

Glossary

Development Term	Definition
Asia-Pacific	A region including Australia, countries across Asia, and Pacific Island nations.*
bilateral	Involving two groups or countries.
climate adaptation	Actions that help communities adjust to the effects of climate change, such as building flood-resistant infrastructure or planting drought-tolerant crops.
climate mitigation	Efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases, such as investing in renewable energy or energy efficiency.
community	A group of people linked by a common social structure and sense of belonging. This may be based on location, gender, interests, cultural background, or political or religious beliefs.*
development	The process of growing or changing from one condition to another, such as by creating something new or advancing skills or technologies in order to improve a country's wealth and standard of living.
diplomacy	The skill of carefully engaging, cooperating and managing discussions between people or countries with the aim of advancing one's interests and avoiding disagreement.
diversity	The mix of people in a group or society, for instance, differences in factors such as age, abilities, culture and religion and/or in how people identify in relation to factors such as gender and sexuality.*
food security	The assurance that food supplies are reliable and of a sufficient quality and quantity to maintain human life.*
foreign aid	Voluntary support given from one country to another in times of need, usually in the form of money, food, water or other resources required to improve the living conditions for the population.
gender equity	Fair treatment, equal rights and access to opportunities for all genders, recognising a variety of needs and experiences.
global citizen	A global citizen understands their place in the world and participates responsibly in global engagement, contributing to peace, development, inclusion and sustainability.
governance	How decisions are made and control is managed. It includes the organisations and processes that ensure decision-making is fair and supports development outcomes.
hazard	A threat arising from environmental processes or human activities that has the potential to cause loss of life, injury, property damage, socio-economic disruption or environmental degradation.*
humanitarian support	Assistance provided during times of emergency to improve or save people's lives and reduce suffering during and after a crisis, such as a war or natural disaster.
Indo-Pacific	Australia's closest neighbouring countries in the Pacific and southeast Asia.

infrastructure	The systems and services that a country or organisation require to support the population, such as transport and communication networks, technology, energy supply, and water and sewerage services.
interconnected	How people, places and the environment are connected and can influence and depend on each other through processes and phenomena.*
multilateral	Involving or affecting more than two countries or organisations.
national interest	Refers to a country's goals and ambitions that guide decision-making and secure the prosperity and safety of citizens.
non-government organisation	A group or organisation that works independently of any one country and addresses social, environmental or humanitarian issues around the world.
Official Development Assistance (ODA)	Economic support from a country's government that improves the development and standard of living in developing countries by creating new projects and jobs.
partnership	When people or countries work together to share knowledge, ideas and resources, learning from one another and forming solutions to problems.
peaceful	Acting in a calm manner, without violence or argument. Peaceful regions are places where problems are solved early on, people are kept safe from violence and other harm, and everyone is included.
poverty	Poverty is when a person cannot maintain the basic needs to survive, including sufficient food, shelter, clothing and money. Without access to services, they are unable to live safely and comfortably.
productivity	The rate at which a person, company or country creates value by doing useful work, including providing services and making products.
prosperity	A country's ability to maintain a strong economy, invest in people's skills and education, and provide opportunities for well-paid and secure employment.
region/regional	An area of the world sharing common characteristics (for example, a geographical region such as Southeast Asia).*
resilience	The ability of people or communities to bounce back, withstand or recover from difficult or tough situations in a timely manner.
resources	Natural or created products and supplies, such as food, water, timber, energy, technologies and minerals that humans use or trade to support their lifestyle and boost economic growth.

social cohesion	Social cohesion refers to the shared values and connections between people, groups and organisations that promote peaceful acceptance and a sense of belonging for all.
sustainable development	Sustainable development is the process of making changes or improvements to our lifestyle and development practices that balance our current needs with the needs of future generations. It ensures the environment and natural resources are preserved and managed carefully.
unilateral	When one country or organisation acts independently.
United Nations (UN)	The largest international organisation in the world with 193 member countries. The UN aims to develop friendly relations between countries and promote peace and security as a global community. It acts on issues that are important for the whole world, such as human rights, health, education and the environment.
UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	A set of 17 global goals adopted by UN member states in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and promote peace and prosperity by 2030.

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