



IDWG Meeting 27 March 2023 – Online

Minutes

Attendees

- DECC – Hannah Gilmartin
- D/Taoiseach – Gill Ni Bhroin, Luke Carroll
- DFA – Cian Kearns, Reachbha Fitzgerald
- D/Finance – Edward O’Loughlin, Pat Mulhall
- D/Justice – Pamela Uwakwe
- D/Education – Aoife Mitchell
- D/Transport - Anne Pickett, Breda Farrell
- D/Health - Colin O’Hehir
- DETE – Federica De Blasio, Osama Noujourn
- DPER – Fiachra Kennedy
- DFHERIS - Maeve Daly
- DCEDIY – Anthony Redmond
- CSO – Mary Smyth
- DHLGH – Orla Joyce
- DSP - Paul Norris

Agenda

1. Accelerating Action SDG Tool

Tom Lindsay gave a presentation on his subscription based Accelerating Action Tool. It is used across civil society and many organisations. He showed a list of projects that he assessed and how the tool can be used to improve delivery of projects and demonstrates the goals and targets of the SDG framework. The tool can be used to show the benefits of the framework in relation to a specific project.

To use the tool:-



Get access firstly. Fill in details of project.

Tags screen appears – these are listed under headings of people planet prosperity peace and partnerships.

Select the ones you think are relevant to your project. This gives a shortlist of the targets. Follow the screens through and then the wheel appears with your list of targets.

A discussion was held afterwards in relation to how the tool is used, and how the assessment tool shows how the breadth of national policies contribute to the SDGs. Retrospective mapping has been done for the VNR and the tool can be used for forward planning on policies also.

2. CSO Presentation

Dr Mary Smyth gave a presentation on the targets of the SDGs, on a goal-by-goal basis. The 17 goals have 169 targets we are achieving 81% of those, 11% are partly achieved, and 5% are not achieved.

An overview of some of the progress on targets was given as follows: - there is a gap on data for gender equality Goal 5. There is concern for data on Goal 6, in relation to water. We're not on track for example, for achieving all Goal 7 targets but two are being achieved. On Goal 9, target 9.4 is slipping but we are achieving the remaining ones. If we are achieving the targets at a point in time that may change as we move towards 2030 so this needs to be borne in mind.

Overall, of the 169 targets there is no data for 7 targets, there is concern for 19 of them, and Ireland has not met 9 targets. 134 targets have been achieved so far.

3. Internal SDG Committees

Update from Harry O Crowley – Management Board sub committee to be set up in Dept of Agriculture Food and the Marine, on the SDGs. Each division will have PO reps and will meet 4 times annually. Taoiseach's, Health and Finance are working on setting up a sub committee for the SDGs.

Health - Colin O Hehir gave an update on Health. Deputy Sec Gen will be looking at issues around the SDGs. There may be a possibility of a virtual Forum on the SDGs within Health. They are a busy department and will have a management board member who is a SDG champion - that is the proposed structure but no formal document yet. Deputy Sec Gen will be the signature on this document.

Finance - Pat Mulhall gave an update. A working group will be set up together with a Champion and there is a recognition that their HR and Corporate Affairs need to be brought in for monitoring and training.

It was acknowledged by the group that it is important to work within the context of your own department.

4. Oireachtás Committees.



Coalition 2030 are doing a campaign reaching out to different committees acknowledging their efforts on the SDGs.

DSP and Department of Tourism were called in to the Oireachtas. The committee wanted a follow up on their goals. DSP gave an update and said the session was short and was an overview in conjunction with DRCD who were called at the same time. Roadmap for social inclusion was discussed for DSP and the SILC data and poverty issues were discussed.

5. **SDG Summit**

Réachbha Fitzgerald gave an update. Heads of state and gov will convene in September. This takes place every 4 years, the last one was 2019. We are at the midpoint of the agenda. Ireland is working on the Political Declaration (co facilitator), this will be a high level doc with a political re commitment to the goals. It will be negotiated with all the member states of the summit. Ireland is the co-facilitator with Qatar on the consultations for the Political Declaration.

First round of political consultations took place in February this year. Further consultations will also take place later this year. There are key inputs into the process - the Global SD report (produced every 4 years – scientific community report). On the 24th April UN SG SDG report giving us added data on the SDGs. Co facilitators will then put out a zero draft of the declaration and will be negotiated on an iterative basis with member states. Facilitation for consultation with non-state actors, such as civil society reps and co facilitators are including them.

6. **Update on Champions Programme**

There are 22 new champions plus 4 from their tenure during the pandemic when activities were limited. NSF on the theme of Leaving No One Behind – which has been reviewed. The new Leave No One Behind meaning is

“An inclusive and empathetic society that empowers everyone to engage with and be represented in decision-making, accelerating dignity and enabling equal opportunities and equitable outcomes.”

Reasons for being left behind and groups specifically to be considered for developing policy have been expanded upon. Recommendations were also put forward to ensure no one is left behind in policy dev and at national and local gov level.

7. **Next NSF.**

Reg opens 3 April for the NSF on the 25th of April 2023 in the Aviva Stadium.

8. **OECD Project | Technical Support Instrument**

Hannah Gilmartin provided an update on this project, the outputs of which will be the national action plan for policy coherence, and capacity building for policy makers, together with peer learning dialogues and reviews among the countries taking part in the multi country proposal.

9. **Q1 2023 actions**



An update on these actions was given: -

Budgeting actions are being worked on with DPER. Research consulting company will be doing research for us in collab with DPER.

GEOHIVE is being developed with Táillte Eireann to share best practice examples, events and initiatives as well as being a repository for stakeholders.

The libraries association is working on raising the SDG profile across libraries.

HEA – how can we engage SDGs at this level.

LGMA will be looking at how to integrate SDGs into reporting processes.

Enterprise will be looking at how to best engage with the SDGs for the business sector.

10. Overview of work SDG unit is responsible for

This overview was provided by Hannah Gilmartin.