

# Coalition2030: Working together to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals

## Who we are

**Coalition2030** is an alliance of leading civil society groups working for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Between us, we represent over 100 organisations, working here in Ireland and in over 50 countries across the globe. Our expertise ranges from children’s rights to environmental sustainability and from humanitarian relief to education.

The members of Coalition2030 include:



# **We have come together to promote the implementation, in Ireland and worldwide, of the UN’s 2030 Agenda, known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

## **Why we came together**

In September of 2015, at the United Nations in New York, 193 countries adopted “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” and signed up to the 17 **Sustainable Development Goals**.

The Goals mark a significant departure from the Millennium Development Goals that preceded them, in terms of their universal application, the recognition of their interconnected and integrated nature, as well as the inherent commitment to “leave no one behind”. In effect, the SDGs will ensure that by 2030, the world will have taken huge strides to end poverty, eliminate inequality, tackle climate change and stop environmental degradation.

The SDGs are BIG. With 17 Goals and 169 individual targets to be measured, reported on and met, new partnerships will be needed – partnerships which bring together citizens and organisations across the country as well as the various strands of Government. If we are to reach these Goals, we will all need to take responsibility for ensuring progress towards a more equal and sustainable society.

## **Coalition2030: strength through diversity**

The members of Coalition2030 are committed to building vibrant public engagement and support for the SDGs right across the country. We are committed to working together to ensure no one is left behind. Already, we engage with people at local and national level in ordinary and extraordinary ways. A small sample of this work includes:

**Social Justice Ireland:** undertakes research and analysis into Ireland’s economic, social, and environmental achievements and challenges

**Concern Worldwide:** supports engagement with young people on SDGs through its active citizenship programme, campaign academy and debates which have engaged over 50,000 over the past 33 years

**Environmental Pillar:** creates and promotes policies that advance sustainable development at local and national level

**Dóchas:** the national network representing the international development sector in Ireland, influencing policies and behaviours for a better world

**Macra na Feirme:** has approximately 200 clubs in 31 regions around the country and have increasingly worked with farming communities and policy makers around sustainability issues

**National Youth Council of Ireland:** represents and supports community, voluntary and not for profit youth organisations and engages with young people on SDG-issues through mini grants, trainings, development education and social justice resources, courses, policy, advocacy, and youth events

**European Anti-Poverty Network:** explores the links between the SDGs and day-to-day work fighting poverty and taking action with communities on the ground across the country

**Irish Development Education Association:** represents over 100 members involved in the practice, promotion and advancement of Development Education in formal, non-formal and informal settings and works to achieve an equal, just and sustainable future for everyone

**ICTU:** Congress is the largest civil society organisation on the island of Ireland, representing and campaigning on behalf of some 800,000 working people. Through the organisation of workers into unions, Congress strives to achieve sustainable economic development, social cohesion and justice by upholding the values of solidarity, fairness and equality.

**In the months and years to come, Coalition2030 members will raise awareness of the Goals, engage people across the country in making them a reality, and support Government in its efforts to lead on the 2030 Agenda.**

### **Irish Leadership on the 2030 Agenda**

As a small country, we can be proud of the many contributions made by Irish people, Irish organisations and successive Irish Governments to making the world a better place. From missionaries to UN peacekeepers, from NGOs to the Government aid programme, from private sector organisations to flourishing academic partnerships, Ireland's contribution to international development, humanitarian assistance, peace, and prosperity across the globe has been second to none.

Irish people also have a deep and sincere commitment to making the world a better place for future generations. Our history of overcoming conflict, colonisation and famine has given us an empathy and understanding with other struggling nations that informs our focus on human rights, poverty eradication and the fight against hunger and enables us to act as an "honest broker" and a progressive voice in many areas of international diplomacy. One of the most significant Irish contributions to international diplomacy of recent years was our co-chairing of the Sustainable Development Goals negotiations.

Ireland played an instrumental role in bringing about a new political manifesto – the 2030 Agenda. This new Agenda is **universal**: addressing issues of sustainable development for all countries, while recognising that each nation will adapt and prioritise the goals in accordance with its own needs and policies. It is **transformative**: proposing action to end poverty and hunger once and for all, while safeguarding the planet. It is **integrated and indivisible**: requiring policy coherence and cooperation at all levels of government and across sectors, recognising that all the goals must be addressed in an integrated manner to achieve the transformation we seek. At its heart, and reverberating throughout this Agenda, is the premise that freedom and fundamental rights belong equally to all humanity. Hence, the promise to leave no one behind.

The SDGs represent a political, economic, environmental, and social manifesto for the world over the next 13 years; their success has the potential to be one of the most important turning points in modern history. Now that the Goals have been adopted, Ireland must shift the focus to implementation, reporting, and monitoring. In the years up to and including 2030, along with leaders of every country in the world, Ireland will report to the United Nations on whether we have kept our promise. *Did we do what we said we would to eliminate hunger, to stall climate change, to reduce global inequality?* The challenges Ireland faces – homelessness, conflict, forced displacement, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and income inequality – are not confined to our country. They are challenges we can only tackle at a global level, together. Universal participation is key.



### A “Whole of Government” Initiative

Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals requires a ‘whole of government’ approach, ensuring each government department commits and contributes to targets and indicators laid down in a National Action Plan. Political leadership and effective coordination will be critical in order to ensure all parts of Government are contributing to the agenda adequately and appropriately. Coalition2030 calls for:

1. An ambitious National Action Plan led by the Department of An Taoiseach, involving all government departments to steer, implement, monitor, and report on the SDGs. This Plan needs to emphasise the interlinked nature of the Goals - linking for example, agriculture and climate change to trade policy and global poverty;
2. An Inclusive SDG Monitoring Forum in which civil society, and in particular those vulnerable groups – both Irish and internationally – who stand to gain or lose most from Ireland’s work on the Goals, are fully represented;
3. Increased Financing for Development to support delivery of the SDGs. We call on Government to commit the resources required to achieve the SDGs, both at home and internationally. Only then will the National Action Plan work for the most marginalised and vulnerable. Scaling up public engagement will be important in order to ensure everyone is part of this new movement and that we build an enhanced citizenship through Coalition2030. A key indicator of Ireland’s commitment will be a clear and credible plan to reach the UN ODA target of 0.7% of GNI.

The UN has identified national parliaments and civil society as having crucial roles in ensuring development of a National Action Plan on the SDGs, promoting public debate and education about the Goals, overseeing progress towards national targets, and ensuring sufficient financial resources are committed to achieving the Goals. That is why we want to support you in getting the foundations right. Coalition2030 stands ready to partner with government, in working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



*The SDGs are a tapestry of goals and targets which have to be pursued together, making progress in one area dependent on progress in others, and requiring integrated and authentic policy responses. This reflects, not just the global and interrelated nature of the great challenges of our times, but also the reality of people's lives – the fact that political, social, economic and environmental dimensions are interrelated in our everyday experiences."*

*President Michael D Higgins, 2016*



### **Coalition2030**

Age Action Ireland; All Together in Dignity (ATD); ChildFund Ireland; CBM Ireland; Centre for Youth Research and Development, Maynooth University; Christian Aid; Comhlámh; Community Work Ireland; Concern Worldwide; Development Perspectives; Disability Federation of Ireland; Dóchas; EcoUnesco; 80:20 Educating & Acting for a Better World; Environmental Pillar; European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN); Future Earth Ireland; Global Action Plan; Gorta Self Help Africa; Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU); Irish Development Education Association; Mercy International Association; Mísean Cara; National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI); National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI); Oxfam Ireland; Presentation Sisters (PBVM); Services Industrial Professional Technical Union (SIPTU); Social Justice Ireland; Society of St. Vincent de Paul; SpunOut; The Wheel; Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI); Trocaire; UCD Centre for Sustainable Development Studies; UNICEF; Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO); and World Vision Ireland.