



## Role of UK business in delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goals

*Sustainable Development Goals: Japanese  
and UK Approaches*

*Daiwa Foundation Seminar*

*Cornwall Terrace, London  
20 March 2019*

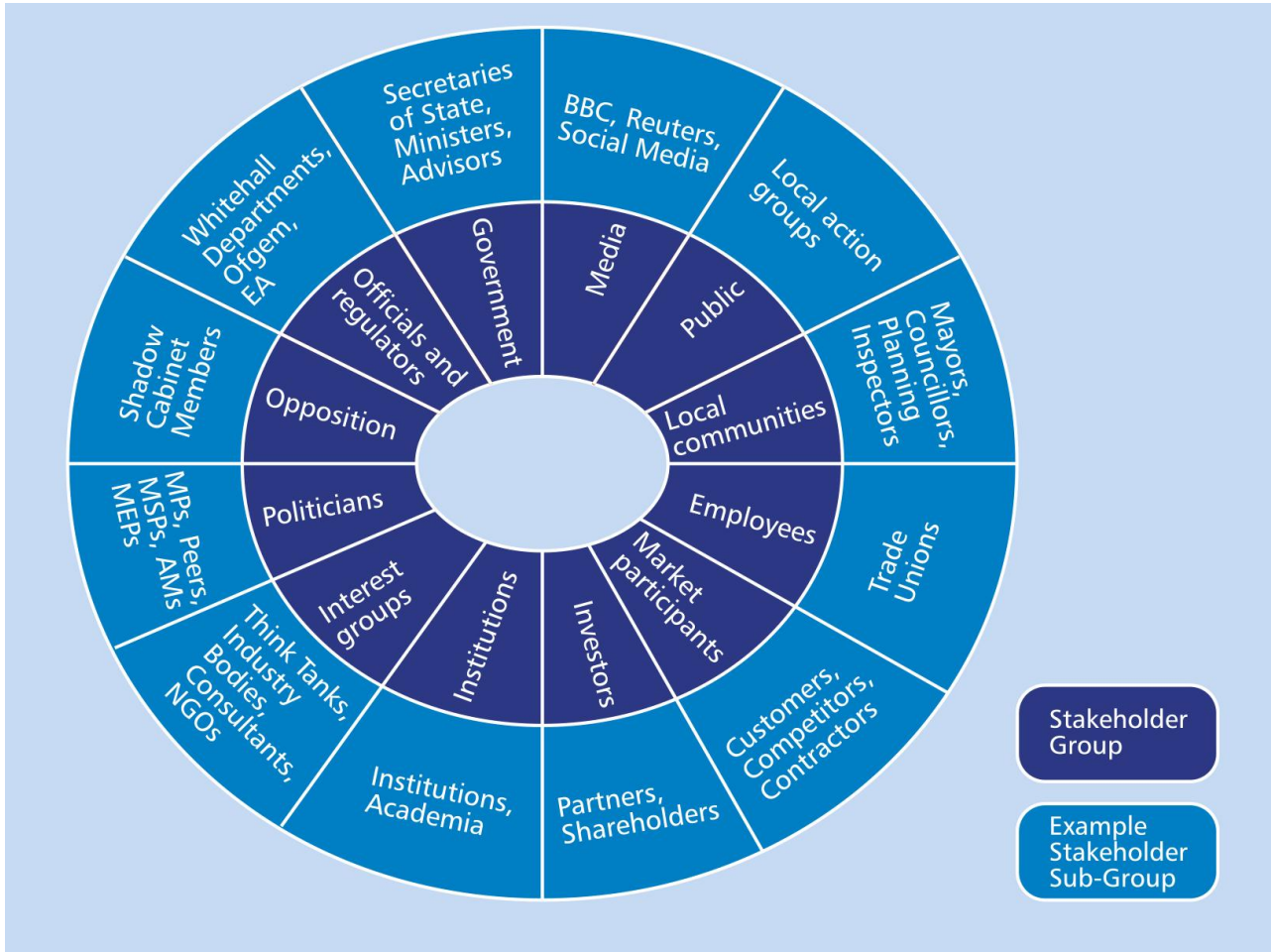
Dr Chris Anastasi

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# Sustainable Development Goals in themes



# Stakeholders across the spectrum



*“Think of the SDGs as an incredible powerful employee engagement opportunity”*

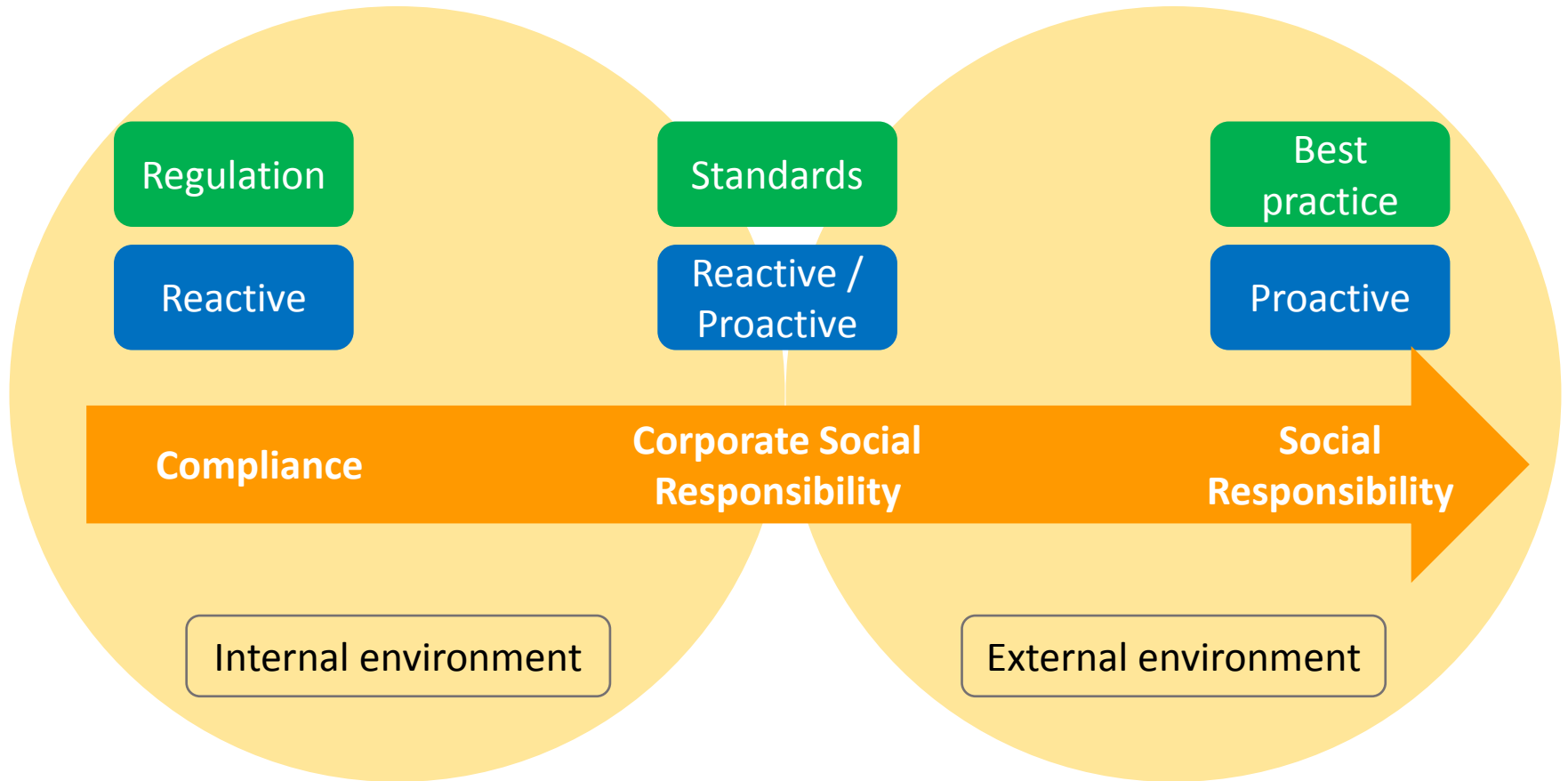
Benevity  
14 July 2017

Source:  
[www.benevity.com](http://www.benevity.com)

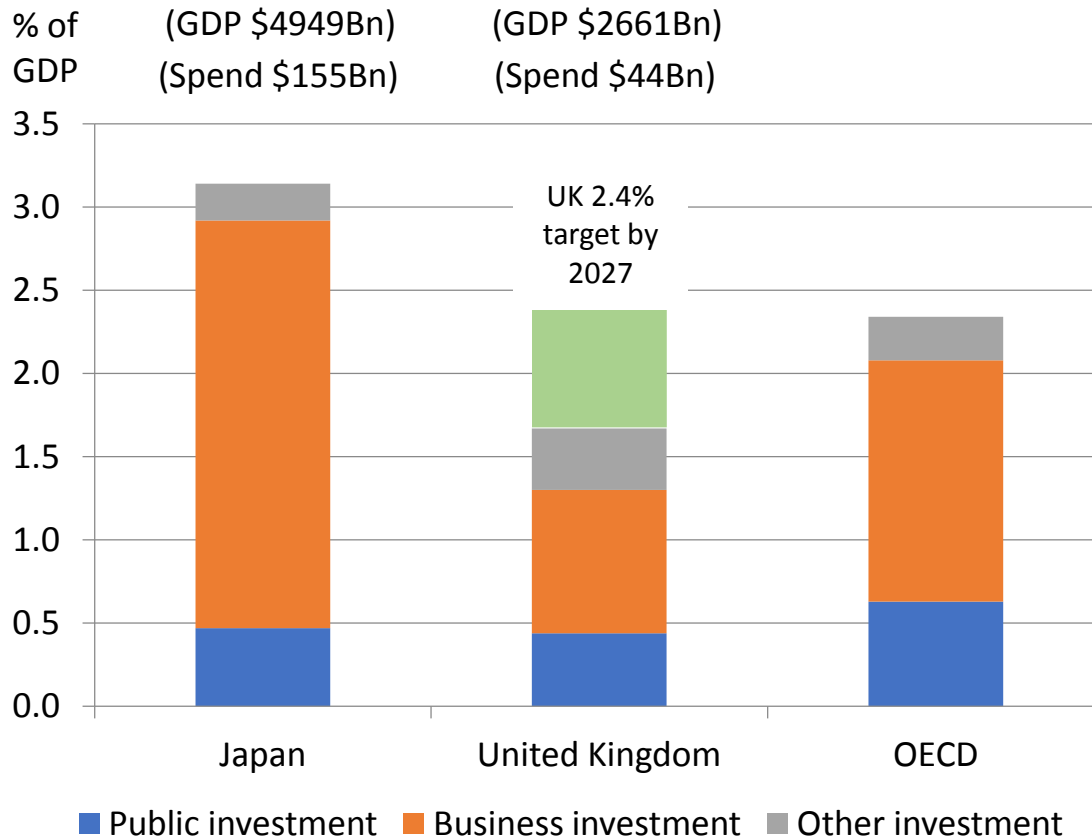
# Role of some key UK stakeholders

Stakeholder	Stakeholder member	Potential role
<b>Government</b>	Departments of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), for International Trade (DIT), for International Development (DFID), and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Articulate clear vision in SDG ambition</li> <li>▪ Create enabling framework, and provide funding to meet SDG</li> <li>▪ Ensure SDG an integral part Departmental programmes</li> <li>▪ Review progress and reaffirm goals</li> </ul>
<b>Business</b>	Trade Associations  Prominent organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raise awareness</li> <li>▪ Mobilise action by members</li> <li>▪ Share learning</li> <li>▪ Take leadership role</li> <li>▪ Incorporate SDGs into business principles</li> <li>▪ Empower employees to contribute</li> </ul>
<b>Institutions</b>	Academic and professional institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carry out Research and Development</li> <li>▪ Support innovation cycle</li> <li>▪ Support skills development</li> </ul>
<b>Charities and other NGOs</b>	Local, national and international organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raise awareness and solicit donations</li> <li>▪ Mobilise action by members and provide expertise</li> <li>▪ Lobby government</li> </ul>
<b>Media</b>	Local, mainstream and social media, specialist and non-specialist journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raise awareness of key issues</li> <li>▪ Report successes and failures</li> <li>▪ Hold practitioners to account</li> </ul>
<b>Wider civil society</b>	Citizens and consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adopt SD practice</li> <li>▪ Encourage friends and colleagues to adopt SD practice</li> <li>▪ Support organisations lobbying for adoption of SDG</li> </ul>

# UK Business action today



# Innovation important to delivering Goals



Source: Investing in UK R&D, Royal Society, May 2018

Notes: Figures are for 2016 except those for % of GDP figures for Germany, Finland, France and OECD average which are for 2015; £\$=£0.77

## UK R&D spend by business

- Pharmaceuticals (\$5.35Bn)
- Motor vehicles and parts (\$4.38Bn)
- Computer programming and information service (\$3.28Bn)
- Aerospace (\$2.47Bn)
- Technical Testing and analysis (\$1.67Bn)
- Research and Development services (\$1.33Bn)
- Chemicals and chemical products (\$1.32Bn)
- Machinery and Equipment (\$1.18Bn)
- Consumer electronics and communication equipment (\$1.09Bn)
- Telecommunications (\$1.04Bn)

# UK business ambition in regard to the Goals

The logo for the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), consisting of the letters 'CBI' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with vertical bars separating the letters.

Confederation of  
British Industry



International Chamber  
of Commerce

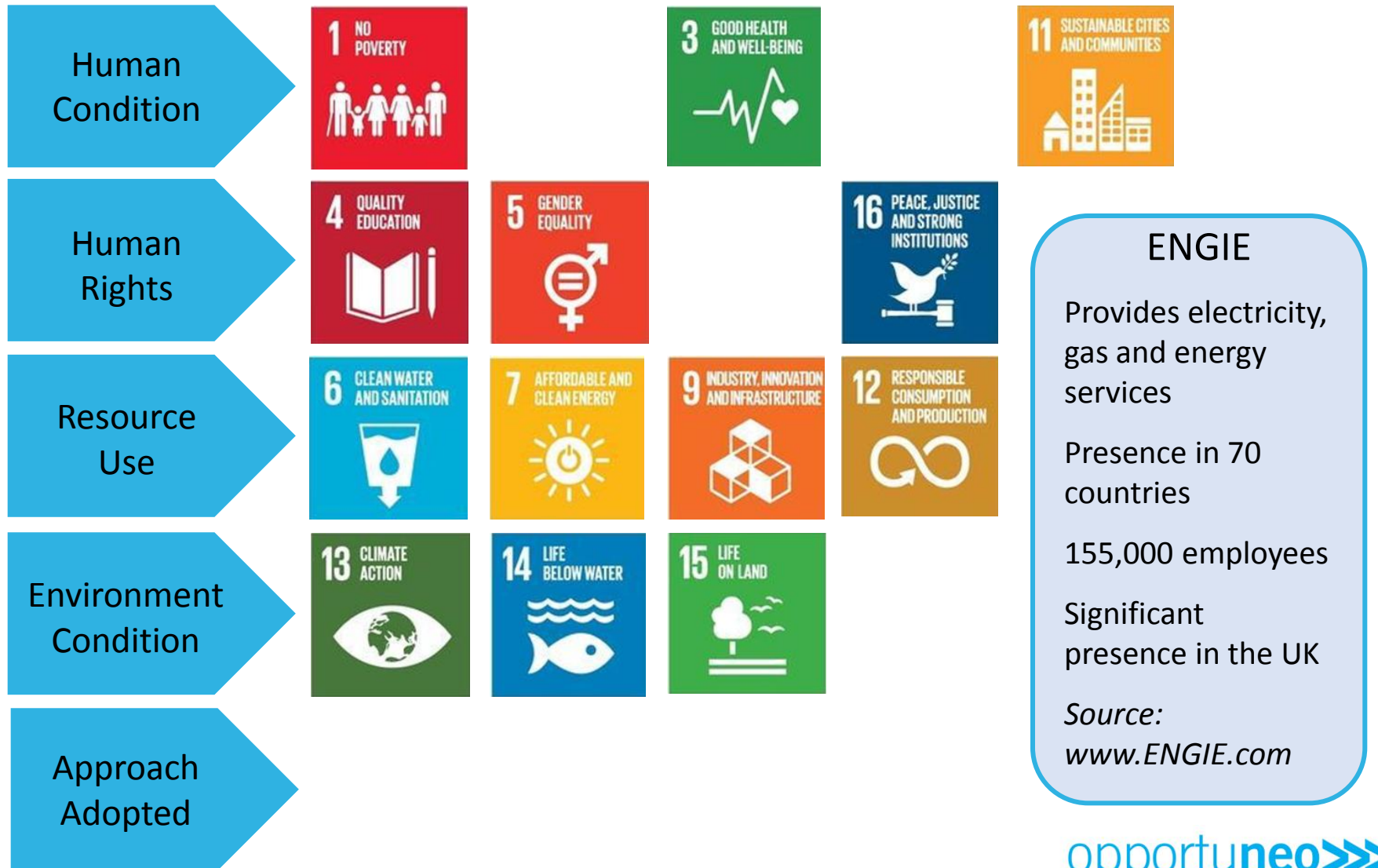
*“The challenges posed by sustainable development and climate change are some of the most pressing issues of our time”*

CBI/ICC Roundtable  
London  
15 February 2019

## CBI/ICC Roundtable discussion London, 15 February 2019

- A clear definition of the Sustainable Development Goals
- A clear joined-up strategy across government
- A clear plan for how the UK can deliver these successfully
- A clear communications plan outlining what the Goals are and what they mean for consumers
- An action plan on how business and government can work together to accelerate sustainable finance in the UK

# Prominent companies engaging with the Goals





# ENGIE action



- Implemented a gender diversity policy in 2008 with actions to promote women within the Group
- Committed to promoting equal opportunities and equal treatment in all Group entities
- Board of Directors includes 8 women out of 19 Directors, including the CEO (as of May 2018)



- Is reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per kWh by:
  - Divesting from coal-fired generation
  - Investing in renewable generation
- Promoting global climate action, green finance, and carbon-pricing regulations
- Increasing the resilience of its infrastructure to extreme events



- Provides products and services aim at improving the well-being of residents through:
  - urban heating and cooling systems
  - decentralized low-carbon energy production
  - green mobility, smart networks
  - lighting and security devices
- Stakeholders are consulted and involved

# Summary key points

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- A consistent understanding of what is needed for each of the SDGs is needed
- No single stakeholder, or group of stakeholders, will deliver the SDGs; all stakeholders have a role to play. The challenge is to raise awareness and encourage stakeholder engagement with the SDGs
- Government is a key enabler and an active participant in the SDGs initiative
- In terms of the business sector:
  - Business can play an important role in translating the SDGs into tangible outcomes
  - Business accounts for about half of UK R&D; R&D in some sectors are highly relevant to SDGs, others less so
  - It is acceptable for organisations to consider their CSR activities as a first step in adopting the SDGs;
  - A successful response by business requires organisations to adopt some, if not all, the SDGs
  - There are organisations that are providing leadership in this initiative
- A coordinated and concerted effort is needed over a long period of time to realise the full potential of the SDGs