

# *How to run a workshop on the UN Global Goals for sustainable development*

On 25 September 2015 the 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This included 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development with 169 associated targets and the principle that no one will be left behind.



The Goals were developed over two years by an open working group, with representatives from over 70 countries. The consultation on the Goals was the largest to date in the UN's history and reached over 8 million individuals. The vision the Goals paint of the world we want by 2030 is hugely ambitious and very different from the world we know today.

## *So what's the role for the accountancy profession?*

- The profession has a history of coming together to serve the public interest by creating public goods in the form of common bases of measurement, reporting and assurance.
- As countries measure progress on the goals statistically, and business measures progress using accounting tools, the accountancy profession will have a substantial role in aligning these systems of measurement.
- Understanding the Goals' interconnectivity and measuring progress will require huge amounts of data which will need to be trusted. The profession is at the forefront of applying new technology in information gathering, processing and assuring.
- Strong local institutions, including those that make up the accountancy profession will be essential to achieve the goals.



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development



### *Outline for a global goals workshop (1-2 hours)*

Before the session print a set of the Goals on individual cards. The logos are available under a creative commons license and freely downloadable here: [www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org)

Introduce the Global Goals. You might want to play 'We the People for the Global Goals' a three minute video freely available on YouTube which outlines the 17 Global Goals.

Begin the discussion by outlining how these Goals are relevant for the accountancy and finance profession. At its core the relevance of these Goals relates to measuring, reporting and assurance but the role for the profession will go beyond this. The profession will be vital in leading the way for business and finance to transform in order to meet these Goals.

As an icebreaker ask each participant to speak to the people sitting next to them about the following question for 5-10 minutes then feedback:

1. Which Goal resonates with you on a personal level and why is this Goal important to you?

Around tables, ideally in groups of no more than 10 people use the following questions as a guide to explore the Goals for 20-30 minutes per question. Come together after each session and share back to the whole room.

2. Pick a Goal around the table. Using the cards put this Goal in the centre and 'map' the other Goals in relation to this Goal.
3. How would you bring this Goal into what you do professionally?
4. Pick a Goal that is on the periphery. Putting this at the centre how might this disrupt what you do?

For questions 2-4 you can choose a Goal to place at the centre that might be the Goal for;

- a.) your organisation;
- b.) your network; or
- c.) your country.



More resources are available at: [icaew.com/globalgoals](http://icaew.com/globalgoals)

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about what ICAEW is doing please email: Francesca Sharp, Sustainability Manager [francesca.sharp@icaew.com](mailto:francesca.sharp@icaew.com)