



IDWG Meeting 28 May 2021 – Online

Minutes

Attendees

- DECC – Justina Corcoran, Hannah Gilmartin, Niamh Hamill
- D/Taoiseach - Bríd Ní Ghruagáin
- DFA – Ciaran Breen, Nigel Huston
- DAFM - Harry Crowley
- D/Finance – Renee Martin, Patrick Mulhall
- DCEDIY – Eimear O’Brien
- D/Justice – Eileen Leahy
- D/Education – Leona DeKhors
- DFHERIS - Siobhan Sleeman
- DETE – Rory Mulholland
- DPER – Criona Brassil
- DSP – Paul Dockery
- D/Health - Greg Straton
- DTTAS - Mairin Ni Cheallaigh
- DTCAGSM – Darragh Morgan, Julie Flanagan
- DHLGH – Martin McMahon
- DRCD – Maura Lynskey
- CSO - Mary Smyth

Agenda

1. Introductions



Following extensive Departmental reshuffling and the recently appointed representatives to the IDWG working group, JC DECC provided introductions to the newly appointed DECC SDG team and opened the floor to the wider group for further introductions.



2. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the first 2021 IDWG meeting were agreed.



3. Work structure and 2021 deliverables

HG DECC provided an overview of the SDG work Structure, IDWG Terms of Reference and 2021 deliverables as agreed at the February meeting of the SOG:

Q1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-engage SDG IDWG (complete)• Finalise initial update to SDG Policy Map (complete)
Q2, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise Detailed 2021 Workplan• Re-engage SDG Stakeholder Forum• Review progress of the first National Implementation Plan• Online consultation for the next Implementation Plan• SDG champions
Q3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting, developing and completing the Second National Implementation

Points raised by members:

- The detailed work plan should ensure adequate sectoral and stakeholder engagement and management of timelines so as not to extend past Q4 2021.
- Concern was expressed regarding the time commitment required from IDWG members to achieve the 2021 deliverables as the SDG work only constitutes a small part of their job profile.
- Focusing in on the key priorities – the Second National Implementation Plan and the 2022 VNR – and ensuring their delivery is necessary.
- As part of the Stakeholder forum re-engagement process, the importance of managing stakeholder expectations was noted and that if the event theme was to be focused on the COVID-19 recovery, it should be looked at in the global context in addition to the national context.



- The importance of bearing the VNR in mind during the development of the second National Implementation Plan was noted. Further research into the VNR process and presentation to the IDWG was committed to.
- When developing the NIP Consultation approach, the need to ensure a legitimate consultation was noted and the importance of early engagement with stakeholders including Coalition 2030. DECC will seek nominations for membership of a consultation Sub group setup in the coming days.
- The value of the SDG Champion Programme was discussed and DECC advised a Sub group will be set up to manage the development of the next Programme. It was noted that the alignment with the UN Global Compact should be considered.
- When discussing the development of the next Implementation Plan, time bound deliverables, assigned actions and a quarterly reporting process similar to the CAP 2019 process were considered.

4. Reporting on progress to-date

HG DECC provided an update on SDG reporting obligations, including National Progress Reports and the Voluntary National Report.

The proposal was put forward that the next progress report, which will be incorporated into the next implementation plan, will include a status and progress update on the 17 SDG goals (making use of CSO progress reports and Departmental updates to the SOG) and a review of the 19 actions in the first Implementation Plan.

A review of the current status of the 19 actions was provided and NH DECC provided an update on the on-going engagement with the IDWG in assessing the achievement of actions 4 (Statement of Strategy) and 19 (Departmental Annual Reports).

Points raised by members:

- It was noted that a more formal instruction on SDG incorporation into the Statement of Strategies and Departmental Annual Reports should issue to all Departments at



Official level to ensure more meaningful report writing and alignment with Departmental policies.

- DECC to review the current process and develop a more consistent approach as part of the next Implementation Plan.
- DECC to follow up with the group in relation to 2019 Annual Reports.
- It was noted that preparation for the VNR needs to begin now. As it is four years since Ireland presented its first VNR, real and genuine progress needs to be demonstrated. Research required regarding other comparable countries, what they're doing and how they're approaching.

5. High-Level Political Forum 2021

NH DECC provided background on the HLPF and information on the upcoming 2021 Meeting. The event will run for a two week period from 6th to 16th July and will include a three-day ministerial meeting from the 13th to 15th July as part of the high-level segment of the Council.

The event will be held online with a theme of:

"Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

Side events are to be registered by 31 May 2021. DECC will circulate a timetable of events when available.

6. CSO Presentation: Overview of the work of the CSO

Mary Smyth from CSO provided an overview of the work carried out by the CSO in relation to the Measuring and Monitoring of the SDGs, and management of the SDG Data Hub. To



date, the CSO has completed Statistical Publications for the first 7 SDGs and the publication for Goal 8 is in development with a view to publishing shortly.

Further information on the publications, dashboard indicators and source material is available at: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/unsustainabledevelopmentgoals/>

7. AOB

Proposed date of the next IDWG meeting – Friday 25th June 2021 11:00-13:00