



## IDWG Meeting 23 April 2021 – Online

### Minutes

#### Attendees

- DECC – Justina Corcoran, Hannah Gilmartin, Emer Griffin, Niamh Hamill, Stacy Wrenn
- DoJ – Eileen Leahy
- D.Fin – Renee Martin, Patrick Mulhall
- DCEDIY – Eimear O’Brien, Leah Breen
- DRCD – Maura Lynskey, Aisling Penrose
- DOH – Colin O’Hehir
- D.Taoiseach - Bríd Ní Ghruagáin, Gill Ní Bhroin
- DETE – Rory Mulholland, Cairen Power
- DFHERIS - Siobhan Sleeman
- DTCAGSM – Darragh Morgan, Sinead O’Hara
- DHLGH – Evelyn Carroll, Deirdre Lynn
- DSP – Paul Dockery
- DFA – Ciaran Breen, Nigel Huston
- D.Education – Leona DeKhors
- DPER – Ian Devlin

#### Agenda

##### 1. Short Recap on the SOG (Tuesday 16 February)

The proposed Work Plan that arose from the SOG was briefly discussed, with the following key targets outlined:

- By end Q1 – Finalise Policy Map, which is why this meeting focused on it
- By end Q2 – Produce a detailed Work Plan for 2021, including the development of an engagement plan
- By end Q2 – Complete progress report of first National Implementation Plan and finalise priorities for the second Plan



- By end Q3 – Produce full draft of the second Plan, with the Plan published before end of year

It was noted that the SOG was very well attended and engagement was high, and that despite COVID, restructuring, less frequent meetings it was clear that a lot of work continued to progress. EG DECC displayed the agreed actions (non-departmental) from the first Plan on screen and highlighted the 3 outstanding actions not yet achieved, and the 2 awaiting confirmation. These included:

- Developing a new Sustainable Development strategy (responsibility rests with DECC and this will be reviewed internally)
- Inclusion of the SDGs in departmental Statements of Strategy (partially achieved)
- Aligning departmental budgets to see how much is put forward on SDG work (some discussion on this but will be discussed in next meeting)
- Progress report (agreed at SOG this would be incorporated into next Plan)

NH DFA noted on the third action that DFA has this already built into their grants management process so it is clear to see what SDGs they are fulfilling, so they think it should be marked as 'partially achieved'.

Going forward, EG DECC proposed monthly meetings of the IDWG to progress 2021 Workplan adopted at the SOG (also attached..

## 2. Review of SDGs in Statements of Strategy

Before tour de table, EG DECC reminded departments that any annual departmental reports might also mention their progress on implementing the Goals they lead on – this will be discussed again at a later meeting.

- [DECC](#) – More of a visual/presentation style than most SoS with sustainability very much integrated into it and dedicated SDG section.
- DFA – In SoS, Strategic Goal 3/5 more or less completely devoted to a sustainable world where they are specifically mentioned. Sidenote: On the HR side DFA have also incorporated them in a sustainable workplace policy, this was suggested as potential for DPER's remit across the civil service.
- [D.Justice](#) – Detailed document with an associated action plan, SDGs commitment specifically referenced in SoS and their action plans/policies are mapped to the relevant SDG.
- [DAFM](#) – Not present at meeting but has a full page dedicated to the SDGs.
- [D.Finance](#) – Noted that it is mentioned generally.
- [DCEDIY](#) – Also noted that it is mentioned.
- [DRCD](#) – Similar style of SoS to DECC's, with one page dedicated to the SDGs and aligned policies to goals and will include them in their annual report.
- [DoH](#) – Recently finalised their SoS, SDGs are mentioned.



- [DETE](#) – In the SoS there is a summary of their SDGs with specific reference given one of it overarching s Strategic Goals. DETE also committed to seek to incorporate their SDGs in their annual report.
- DTCAGSM – SoS currently being finalised, sustainable growth currently mentioned in final mission draft, section on SDGs and NIP separately with 4, 8, 11, 12 mentioned in particular, should be published soon.
- [DFHERIS](#) – Recently published SoS in March, sustainability is prominent in the mission and ongoing work.
- D.Education – SoS hasn't been published yet, almost finalised, section on cross-government objectives with paragraphs on SDGs and in particular Goal 4.
- [DHLGH](#) – SDG 14 definitely explicitly mentioned in advanced draft, shared between Water and Heritage division. Sustainable development is within the mission statement. Unsure of status of annual report.
- [DSP](#) – SoS recently published, similar to DECC with SDGs listed in high-level strategy section.
- [DPER](#) – SoS doesn't mention the SDGs in any form. Sidenote: Suggested improved communications needed with DPER, and DPER's poorly attended meetings before so suggest steering note for Ian's replacement.

EG DECC reiterated action on annual reports from previous plan, will be agenda item for updates at next meeting.

### 3. SDG Policy Map

The current draft Map was introduced by EG DECC with an overview of the function of the Policy Map as the Annex to the Plan. One of the learnings going forward was that this is a critical piece for the public and improvements have been made – stakeholder info and contact point – which will further facilitate the public interested on information regarding progressing particular goals and targets and detail existing fora to engage on such matters.

EG DECC advised it is to go online next week, with update again before Plan is published. Final deadline for this publication is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

- PD DSP and D.Finance- agreed to discuss specific matters linked to Goal 10 separately
- SS DFHERIS - Advised updates will come later today. Noted that DFHERIS should be listed as stakeholder for Education for Sustainable Development.
- SOH DTCAGSM – Queried the level of detail required for targets, especially in regards to more sectoral work ie Arts Council. EG DECC acknowledged some strategies are very broad and difficult to pin to specific targets, we're guided by Departments own interpretation of their strategies. In the Plan itself it was agreed that we will be reflecting on policies separately that mightn't neatly fit.



- NH DFA - Suggested removal of lead for 10a because of transfer to DETE. Also suggested, that for next update of the Policy Map, more extensive mapping of stakeholder departments should be undertaken.
- RM DETE – Agreed with taking 10a and also update for . 8.8 prior to publication.
- AP DRCD – Noted found it difficult to feature *Our Rural Future* in the policy map. Happy with suggested approach to reflect it in the second Plan when it is drafted.
- DL/EC DHLGH – Raised query on 2020 indicators used in this Map and if they were out of date. Also raised issue of consistency with referencing EU/National targets as they could have much more if they included EU and don't want work reflected as less than it is. EG DECC answered query on indicators that are set at international level, no update yet but will come back.

A separate discussion and agreement on placeholder texts to ensure consistency on stakeholder engagement/forum and contact emails followed. .

*Suggestion for when some engagement takes place even informally if not filled in by departments:* There are regular meetings with key stakeholders on an ongoing basis. For further information, please contact the relevant contact point.

*Suggestion for when no engagement:* Not applicable.

- NH DFA – Common contact point style of [sdg@department.gov.ie](mailto:sdg@department.gov.ie) as easy solution for the public, more memorable. Advised will set up a forwarding one today and suggests all Departments should, no issue of having to monitor separate inboxes then.
- CP DETE - Agreed with the idea and advised will set one up.
- EL D.Justice - Will get back on suggestion as unsure about ability for them to set up the new email. On the placeholder text they advised definitely have some which are 'Not applicable', will clarify which ones they are.
- SS DFHERIS – Agree with generic SDG but unsure about ability to have someone monitoring the inbox. Some stakeholder engagement currently being developed so these will not be filled out in time.
- EC DHLGH - Happy to use [sdg@housing.gov.ie](mailto:sdg@housing.gov.ie) for everything.
- PM D.Finance- Raised issue of monitoring inboxes, but DECC support DFA suggestion of forwarding.
- COH DoH - Advised might not work for theirs, they have specific forum email addresses.

Departments agreed to review email contacts, ensure a generic monitored email relevant to the target is included, or alternatively provide a departmental - SDG email address will follow after meeting, potentially [sdgs@department.gov.ie](mailto:sdgs@department.gov.ie)

#### 4. AOB

Education for Sustainable Development – DFHERIS & D.Education



- Joint endeavour between D.Education and DFHERIS, consultation launched yesterday. Happy for other Departments to submit. DFA will get educational outreach team in Development involved.

Further points from DECC & D.Taoiseach

- Anticipate another meeting in May before the SOG, to flesh out progress report and budget piece. Clearer framework for what needs to be done in next few months.
- JC DECC introduced new structure and staff who will be taking over the SDGs – Niamh Hamill DECC and Hannah Gilmartin DECC.
- BNG D.Taoiseach - Noted busy summer ahead, SOG in June and upcoming events – HLPF, Food Summit, UNGA, UNSC meetings.