**

- **The initiative should be taken now by stakeholders to work together on the SDGs and move them up the political agenda in the UK. It would be useful to learn from the multi-stakeholder processes in Scotland, Wales, and local government.**

**Comment**: And now the commitment to present a UK VNR to the HLPF
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National SDG target</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK commensurable indicator</td>
<td>It is virtually impossible to find reliable figures for this indicator, as it is hard to distinguish between partnership expenditure for SDG implementation and for other purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline status / performance</td>
<td>Whilst much UK expenditure is relevant to SDG implementation, very little (none?) of this is channelled through SDG-specific multi-stakeholder partnerships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other relevant UK indicator/s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of current state</td>
<td>RAG Rating: RED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is likely to continue to be a tendency for stakeholders to spend money relevant to SDG implementation through their own programmes rather than through multi-stakeholder partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes/ Disaggregation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coherence issues &amp; synergies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local to International Dimensions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trends</td>
<td>There has been no significant trend towards SDG-specific multi-stakeholder partnership expenditure in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions needed</td>
<td>Stakeholders should take the initiative to convene discussions about potential SDG partnerships.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SYSTEMIC ISSUES – Data, monitoring and accountability**

**Target 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National SDG target</strong></td>
<td>ONS, working with Defra, publish a range of sustainable development indicators. Some are disaggregated whilst others are not, or only on the basis of a few characteristics. It would be difficult to put a figure on the proportion disaggregated, especially when the words “when relevant” have been added. DFID are planning to produce more data on a disaggregated basis. The ONS is also working on data specifically for the SDGs <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/">https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/</a> Their recent consultation asked about areas and needs for disaggregation and their response is published on their website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseline status / performance</strong></td>
<td>In July 2016 ONS stopped collecting and publishing together its full set of sustainable development indicators, although all the information is still available from separate sources: <a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/cessationofthesustainabledevelopmentindicators/2016-07-27/cessation-of-the-sustainable-development-indicators">https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/cessationofthesustainabledevelopmentindicators/2016-07-27/cessation-of-the-sustainable-development-indicators</a> However ONS is currently working on creating a data set connected to the SDGs and their targets and indicators and has ambition to disaggregate as far as possible – though faces technical issues with this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other relevant UK indicator/s</strong></td>
<td>RAG Rating: AMBER ONS is currently working on creating a data set connected to the SDGs and their targets and indicators and has ambition to disaggregate as far as possible – though faces technical issues with this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes/ Disaggregation</strong></td>
<td>Some dimensions of disaggregation for some indicators can raise coherence issues. For example it would be useful for policy-makers to see a distributional analysis of the impact of different infrastructure building options or a gender analysis of the impact of changes in taxation and benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherence issues &amp; synergies</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local to International Dimensions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trends</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actions needed</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td>ONS procedures, governed partly by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National SDG target</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK commensurable indicator</td>
<td>UK complies with the Principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline status / performance</td>
<td>UK complies with the Principles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other relevant UK indicator/s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of current state</td>
<td>RAG Rating: GREEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Already met and this can be expected to be maintained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes/ Disaggregation**

**Coherence issues & synergies**

**Local to International Dimensions**

**Trends**

**Actions needed**

Greater public, media, and political awareness of what the statistics actually measure is necessary, e.g. especially for GDP and unemployment statistics, which are regularly misinterpreted.

**Target 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicable UK policy / legislation</td>
<td>UK overseas aid programme, ONS international collaboration, UK involvement in World Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National SDG target</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK commensurable indicator</td>
<td>There appears to be no currently available indicator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline status / performance</td>
<td>UK does provide some assistance but this remains unquantified in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other relevant UK indicator/s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of current state</td>
<td>RAG Rating: GREEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UK can be expected to continue to provide relevant assistance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes/ Disaggregation**

**Coherence issues & synergies**

There is a coherence issue about the development of indicators to complement GDP and the general prioritisation, despite this, of GDP by almost all governments.

**Local to International Dimensions**
### Trends

**Actions needed**
Indicators to complement GDP should come to be seen as more important for policy-making than GDP is.

**Indicator**
17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

**Applicable UK policy / legislation**
Census. Registration of births and deaths. Housing Conditions Survey.

**National SDG target**

**UK commensurable indicator**
Percentage of people included in census and registration of births and deaths. Percentage of households included in Housing Conditions Survey.

**Baseline status / performance**
UK systems are excellent.

**Other relevant UK indicator/s**

**Assessment of current state**
RAG Rating: GREEN
Target already achieved and expected to be maintained.

### Notes/ Disaggregation

### Coherence issues & synergies

### Local to International Dimensions

### Trends

**Actions needed**
Continue with current systems. Focus effort on improving coverage of electoral registration.