Departmental Action Plan
2026

An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Foreword by Helen McEntee TD Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

I am pleased to publish the 2026 Action Plan of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This is the first plan of its kind for the Department, setting out clearly the work we will deliver over the coming year. The plan outlines the key actions we will take to achieve the goals in our Statement of Strategy and Programme for Government commitments. It also provides a public record reflecting the breadth and depth of work across our offices at home and overseas, delivering for Irish citizens. Together with Ministers of State Richmond and Byrne, I look forward to leading the Department in delivering this programme. Progress will be reviewed regularly throughout the year.

2026 will be a significant year for Ireland as we intensify preparations for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union before officially taking on the Presidency role from July. We will support approximately 250 Presidency meetings and events throughout Ireland, including an informal Gymnich Foreign Affairs Council and European Council.

A meeting of the European Political Community during the Presidency will be the largest ever political meeting to take place in Ireland.

My officials and I will continue to work closely with all key stakeholders towards the successful operation and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, and the stability of the Good Friday Agreement institutions across all three strands. Strengthened Ireland-UK relations will remain a high priority.

In a continually changing and challenging geopolitical context, the Department will work to uphold international law and support the multilateral system. I am deeply concerned by the recent outbreak of conflict in the Middle East. We must seek de-escalation and an end to this conflict and urgently need to get back to the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Through this Action Plan, we will continue to support efforts for peace that respect Ukraine's sovereignty and the UN Charter and continue principled engagement in the Middle East supporting a ceasefire and longer-term peace efforts towards a two-state solution. We will also advance our campaign for election to the UN Human Rights Council in October for a three-year term from 2027-2029.

A number of actions in this plan focus on the continued provision and enhancement of timely and professional passport and consular assistance and services, including through the introduction of new technology and innovations. I am proud of the high quality of passport and consular services this Department provides, including most recently to the thousands of Irish citizens in the Gulf region impacted by conflict. These new innovations, will enable us to continue to respond effectively to the needs of citizens.

We will continue to deepen and expand our global engagement this year, with the opening of new Consulates General in Melbourne and Malaga. New staffing resources will be delivered to reinforce our Embassy and Consulates General across the US and in key locations around the world, in response to shifting global challenges and opportunities. In line with the commitment in the Programme for Government to develop a successor to Global Ireland 2025, Global Ireland 2040 will be developed this year and we will play a central role in setting its ambition and delivering on its objectives, including through a number of new regional and thematic whole of Government strategies. I will also convene meetings of the Government Trade Forum throughout this year.

In delivering this Action Plan the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will seek to protect and promote Ireland's values and interests, and to deliver strongly for the people of Ireland.

Helen McEntee TD
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Forewords by Minister of State

Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Neale Richmond TD

This 2026 Departmental Action Plan, sets out how we will continue to ensure the principle of "Furthest behind first" underpins our Development Cooperation work at multilateral and bilateral levels. The 2026 allocation of Overseas Development Assistance is the largest ever in the history of Ireland's development programme and over the course of this year, this funding will support our commitments on climate action, gender equality, the reduction of poverty, and hunger.

Leveraging our international influence to effectively address humanitarian need will also be a priority in 2026, particularly in Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, Afghanistan and DRC. At a time when funding for development and humanitarian work is decreasing globally, Ireland will continue to stand up for our values and to defend and champion multilateralism and the SDGs.

2026 will also be a significant year for engagement with Ireland's global diaspora. I have had the privilege of meeting overseas with many of Ireland's diverse diaspora communities and following a period of extensive consultation, the Government's next Diaspora Strategy for the period 2026-2031 will be published this year. I look forward to welcoming diaspora leaders from around the world to the fourth Global Irish Civic Forum in April and continue to support communities overseas through the Emigrant Support Programme.

Neale Richmond TD
Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora

Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence, Thomas Byrne TD

I welcome the publication of the Departmental Action Plan for 2026, which will be an important year for Ireland, as we assume the Presidency of the Council of the EU.

During the EU Presidency, I will chair the EU General Affairs Council as Minister of State for European Affairs, and I will use this opportunity to progress key policies, including strengthening the rule of law, advancing EU enlargement, as well as work on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034. We will also strongly pursue an ambitious EU competitiveness and trade policy agenda.

I welcome the focus that the Departmental Action Plan places on delivering an active communications and outreach programme with communities across Ireland, focused on highlighting the benefits of our EU membership, and the role of our 2026 EU Presidency.

Over 2026, we will continue our work to increase the Irish presence, and influence, in the EU institutions, through the ongoing implementation of the A Career for EU strategy.

Ireland's 2026 EU Presidency is a landmark because it is our first EU Presidency since the Irish language assumed its full status as an official and working language of the EU, and I welcome the actions set out, to ensure that we uphold and promote its status.

I look forward to seeing the delivery of actions, set out under the Action Plan, as we advance our policy priorities, before and during, our EU Presidency.

Thomas Byrne TD
Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence

Foreword by the Secretary General Joe Hackett

The 2026 Departmental Action Plan is the first of its kind for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It has been designed around the high-level goals and outcomes of the Department's Statement of Strategy 2025-2028 and relevant commitments in the Programme for Government 2025 – Securing Ireland's future. The Action Plan reflects both the broad and complex workload of the Department and links closely to the Department's business planning and risk management processes.

In addition to setting out priority actions on our global engagement and response to geopolitical challenges, leadership at EU level, support for peace and reconciliation and delivering for Irish citizens, the plan includes a number of actions focused on building our capacity as a Department to innovate and deliver on our goals at home and abroad.

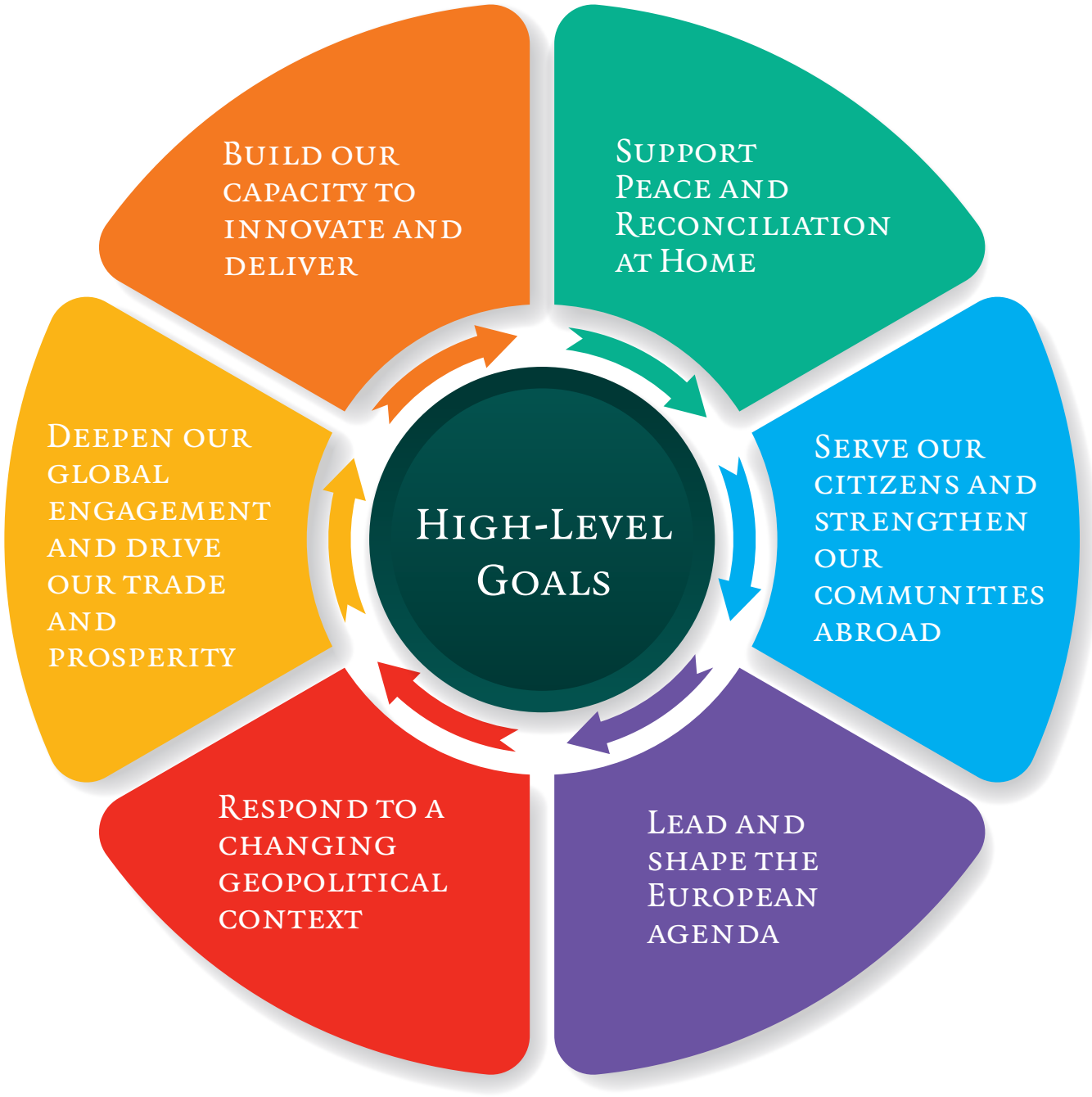
Worldwide, our DFAT global team are increasingly required to operate in difficult and complex environments. The actions to be delivered over 2026 underline our commitment to ensuring the global team are supported to deliver for the people of Ireland, and facilitated to work in positive, accessible and inclusive workplaces, as part of an open, accountable and sustainable Department.

A number of strategies and action plans will guide this work, including our Digital Transformation Strategy, Human Resources Strategy, Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan and strategies on Security and Climate Action. We are also committed to enhancing our project management capacity and ensuring continued effective business continuity planning and management of risk.

The Management Board of the Department will work closely with the Minister in monitoring progress against actions contained within this plan and ensuring delivery.

Joe Hackett
Secretary General

DFAT Statement of Strategy High Level Goals



Goal 1: Support peace and reconciliation at home

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: Sustained peace, political progress, and enhanced reconciliation in Northern Ireland and across these islands			
1	**Support for the stable and effective operation of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement; sustained progress in implementing the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements; and promotion of reconciliation North South, East, West, and in Northern Ireland**		
	1.1 Engage regularly at political and official level across Northern Ireland on issues relating to the Good Friday Agreement and the effective operation of its institutions, including through regular NSMC meetings, BIC ministerial meetings, two annual leaders' BIC Summits, and two BIIGC meetings	IUKA Division (Northern Ireland Political, Legacy and Reconciliation Unit; Irish Secretariat Belfast)	Q1-Q4
	1.2 Publish new Reconciliation Fund Strategy (2026-29)	IUKA Division (Northern Ireland Political, Legacy and Reconciliation Unit; Irish Secretariat Belfast)	Q1
	1.3 Award grants to civil society organisations in Annual Round of Reconciliation Fund (total budget: €8.045 million), including grants to civil society organisations through a new iteration of the Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership scheme (multi-annual funding)	IUKA Division (Northern Ireland Political, Legacy and Reconciliation Unit; Irish Secretariat Belfast)	Q1-Q4
2	**Engage with the UK Government to agree a joint approach on the legacy of the Troubles that is human rights compliant and commands the confidence of survivors, victims, and families in line with the principles of Stormont House; and to explore a formal process of group transition from paramilitarism**		
	2.1 Work across government, with civil society and other stakeholders and with the UK Government at official and political level to ensure the timely and faithful implementation of the Joint Framework on Legacy	IUKA Division (Northern Ireland Political, Legacy and Reconciliation Unit)	Q1-Q4
	2.2 Support the work of the Independent Expert; engage with the UK government on recommendations from the IE report	IUKA Division (Northern Ireland Political, Legacy and Reconciliation Unit)	Q1
3	**Share lessons with international partners from our work on peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland through our mission network including by facilitating inward visits from those working on conflict resolution globally**	IUKA Division (Northern Ireland Political, Legacy and Reconciliation Unit)	Ongoing

Goal 1: Support peace and reconciliation at home

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: The Further Deepening of the All-Island Economy			
Outcome: Increased North-South and East-West cooperation, including through delivery of the Shared Island initiative, deepened cooperation with the UK in the framework of the UK-Ireland 2030 Joint Statement and implementation of cooperation frameworks with Scotland and Wales.			
4	**Continue to support, and contribute to, the Shared Island initiative**		
	4.1 Complete new round of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund, disbursing funds to successful applicants up to a maximum of €50,000 per project from a total 2026 budget of €2 million	IUKA Division (North South Policy and Shared Island Coordination Unit)	Q4
	4.2 Identify capital projects, in consultation with D/Taoiseach, for support under the Shared Island Initiative	IUKA Division (North South Policy and Shared Island Coordination Unit)	Q1-Q4
	4.3 Launch the diaspora dimension of the Shared Home Place initiative, in consultation with D/Taoiseach	IUKA Division (North South Policy and Shared Island Coordination Unit)	Q2
5	**Deepen North-South cooperation, including through the full use of the North South Ministerial Council; active support for the work of the North South Implementation Bodies; strengthened cross border trade and collaboration in support of the all-island economy; and support the continued and effective implementation of the Windsor Framework**		
	5.1 Support NSMC Secretariat (Southern) in its work, including co-ordination with line departments on North South issues and convening meetings of departmental North South coordinators, as required; and in its ongoing contacts in 2026 with the North South Implementation Bodies	IUKA Division (North South Policy and Shared Island Coordination Unit)	Ongoing
	5.2 Organise NSMC Institutional meeting, which is due to be hosted in 2026 by the Irish Government	IUKA Division (North South Policy and Shared Island Coordination Unit)	Q4

Goal 1: Support peace and reconciliation at home

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	5.3 Continue engagement with the NI Department for the Economy throughout 2026 on issues potentially impacting on the all-island economy, including the impact of international trade tariffs	IUKA Division (North South Policy and Shared Island Coordination Unit)	Ongoing
	5.4 Keep the impact of the Windsor Framework (WF) in NI under review throughout 2026; engage with NI interlocutors on the operation and impact of the WF	IUKA Division (North South Policy and Shared Island Coordination Unit)	Ongoing
6	**Deepen the bilateral relationship with the UK on the basis of the UK-Ireland 2030 Joint Statement, reflecting our close political, economic, and people-to-people connections; enhance high-level political engagement (including through the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference, British-Irish Council, and annual UK-Ireland Summits); deepen cooperation with Scotland and Wales; and establish a new Ireland House in London.**		
	6.1 Support and drive British-Irish relations through strengthening bilateral relations across priority sectors and deliver a programme of impactful high level political visits between the UK and Ireland	IUKA Division (British Irish Relations Unit)	Q1-Q4
	6.2 Ensure the full operation of the Common Travel Area, including through co-chairing bi-annual CTA Plenary meetings	IUKA Division (British Irish Relations Unit)	Q1 and Q3
	6.3 Support D/Taoiseach in the delivery of the UK-IE Joint Statement 2030, with the 2026 Ireland-UK Summit as a key milestone	IUKA Division (British Irish Relations Unit)	Q1-Q4
	6.4 Work with D/Taoiseach to support the work of the British Irish Council Secretariat; drive and support effective outcomes from the biannual British-Irish Council Summits	IUKA Division (British Irish Relations Unit)	Q2 and Q4
	6.5 Implement the Ireland-Wales and Ireland-Scotland Joint Frameworks; host the Ireland-Wales Forum 2026 in Ireland, and support effective delivery of the Ireland-Scotland Forum 2026 in Scotland	IUKA Division (British Irish Relations Unit)	Q1-Q4
	6.6 Host inaugural Ireland-UK Youth Forum	IUKA Division (British Irish Relations Unit)	Q1

Goal 2: Serve our citizens and strengthen our communities abroad

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: First class passport and consular services, fully optimising the use of digital platforms			
7	**Provide a secure, accessible and timely passport service to our citizens**		
	7.1 Launch new passport book and card, alongside implementation of new high-security printing machines	PPS	Q2
	7.2 Continue enhancements to Turas passport processing system throughout 2026 to improve the security and integrity of the passport, and support the day to day operations of the Passport Service	PPS	Q2-Q4
	7.3 Deliver passports within advertised turnaround times for all categories	PPS	Ongoing
8	**Meet the high demand for passports and FBRs through ongoing reform and digitisation whilst ensuring high levels of security and data protection**		
	8.1 Implement final phase of Customer Relationship Solution (CRS) project to further improve services provided through the customer Hub (phone lines and Web Chat)	PPS	Q2
	8.2 Implement and integrate a new Anti-Fraud Technology (Facial Recognition Software) into Turas system to continue to improve the security of this international travel document	PPS	Q2
9	**Work towards digital passports for those who want to avail of them in the future, as part of better digital public services**		
	9.1 Explore with OGCIO and DSP the use of the national digital wallet for future digital passports	PPS	Q4
	9.2 Work with Passport Six nations and European partners to trial Digital Travel Certificates (DTCs)	PPS	Ongoing
10	**Deliver impactful citizen focused awareness campaigns promoting timely passport renewal, the passport card and Travel Wise messaging**		
	10.1 Roll-out *'Don't Be That Person'* media campaign, alongside public information campaign about Passport Assist service; summer communications about safe travel / passport validity and a media campaign focussed on roll-out of new passport book and card	PPS/GLOBEC (Comms Unit)	Q1 / Q2

Goal 2: Serve our citizens and strengthen our communities abroad

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
11	**Deliver effective and accessible consular services and assistance to our citizens, including in a consular crisis, in line with the commitments in the Consular Strategy, especially through our mission network and our strengthened Honorary Consul network**		
	11.1 Maintain preparedness to support citizens caught up in international crises, including delivering surge team training and rostering, mission simulation exercises and mission contingency planning	Consular Directorate	Ongoing
	11.2 Host the Consular Forum, bringing together stakeholders and partners, to share experience and ensure best consular assistance practice	Consular Directorate	Q4
	11.3 Make changes to the management and administration of the Honorary Consul network and open five new Honorary Consulates, broadening the geographical scope of our consular assistance	Consular Directorate	Q4
	11.4 Ensure document authentications meet KPIs on timelines and targets	Consular Directorate	Ongoing
12	**Continue to support the Department of Justice, through our mission network, to deliver an effective, efficient and transparent visa service**	Consular Directorate	Q1-Q4
13	**Provide clear, concise and up-to-date travel advice to citizens to assist them in staying safe and informed while travelling, living or working overseas (including, where relevant, specific advice for women and LGBTIQ+ persons)**		
	13.1 Promote *TravelWise* insert and Ireland.ie travel advice pages including through outreach to the travel industry, inserts in all new passports issued and roll out a *TravelWise* Tip Card in secondary schools across the country; work with Mission network to ensure travel advice continues to be up-to-date and accessible	Consular Directorate	Q2
	13.2 Build on existing travel advice for particular demographics to include travellers with disabilities. Issue a survey, in collaboration with the National Disability Authority, to inform this advice; establish a working group to discuss the results and advise on content for our Know Before You Go page	Consular Directorate	Q2
	13.3 Deliver summer 2026 *Make the Right Memories* campaign	Consular Directorate	Q2

Goal 2: Serve our citizens and strengthen our communities abroad

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
14	**Further strengthen our crisis management system to ensure it is robust, responsive and sufficiently prepared to meet future risks**		
	14.1 Deploy new Consular Case Management System to all Missions and new Citizen Registration portal for citizens to register travel outside of EEA	Consular Directorate	Q3
Outcome: First class passport and consular services, fully optimising the use of digital platforms			
15	**Deliver a new Diaspora strategy in 2026 that meets the evolving needs of the global Irish, supports those who wish to return to Ireland, deepens our connection with new generations who share a sense of Irish identity, including our affinity diaspora, and celebrates the heritage of the Irish Abroad**		
	15.1 Launch the new Diaspora Strategy for the period 2026-2031	IAU	Q2
	15.2 Host the fourth Global Irish Civic Forum in April	IAU	Q2
	15.3 Fund the "Return to Ireland" hub on citizensinformation.ie as a key repository of information for those wishing to return	IAU	Ongoing
	15.4 Support the work of D/Transport and the Road Safety Authority around the introduction of reciprocal driver licence agreements with key US states	IAU	Ongoing
16	**Continue to focus the Government's Emigrant Support Programme on initiatives that support the most vulnerable and marginalised, build community and business networks, celebrate diversity and foster a sense of Irishness abroad**		
	16.1 Provide grant funding under the Emigrant Support Programme to over 500 organisations in some 45 countries	IAU	Q3
	16.2 Provide effective supports to Irish citizens affected by immigration policies in the US, including undocumented Irish citizens	IAU / IUKA Division / Embassy Washington; US Consulates	Ongoing

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: Deeper Irish influence across EU political, economic, trade, humanitarian, development, climate and security policies			
17	**Play a proactive role in shaping a European Union which reflects Irish values and interests in its policies and ambitions**		
	17.1 Deliver high-quality, well-prepared positions which pursue Ireland's strategic objectives, for the Taoiseach's participation in European Councils, and maximise Ireland's participation in the General Affairs Council and the Foreign Affairs Council in Trade Format to pursue Ireland's interests and values; Put forward coherent, whole-of-Government views on key EU policies in Brussels and build effective alliances to pursue these	EUTPD (EU Strategy Unit and EU Policy Coherence Units)	Ongoing
	17.2 Drive regular meetings of the interdepartmental High Level Group on EU Policy and interdepartmental EU Coordinators' Network to develop and coordinate whole-of-government positions on EU policies and ensure these are rolled out across all Government Departments and brought forward in all relevant negotiation formats	EUTPD (EU Strategy Unit and EU Policy Coherence Units)	Ongoing
18	**Prioritise economic competitiveness in the EU and support an ambitious EU trade agenda, promoting new Free Trade Agreements, with appropriate assurances regarding sustainable development, human rights and the advancement of our economic interests**		
	18.1 Progress initiatives under the Competitiveness Compass outlined by the Commission, as well as the Draghi and Letta Reports, and advance negotiations on competitiveness files of the 2026 work programme during our Presidency	EUTPD (Coherence and Trade Policy Units)	Ongoing
	18.2 Coordinate work across Government on the EU's simplification agenda and engage actively at the EU level to shape the outcome of the simplification Omnibus packages	EUTPD (Coherence and Trade Policy Units)	Ongoing
	18.3 Place a particular focus on building support across the EU on simplification proposals to drive the delivery of affordable housing and critical national infrastructure, in line with related actions under the Government's Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan	EUTPD (Coherence and Trade Policy Units)	Ongoing
	18.4 Leverage the opportunity of the Presidency to drive forward an ambitious EU competitiveness and trade policy agenda serving both EU and Irish interests, working to progress key Presidency files on Competitiveness, the Single Market, Simplification; EU Trade Policy; support the Minister in her role as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Council in Trade formation and Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence in his role as Chair of the General Affairs Council	EUTPD (Coherence and Trade Policy Units)	Q3-Q4

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
	18.5 Coordinate across Government to ensure Ireland's values and interests, with a focus on trade, economic growth and jobs and sustainable development including trade and gender, are advanced in multilateral trade policy formats, such as the OECD and the World Trade Organisation	EUTPD (Coherence and Trade Policy Units)	Q1
	18.6 During the Presidency, prioritise working towards a new mutually beneficial EU-US trade and investment relationship and seek to diversify our markets by pursuing new trade deals with partners	EUTPD (Coherence and Trade Policy Units)	Q1
	18.7 Steer the Arbitration Bill through the Oireachtas and seek the ratification of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the European Union and Canada ('CETA') by the Dáil	EUTPD (Coherence and Trade Policy Units)	Q1
Outcome: A successful Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2026			
19	**Promote a positive EU enlargement strategy strengthening Ireland's relations with those countries aspiring to join the EU, supporting their EU-related reforms, and ensure Ireland's values are reflected in the EU's enlargement policy**		
	19.1 Utilise Ireland's Presidency to facilitate progress for all candidacies where conditions allow	EUTPD (Enlargement, South-East and Central Europe)	Q3-Q4
	19.2 Open funding round under the "Enlargement and European Fundamental Values" scheme, award and disperse funding	EUTPD (Enlargement, South-East and Central Europe)	Q1-Q2
	19.3 Identify areas where Ireland can provide specific capacity building supports to candidate countries and consult across government departments to identify and provide suitable partners for delivery (Q1-Q2). Support high-level visits between Ireland and candidate and potential candidate countries	EUTPD (Enlargement, South-East and Central Europe)	Q1-Q4
	19.4 In partnership with the Institute of Public Administration, deliver year two of the "Ireland for EU Enlargement Programme"	EUTPD (Enlargement, South-East and Central Europe)	Q1-Q4

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
20	**Support the strengthening of the EU's leadership role in safeguarding a world order based on multilateral cooperation and respect for international law and EU's efforts to promote peace, stability, and security globally**		
	20.1 Ensure Irish priorities are reflected in the development and implementation of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including CSDP, in particular through monthly meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council, at COREPER, PSC, in Working Groups in Brussels, and through 17 informal meetings, events and conferences during the Presidency	Political Division (Secretariat)	Ongoing
	20.2 Successfully deliver CFSP aspects of Ireland's EU Presidency, including Minister's support for the work of HRVP Kallas, working with EEAS to shape agenda of 6 formal and informal Foreign Affairs Council meetings; deliver successful Gymnich Informal FAC	Political Division (Secretariat)	Q3-Q4
	20.3 Lead EU efforts to protect the international legal order, democracy, peacebuilding, the UN and effective multilateralism. Ensure that core EU values are maintained across all areas of EU work, and support negotiation of new EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy during Presidency	Political Division (Secretariat)	Ongoing
21	**Shape and influence the shifting priorities, policies and financial instruments of European development cooperation, including Team Europe initiatives and the Global Gateway**		
	21.1 Promote Ireland's policy priorities on development co-operation in EU decision making at all levels, influencing the impact of the over 25% of Irish ODA which is provided through the EU budget; actively engage with European Financial Architecture for Development, including EIB, EBRD, EFSD+, DG INTPA Blending Board meetings	DCAD (Multilateral EU)	Ongoing
	21.2 Host the FAC-DEV informal during EU Presidency, working with the Minister of State for International Development and the Diaspora, promoting political level discussion on the future of development cooperation and providing opportunities for political and strategic guidance to development of 2028-2034 MFF – Global Europe, ongoing implementation of financial instruments and development of the Global Gateway Strategy	DCAD (Multilateral EU)	Q3

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
22	**Work to strengthen the application and monitoring of the rule of law across the EUrelated reforms, and ensure Ireland's values are reflected in the EU's enlargement policy**		
	22.1 Support Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence in actively raising rule of law in meetings with EU counterparts and engaging in rule of law dialogue at General Affairs Council	EUTPD (Enlargement, South-East and Central Europe)	Q1-Q4
	22.2 Chair General Affairs Council Rule of Law horizontal and country-specific discussions	EUTPD (Enlargement, South-East and Central Europe)	Q3-Q4
	22.3 Co-host a Presidency Conference on the Rule of Law with the Attorney General's Office	EUTPD (Enlargement, South-East and Central Europe)	Q4
23	**Uphold the Irish language's full status as an official language of the European Union**		
	23.1 Develop formal guidance on use of Irish during the Presidency with D/RCDG and circulate to all Government Departments	EUTPD (Institutions, EU Presidency Policy)	Q1
	23.2 Sign Administrative Cooperation Agreement for the provision of simultaneous interpretation services, including Irish, at informal Ministerial meetings and summits to be held in Ireland during the EU Presidency	EUTPD (Institutions, EU Presidency Policy)	Q1
	23.3 Ensure use of Irish at formal and informal Ministerial meetings held in Brussels, Luxembourg and Ireland	EUTPD (Institutions, EU Presidency Policy)	Q1-Q4

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
24	**Deliver an ambitious EU Presidency in 2026, ensuring strong cross Government coordination and maximising its opportunities; drive effective whole-of-government coherence on EU related issues**		
	24.1 Coordinate all cross-Government Presidency policy preparations and drive the identification and preparation of clear Presidency deliverables across all ten Council formations, Q1-Q2. Develop and publish Ireland's Presidency Policy and Priorities Programme, Q2. Coordinate and drive forward Presidency policy priorities throughout the Presidency, Q3-Q4	EUTPD (Presidency Policy; European Parliament Unit, Strategy; Policy Coherence, Trade Policy Unit)	Q1-Q4
	24.2 Lead preparations to host Conference of the Presidents of the European Parliament in Ireland	EUTPD (Presidency Policy; European Parliament Unit, Strategy; Policy Coherence, Trade Policy Unit)	Q2
	24.3 Lead the General Affairs Council during the Presidency, supporting the Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence in chairing Council meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg, identifying policy priorities, coordinating across the work of 18 of GAC preparatory bodies to deliver successfully	EUTPD (Presidency Policy; European Parliament Unit, Strategy; Policy Coherence, Trade Policy Unit)	Q3-Q4
	24.4 Lead preparations to host informal General Affairs Council, informal Foreign Affairs Council and an informal Foreign Affairs Council in Trade formation	EUTPD (Presidency Policy; European Parliament Unit, Strategy; Policy Coherence, Trade Policy Unit)	Q3
	24.5 Lead preparations to host visit of the College of Commissioners	EUTPD (Presidency Policy; European Parliament Unit, Strategy; Policy Coherence, Trade Policy Unit)	Q3

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
25	**Host, in the context of the EU Presidency in 2026, an informal meeting of the European Council, a meeting of the European Political Community, informal Ministerial Councils, as well as a programme of high-level meetings, ensuring the entire country benefits from the profile the Presidency brings**		
	25.1 Chair and support the work of the Inter-Departmental Group on Operational Presidency Planning to deliver a successful Presidency programme of meetings	CSD (Presidency Operations Planning)	Q1-Q4
	25.2 Coordinate the central procurement of key services such as accreditation, transport, interpretation, catering, and accommodation for Presidency meetings in Ireland on a whole-of-government basis – and oversee the successful delivery of relevant centralised operational supports for the Presidency programme of meetings	CSD (Presidency Operations Planning)	Q1-Q4
	25.3 Deliver a successful meeting of the European Political Community and an informal meeting of the European Council	EUTPD / Protocol / CSD	Q3 – Q4
Outcome: Strengthened bilateral relationships and alliances with partners across Europe and with the EU institutions, as well as positive EU-UK and EU-US relationships.			
26	**Deepen relationships and alliances with our EU and European partners, advancing strategic relationships with key partners and building links with EU capitals and regions, and with the European institutions**		
	26.1 Support Council decision to enable signing of EU-CH (Switzerland) package of agreements, Q1; Support Council decision to enable signing of Andorra and San Marino Association Agreements, Q1-Q2	EUTPD (All Units)	Q1-Q2
	26.2 Coordinate and support Ministerial attendance at Plenaries of the European Parliament	EUTPD (All Units)	Q1-Q4
	26.3 Ensure positive bilateral relations with the 43 countries in the region through close collaboration in support of the work of our 37 missions. Further advance positive relations between the EU and EEA/EFTA countries	EUTPD (All Units)	Q1-Q4
	26.4 Implement Global Ireland Strategies with Germany, France and the Nordic-Baltic region, as well as the Joint Plan of Action with Germany and the Joint Strategic Framework with France	EUTPD (All Units)	Q1-Q4

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
27	**Contribute to the continued development of a productive and ambitious EU-UK relationship that promotes Ireland's interests and contributes to stability in relationships across these islands**		
	27.1 Coordinate cross-Government negotiation positions and strategy for ongoing EU-UK negotiations in relation to SPS, ETS and YES agreements, as well as electricity trading and cohesion, maximise opportunities for positive outcomes at EU-UK Summit 2026, and during the Presidency. Effectively chair the Working Party on UK (WPUK) and host Working Party on UK officials' visit to Ireland, Q3	EUTPD (EU-UK Unit)	Q1-Q4
	27.2 Host EU-UK Stakeholders' meeting	EUTPD (EU-UK Unit)	Q2
28	**Ensure there is an ambitious new European Budget settlement, protecting existing EU programmes and supporting action on strategic priorities**		
	28.1 In conjunction with D/Finance, coordinate cross Government negotiation positions and regularly update Government.	EUTPD (Policy Coherence)	Q1-Q2
	28.2 During the Presidency, chair negotiations on the MFF in different formations and successfully advance work on the MFF Negotiating Box on cross-cutting and horizontal issues, including through the General Affairs Council	EUTPD (Policy Coherence)	Q3-Q4
Outcome: Deepened engagement with and understanding of EU issues by Irish citizens at home and strengthened Irish representation and influence in the EU institutions			
29	**Promote strengthened engagement by Irish citizens on EU matters, including through the Communicating Europe Initiative, and in the context of our Presidency of Council of the EU in 2026**		
	29.1 Finalise, announce and deliver ambitious and far-reaching Presidency outreach and communications strategies including Ministerial level public outreach programme, media engagement, launch of presidency website and logo and comprehensive social media programme	EUTPD (Presidency Policy, Institutions)	Q1-Q4
	29.2 Announce and deliver EU Presidency County Pairings initiative. Publish version of Ireland's Presidency Priorities and Policy Programme aimed at children and young people	EUTPD (Presidency Policy, Institutions)	Q1-Q4

Goal 3: Lead and shape the European agenda

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	29.3 Publish report of domestic stakeholder and Irish public consultation on the development of Ireland's Presidency priorities and policy programme	EUTPD (Presidency Policy, Institutions)	Q2
	29.4 Launch the Communicating Europe Initiative 2026 and award grants to successful applicants	EUTPD (Presidency Policy, Institutions)	Q1-Q2
30	**Building on the whole-of-government A Career for EU strategy, deliver on plans to increase the number of Irish people applying for and securing positions in the EU in order to expand our presence and influence in the EU institutions**		
	30.1 Develop (Q1) and deliver (Q2-Q4) extensive strategic communications campaigns promoting jobs in the EU as well as specific roles / competitions as they arise. Deliver an online campaign reaching 5,000-8,000 persons to drive interest in first EU Graduate Recruitment since 2019 and support 300 candidates in campaign, Q1-Q2	EUTPD (Institutions), GLOBEC (Comms Unit)	Q1-Q4
	30.2 Use increased allocation of Centrally Funded Scheme for Seconded National Experts (€4.2m from €4m) to work towards achieving the Strategy's target of 50 SNEs supported on an annual basis	EUTPD (Institutions), GLOBEC (Comms Unit)	Q1-Q4

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: A strong and consistent contribution to a stable and secure international environment, based on respect for international law, through active engagement in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding; and disarmament and non-proliferation.			
31	**Strengthen and actively engage in multilateral institutions, including the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, OECD, and WTO**		
	31.1 Deliver Ireland's engagements and programmes for the Taoiseach, Minister and other Government Ministers at the United Nations General Assembly High Level Week in September	Political Division (UNP, ENU)	Q3
	31.2 Promote Irish candidacies, and those of EU and other Member States in line with our strategic interests, within the international multilateral system and the UN	Political Division (UNP, ENU)	Q1-Q4
	31.3 Successfully deliver Ireland's EU Presidency responsibilities in multilateral organisations including the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, OECD and WTO	Political Division (UNP, ENU)	Q3-Q4
32	**Contribute to the reform of multilateral systems that support peace and stability, international law, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, human rights, climate action, including the UN80 process**		
	32.1 Support the UN80 reform process, led by UN SG, ensuring core mandates and development principles, including principle of furthest behind first, are protected; Shape input to and contribute towards an aligned EU approach that prioritises a balanced approach to reform and the protection of UN pillars; support the election of a new UN SG who will ensure the continuation of the process	DCAD (Multilateral UN and IFIs) / Political Division (UNP, PSU)	Ongoing
	32.2 Provide political and financial support to promote multilateral approaches to peace and stability through the UN, OECD and IFIs	DCAD (Multilateral UN and IFIs)/ Political Division (UNP, PSU)	Ongoing

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
33	**Active pursuit of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including by contributing to cross-government work on export controls, emerging technologies and space**		
	33.1 Manage and advance Ireland's positions during four major arms control Review Conferences in 2026	Political Division (Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Unit)	Q4
	33.2 Coordinate cross-government on strengthening export control regimes (WA, AG, ZG, MTCR, NSG) and on emerging technologies and space	Political Division (Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Unit)	Ongoing
34	**Drawing on our own experience of conflict on the island of Ireland, promote effective peacebuilding, including conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconciliation, and support the full engagement of women, youth and civil society in these processes**		
	34.1 Continue Ireland's role as a guarantor of the Colombia peace process, including by convening a Colombia Task Team, through implementation of development programmes and regional engagement on climate, humanitarian and sustainable development	IUKA (Latin America and the Caribbean)	Q4
	34.2 Support and work with civil society organisations working for conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Horn of Africa, Ukraine, Sahel, Middle East, with a focus on inclusion of women and youth	DCAD/Political Division (PSU)	Ongoing
	34.3 Develop resources, training and a panel of expertise on Northern Ireland lesson sharing to support colleagues in peacebuilding and mediation work	Political Division (PSU, MENA)	Q1-Q2
	34.4 Deliver Year One commitments of the Women Peace and Security National Action Plan	Political Division (PSU, MENA)	Q1-Q4
35	**In close collaboration with Department of Defence, work to strengthen and reform UN peacekeeping operations and policy, and continue participation in UN peacekeeping operations**	Political Division (UNP)	Ongoing

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
36	**Contribute to and shape the EU's evolving approach to security, defence and resilience consistent with national priorities, policies and legislation**		
	36.1 Chair security-related working groups during our Presidency, including delivering arrangements for nine informal events on international security policy in Ireland during our Presidency	Political Division (ISP)	Q3-Q4
	36.2 Manage and ensure effective policy engagement on Ireland's contributions to the European Peace Facility, including as it relates to Ukraine, and ensure our effective chairing of the European Peace Facility Committee as Presidency	Political Division (ISP)	Ongoing
	36.3 Support effective development and implementation of CSDP Missions, including engagement with EU partners in support of the development of a CSDP Mission in Lebanon, in light of the withdrawal of UNIFIL in 2027. Delivery and implementation of a Civilian CSDP policy review in Q4	Political Division (ISP)	Ongoing
37	**Promote accountability for the most serious international crimes, including through active support for the work of the International Criminal Court**		
	37.1 Chair the Working Party on Public International Law (International Criminal Court) and ensure that EU interventions in international fora express support for the ICC	Legal Division	Q3-Q4
	37.2 Chair the first Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference for a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity	Legal Division	Q1
	37.3 Participate in the ICC's Assembly of States Parties in New York	Legal Division	Q4
Outcome: Continued strong political, humanitarian, economic and non-lethal military support to Ukraine; and ensuring Ukraine's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity remains at the forefront of the EU's external agenda.and influence in the EU institutions			
38	**Ensure Ukraine's security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and EU accession path remains at the forefront of the EU's external agenda**		
	38.1 Ensure effective stewardship of our EU Presidency responsibilities in relation to supporting Ukraine's EU accession path; ensure Ukraine is at the forefront of the EPC summit to be hosted in Dublin	Political Division (ENU)	Q3-Q4

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
39	**Support international efforts to bring an end to Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and continue to provide consistent political, humanitarian, economic and non-lethal military support to Ukraine, through bilateral and multilateral channels; proactively engage in international efforts to ensure accountability for Russia's actions**		
	39.1 Hold Ukraine–Ireland Strategic Dialogue	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Q2
	39.2 Co-host a Ukraine-Ireland Economic Forum to promote investment and joint venture cooperation	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Q3-Q4
	39.3 Participate in the annual "Ukraine Recovery Conference" to facilitate Ukraine's reconstruction	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Q4
	39.4 Contribute €25 million to support critical energy infrastructure and €34.5 million in humanitarian and stabilisation supports for Ukraine	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Q1-Q3
	39.5 In cooperation with D/Defence, support continued and substantive engagement with EU planning for security guarantees and consideration of Irish contributions	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Ongoing
Outcome: Continued leadership by Ireland internationally in advocating for a two-state solution, and the equal right to self-determination, peace and security for Palestinians and Israelis alike, as well as full adherence to international law and international humanitarian law, and the resolution of disputes through multilateral diplomacy based on the principles of the UN Charter.			
40	**Exert all our influence at EU and international level to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including in Israel and Palestine, and including through ensuring accountability for grave violations of international law and international humanitarian law**		
	40.1 Continue support to the Palestinian Authority, including the announcement of additional funding in line with our commitment under the auspices of the Emergency Coalition for the Financial Sustainability of the Palestinian Authority.	Political Division (MENA)	Ongoing
	40.2 Advocate at EU level for focus on the two-state solution and increased use of EU influence and tools to advance towards a just and lasting peace	Political Division (MENA)	Ongoing

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	40.3 Continue to take a leading role in the Global Alliance for the Implementation of a Two-State Solution, including through delivery of its 8th meeting in Dublin	Political Division (MENA)	Ongoing
	40.4 Take a forward position in the EU on recovery plans for Lebanon, including a potential CSDP mission for the post UNIFIL period	Political Division (MENA)	Ongoing
	40.5 Intensify engagement with Gulf Cooperation Council partners to assist in management of the EU relationship with Iran in the post-conflict period	Political Division (MENA)	Q2-Q4
	40.6 Work at EU level and bilaterally to promote peace, stability and human rights in Syria, Iraq and Yemen	Political Division (MENA)	Ongoing
41	**Progress legislation banning imports from illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in line with the landmark ICJ Advisory opinion**		
	41.1 Progress relevant work strands and continue engagement on the wider issue at an EU level	Political Division (MENA) / Legal Division	Ongoing
42	**Support a comprehensive international response, based on multilateral diplomacy and the principles of the UN Charter, to all situations of conflict in the Middle East**		
	42.1 Lead on Ministerial visits to countries in the region, to build partnerships, advance Irish interests and values, and which support a comprehensive international response	Political Division (MENA)	Q1-Q2
	42.2 Engage on the definition and development of the new EU Syria Strategy	Political Division (MENA)	Q2

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: An international security policy that is effective, in the context of the evolving European security environment, and the development of a new National Security Strategy.security, sovereignty and territorial integrity remains at the forefront of the EU's external agenda.and influence in the EU institutions			
43	**In close collaboration with Department of Defence, work to strengthen and reform UN peacekeeping operations and policy, and continue participation in UN peacekeeping operations**	Political Division	Ongoing
44	**Defend and promote a safe, secure, free and open global cyberspace, and strong global AI governanceopinion**		
	44.1 Support Ireland's engagement on Cyber issues at EU level, including during the Presidency, Q3-Q4, and in multilateral level including the Global Dialogue on AI and other fora	Political Division (ISP)/ GLOBEC (PCIT)	Q1-Q4
	44.2 Support the development of the new National Cyber Security Strategy, contributing to cyber diplomacy-related elements, and contribute a foreign policy perspective on other national cyber policy issues	Political Division (ISP)/ GLOBEC (PCIT)	Q2
	44.3 Engage in the establishment of the new UN Global Mechanism on ICT Security in July 2026 and in other international processes to promote a safe, secure, free and open global cyberspace	Political Division (ISP)/ GLOBEC (PCIT)	Q3 and Ongoing
45	**Support efforts to enhance international oceans governance and the protection of the global marine environment**		
	45.1 Participate in the third substantive meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). Prepare for and participate in the First Meeting of the BBNJ Agreement's Conference of the Parties	Legal Division	Q2 & Q4
	45.2 Participate in International Seabed Authority Council & Assembly meetings	Legal Division	Q3
	45.3 Support the implementation of the UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), including through our partnership with the World Maritime University	DCAD (Climate Unit)	Q1-Q4

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: International humanitarian and human rights law is promoted and strengthened, and effective accountability mechanisms supported.			
46	**Champion human rights throughout our foreign policy engagements, support the international human rights architecture, and secure Ireland's election to the UN Human Rights Council in 2027-2029.**		
	46.1 Secure election to the Human Rights Council (2027-2029) in October, with strong support from Council members	Political Division (HRU, UNP)	Q4
	46.2 Promote the priorities of Ireland's Human Rights Council campaign - support for civil society and human rights defenders, women's rights and gender equality, LGBTIQ+ persons, the right to adequate food and persons with disabilities in conflict - including through engagement with international partners, civil society, HRDs and across government	Political Division (HRU)	Q1-Q4
	46.3 Support the Department of Children, Disability and Equality as lead Department in preparations for Ireland's Universal Periodic Review	Political Division (HRU)	Q4
47	**Continue to support the effective use of UN and EU sanctions as an important tool to preserve peace and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and strengthen international security**		
	47.1 Input into the development and renewal of UN and EU restrictive measures and other sanctions issues, including inclusion of humanitarian exemptions building on our work on the UN Security Council. Work with other Departments / Agencies to monitor domestic implementation of sanctions, through chairing of monthly Cross Departmental International Sanctions Committee	Political Division (Sanctions Policy & Accountability Unit)	Ongoing
	47.2 Support continued pressure on Russia through the implementation and development of EU sanctions packages	Political Division (Sanctions Policy & Accountability Unit)	Ongoing
48	**Work with the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to deliver the second National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights**		
	48.1 Publish Ireland's second National Plan on Business and Human Rights, with Department of Enterprise, Tourism, and Employment and other relevant stakeholders	Political Division (HRU)	Q3

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: Continued leadership on revitalising the global commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.			
49	**Lead the implementation of Ireland's international development policy, contributing to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the eradication of global poverty and hunger, with a strong focus on food security and nutrition, education, health, gender equality, disability inclusion, reducing humanitarian need, good governance and democracy, and climate action**		
	49.1 Through Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for A Better World (ICSP), provide €100 million in funding across ten leading Irish-based NGOs	DCAD	Q1-Q4
	49.2 Reinforce Ireland's strong record in gender programming by establishing a target for ODA targeting gender, including through co-chairing of OECD DAC Gendernet	DCAD	Q1-Q4
	49.3 Strengthen support for maternal health under our commitment to global health equity and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including through new partnerships on maternal health, such as with UAE/Beginnings Fund in Ethiopia	DCAD	Ongoing
	49.4 Implement our commitments to increase ODA spending on nutrition to build the focus on disability inclusive development including through participation in the One Health Summit in France and the COSP in New York	DCAD	Q2
	49.5 Build dynamic peacebuilding responses to evolving contexts in Africa (Mozambique, Horn of Africa and West Africa)	DCAD	Ongoing
50	**Deliver country-level programmes to respond to crises and support the implementation of national sustainable development programmes and goals**		
	50.1 Prioritise our 12 high quality country-level development programmes in Africa working with local partners and review the balance of the programmes in the light of ODA cutbacks by a number of major partners, with an ongoing focus and commitment to the SDGs	DCAD (Africa Unit; Global Programmes Unit)	Ongoing

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	50.2 Launch new or updated country programme strategies for Ethiopia, Senegal and Nigeria; carry out mid-term reviews of country programme strategies for Uganda, Sierra Leone and Liberia, Q2-Q3	DCAD (Africa Unit; Global Programmes Unit)	Q2-Q4
	50.3 Undertake evaluations of country programme strategies for South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania, Q1-Q2; Initiate evaluations of country programme strategies for Zambia and Uganda, Q4; Undertake reviews of the Central America and Colombia Programme Frameworks, Q3-Q4	DCAD (Africa Unit; Global Programmes Unit)	Q1- Q4
	50.4 Support regular Ministerial and other High-Level visits to Africa to build understanding, partnerships and inform country-level programmes	DCAD (Africa Unit; Global Programmes Unit)	Q1-Q4
	50.5 Implement Ireland's 2nd Strategy for Partnership with SIDS, in coordination with relevant desks, missions and Government Departments	DCAD (Africa Unit; Global Programmes Unit)	Q3-Q4
51	**Deliver on Ireland's International Climate Finance Roadmap and strengthen whole-of-government efforts on climate diplomacy, with a focus on adaptation and Loss and Damage in the most vulnerable countries**		
	51.1 Publish Ireland's Climate Finance Report for 2024 and work on the 2025 Report which will demonstrate achievement of the €225 million climate finance target	DCAD (Climate Unit)	Q1
	51.2 With the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, lead EU negotiations at COP31, particularly relating to Adaptation and Loss and Damage	DCAD (Climate Unit)	Q4
	51.3 Work with other board members of the Adaptation Fund for increased financial flows to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Co-lead the Champions Group on Adaptation finance with the Netherlands to maintain focus on the vulnerability of LDCs, SIDS	DCAD (Climate Unit)	Ongoing
52	**Working with EU partners, develop our relationship with China based on a consistent analysis of Ireland's interests and values, a strengthening of our economic and systemic resilience, and a focus on engaging with China on cross-cutting global issues, particularly climate change and global trade and investment.**		

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	52.1 Support visit by the Taoiseach to China, Q1; identify and pursue economic opportunities in relation to China through engagement at quarterly RMT meetings and direct reports to the HQMT. Ensure coherence and a joined-up approach to our relationship with China, based on Ireland's interests and values	GLOBEC (Asia-Pacific Unit)	Ongoing
53	**Actively engage in the global debates on the future of development cooperation, including the evolution of the UN development system, the humanitarian reset and the negotiation of the EU's Global Europe pillar, setting the path for sustained global action on the enduring challenge of poverty.**		
	53.1 Engage in processes on reform of the evolution of the UN Development System and influence international forums for the Future of Development Cooperation	DCAD (MLU-UN, Policy Unit, Humanitarian Unit)	Q2-Q4
	53.2 Chair Nordic+ international development group, handing over to Sweden in June	DCAD (MLU-UN, Policy Unit, Humanitarian Unit)	Q1-Q2
	Outcome: Humanitarian assistance reaches those most in need		
54	**Provide principled humanitarian assistance in response to protracted crises (including in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, and Afghanistan) and sudden on-set emergencies and advocate for greater attention to forgotten conflict and humanitarian emergencies, including in Sudan, DRC and CAR**		
	54.1 Provide humanitarian assistance to trusted international partners across multiple crises, and ensure we respond very rapidly to sudden onset emergencies	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Ongoing
	54.2 Undertake visits to crises, including Chad, South Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan and others with UN and Red Cross partners as appropriate, to inform our advocacy and humanitarian assistance responses	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Q1-Q4
	54.3 Advocate for the UN and other humanitarian organisations to be facilitated in full to carry out their life-saving work in Gaza and for ensuring humanitarian aid into and throughout Gaza at scale; advocate for the Gaza response and recovery mechanisms under 2803 to be based on Humanitarian Principles and International Law, with central roles for the UN and PA	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Ongoing

Goal 4: Respond to a changing geopolitical context

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	54.4 Provide €42 million in assistance to the people of Palestine, including €20 million in core funding to support the work of UNRWA in providing vital services to Palestinian refugees in Gaza and the West Bank, and across the region; support UNRWA and advocate within EU and UN for increased support	DCAD (Humanitarian Unit)	Q4
	54.5 Further increase humanitarian assistance to respond to the Sudan crisis and seek during the Presidency to strengthen EU engagement	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Ongoing
	54.6 Provide political and financial support to promote multilateral and civil society led approaches to conflict prevention and sustaining peace to mitigate conflict and humanitarian crises	Political Division (ENU, ISP) / DCAD	Ongoing
55	**Continue to increase Official Development Assistance annually, working towards the UN target of 0.7% of Gross National Income**	DCAD (Strategy Unit)	Q4
56	**Increase the proportion of ODA channelled into the education of young people in developing countries, particularly the education of girls, and work with international partners to keep attention on the plight of women and girls in Afghanistan**		
	56.1 Develop a successor Global Citizenship Education Strategy	DCAD (Global Programmes & Citizen Education / Civil Society)	Q4
	56.2 Support civil society partners to deliver educational and capacity building programming to vulnerable communities, particularly women and girls	DCAD (Global Programmes & Citizen Education / Civil Society)	Ongoing
	56.3 Through our Civil Society Partnership for *A Better World*, maintain support to key Irish NGO work across 40 developing countries; and work to maintain awareness in Ireland of key global challenges	DCAD (Global Programmes & Citizen Education / Civil Society)	Ongoing
	56.4 As members of Advisory Board of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, maintain attention on and funding for the furthest behind with particular focus on the needs of women and girls; engage actively at both EU and UN level to raise and provide assistance for the plight of women and girls, including through advocating for the EU to become more active on the human rights and humanitarian situation	DC GLOBEC (Asia-Pacific Unit) / DCAD (Humanitarian Unit)	Ongoing

Goal 5: Deepen our global engagement and drive our trade prosperity

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: A strong network of bilateral relationships, underpinned by a strengthened diplomatic mission network as a key strategic enabler to advance whole-of-government objectives.			
Outcome: Mobilisation of our capabilities at home and abroad, working closely with Team Ireland partners, to support Ireland's sustained progress.			
57	**Coordinate the annual St Patrick's Day programme of Ministerial visits to deepen existing bilateral relationships and forge new linkages across a range of countries and markets, and support the delivery of high-level visits and trade missions throughout the year.**		
	57.1 Coordinate the 'Promoting Ireland' St Patrick's Day programme for 2026, involving travel by the Taoiseach, Minister and members of the Government to 50+ countries to promote Ireland, Irish values and interests including through key messages for international audiences a comprehensive communications and media plan. Report to government on activities undertaken	GLOBEC (Global Ireland Unit; Economic, OECD & G20 Unit)	Q1
	57.2 Advance whole of Government objectives by maintaining and developing strong bilateral relationships across the global mission network; protect and promote Irish interests and values, including within the framework of regional and country strategies	Regional Coordinators / Missions	Q1-Q4
	57.3 Implement the final year of the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Strategy, undertake programme of political consultations, undertake and launch Mexico economic mapping report, and host the first LAC Trade Horizons conference in Ireland	IUKA (LAC Unit)	Q1-Q4
	57.4 Building on the planned ratification of CETA and the Ireland-Canada Economic Impact report, support ambitious programme of inward and outward political visits, prepare for Canada-Ireland 180 cultural season & implement new De Chastelain scholarship initiative	IUKA (US/Canada Unit)	Q1-Q4

Goal 5: Deepen our global engagement and drive our trade prosperity

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
58	**Engage across Government and with the State Agencies to advance Ireland's economic objectives abroad, coordinating whole-of-government engagement in multilateral contexts (WTO, OECD, G20, EU) and supporting trade, investment and tourism promotion with Team Ireland colleagues through our Mission network abroad**		
	58.1 Use the Government Action Plan on Market Diversification as a platform to deepen Team Ireland connections at HQ and strengthen coordination between the Headquarters Market Team (HQMT) and Local and Regional Market Teams at Missions. HQMT to convene at least three times in 2026; Collaborate with DETE on quarterly reporting on implementation of Action Plan	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit)	Q1-Q4
	58.2 Deliver Ireland's G20 participation under the US Presidency and during Ireland's EU Presidency; deliver Ireland's participation in the G20 Leaders' Summit Q4; Engage with the UK regarding Ireland's continued participation in the G20 in 2027 during the UK Presidency, Q4; Join-up across government on G20 developments and deliverables including through at least quarterly meetings of the official-led interdepartmental committee	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit)	Q3-Q4
	58.3 Engage in strong OECD coordination structures including supporting ministerial attendance at the OECD Ministerial Council in June;build support and understanding of Ireland's priorities domestically and internationally; co-ordinate the OECD Interdepartmental Committee, and review 2026 engagement, Q4.	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit)	Ongoing
	58.4 Implement Government Action Plan on India, including the second meeting of Ireland-India Economic Advisory Panel	GLOBEC (Asia-Pacific Unit)	Ongoing
	58.5 Actively engage on OECD trade policy as well as at the WTO including through Ministerial attendance at the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Cameroon in March. Bring forward proposals for WTO reform during the EU Presidency	EUTPD (Trade Policy Unit)	Q1-Q4

Goal 5: Deepen our global engagement and drive our trade prosperity

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: Humanitarian assistance reaches those most in need			
59	**Further deepen Ireland's presence around the world, including through the expansion of the Ireland House concept and the continued roll-out of the Digital Ireland House project (Ireland.ie)**		
	59.1 Complete and open Ireland House Lyon, Q2; complete the design of new Ireland House Madrid and new Ireland House Toronto, Q4	CSD (PMU)	Q2 & Q4
	59.2 Commence fit out on site of new Ireland House London	CSD (PMU)	Q3
	59.3 Open new Consulate General in Melbourne, Q1; Open new Consulate General in Malaga, Q2	CSD (PMU) / GLOBEC / EUTPD / IUKA Division / Political Division	Q1-Q2
	59.4 Complete the fit out and open the permanent Chancery of Embassy Chisinau; the permanent space for the Consulate of Ireland, Manchester; for the Embassy of Ireland, Tehran and the Consulate of Ireland, Miami	CSD (PMU) / GLOBEC / EUTPD / IUKA Division / Political Division	Q1-Q3
	59.5 Review the Global Ireland Media Challenge Fund and explore a new round of the Fund	Evaluation & Audit Unit/ GLOBEC (Global Ireland Unit)	Q4
	59.6 Provide additional multilingual content on Ireland.ie commencing with translation of 15 key Mission sites; Restructure the Pillar pages on Ireland.ie (Visit, Trade, Invest and Study); and agree publishing plans with State Agencies for Ireland.ie to highlight work of Team Ireland	GLOBEC (Comms Unit)	Q3
60	**Enhance Ireland's visibility and reputation abroad through effective public diplomacy and continued investment in our press and communications capacity; build public awareness and support in Ireland for our international engagement**		
	60.1 Enhance Ireland's visibility and reputation abroad by delivering effective digital campaigns for key public diplomacy milestones including St Brigid's Day, St Patrick's Day and Bloomsday and Beyond and amplifying content by Team Ireland partners including Tourism Ireland's 'Home of Halloween' campaign	GLOBEC (Comms Unit)	Q1-Q2

Goal 5: Deepen our global engagement and drive our trade prosperity

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	60.2 Provide communications support for UN High-Level Week in September, Canada-Ireland 180 and other public diplomacy campaigns	GLOBEC (Comms Unit)	Q3-Q4
	60.3 Engage in public outreach at major national events, including Young Scientists (Q1), Science Blast (Q1), Fís (Q1), Africa Day (Q2) and the National Ploughing Championships (Q3)	GLOBEC (Comms Unit)	Q1-Q3
Outcome: Shape and implement a new Global Ireland 2040 strategy, enhancing Ireland's reputation, visibility and influence			
61	**Building on Global Ireland 2025, develop a new strategy, Global Ireland 2040, outlining an overarching approach for further enhancing our place and influence in international affairs, including ever deeper relationships with our European partners**		
	61.1 Work with Department of the Taoiseach and the Global Ireland SOG to deliver the new Global Ireland 2040 strategy	GLOBEC (Global Ireland Unit)	Ongoing
62	**Under the Global Ireland 2040 Strategy, develop and implement new whole-of-government regional strategies covering Latin America, US & Canada, the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Middle East & North Africa, and the Western Balkans; develop and implement bilateral frameworks of cooperation with key partners**		
	62.1 In line with the objectives of Global Ireland 2040, commence consideration and development of new whole-of-government strategies for priority partner countries and regions for phased publication in 2026/27, including new strategies covering Latin America and the Caribbean, the US, Canada, the Asia Pacific region, Africa, SIDS, the Middle East and North Africa, France, Germany, Nordic-Baltic and Western Balkans regions	GLOBEC (Global Ireland Unit)	Ongoing

Goal 5: Deepen our global engagement and drive our trade prosperity

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: A strong and productive relationship between Ireland and the US, supporting our political and economic interests.			
63	**Enhance our diplomatic presence and strengthen our political, economic and cultural engagement with the US at all levels, recognising the unique contemporary and historic significance of the Ireland-US partnership; and actively support a productive EU-US relationship**		
	63.1 Deliver high-level political engagement throughout the year and incoming visits at administration, congressional and state level	IUKA Division (US & Canada)	Q1-Q4
	63.2 Implement a programme to mark America 250 in the US to highlight Ireland's historic and present connections to the US	IUKA Division (US & Canada)	Q4
	63.3 Communicate the story of mutually beneficial Ireland – US economic links, continue to engage the Strategic Economic Advisory Panel, and deepen our understanding of Ireland's economic impact in the US	IUKA Division (US & Canada)	Q4
	63.4 Expand diplomatic team in the US, including in the Southern States	IUKA Division (US & Canada)	Q3
Outcome: Growth and diversification of our trade, with new market access opportunities identified and EU single market opportunities maximised for Irish companies			
64	**Continue to develop the Government Trade Forum as the vehicle for engagement between Government and business on international trade policy issues**		
	64.1 Convene meetings of the Trade Forum throughout 2026 to be chaired by Minister	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit) / EUTPD (Trade Policy Unit)	Q1-Q4
	64.2 Develop, in cooperation with the political, public and private sectors, a new Forum Work Plan which supports delivery of DFAT and government priorities, Q1; Implement new Forum Work Plan, Q4	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit) / EUTPD (Trade Policy Unit)	Q1 & Q4

Goal 5: Deepen our global engagement and drive our trade prosperity

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
65	**Work closely with the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, and Team Ireland partners, including through HQ, Regional and Local Market Teams, to further develop and diversify our markets through the delivery of a new Trade and Investment Strategy and a Market Diversification Action Plan; support the delivery of Global Citizens 2030 Strategy, Ireland's International Talent and Innovation Strategy**		
	65.1 Lead the implementation of actions to be delivered by DFAT under the Action Plan on Market Diversification (APMD). Overall Implementation of APMD to be coordinated by the HQ Market Team and submitted to the Cabinet Committee on the Economy	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit)	Ongoing
	65.2 Support DFHERIS to appoint Innovation Attachés in strategically important Missions, Q2 and coordinate review of trade and investment attaché network and the State Agency footprint abroad, Q4	GLOBEC (Global Ireland Unit)	Q2, Q4
66	**In collaboration with the Department of Finance and the Revenue Commissioners, engage with potential tax treaty partner countries and negotiate protocols to existing tax treaties**		
	66.1 Engage with D/Finance regarding adding new Liechtenstein and Azerbaijan tax treaties, and an updated Sweden tax treaty, to Finance Bill 2026	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit)	Q4
67	**Develop a strategy to map, support, and tell the story of Irish investment overseas**	GLOBEC (Economic, OECD & G20 Unit)	Q1-Q4

Goal 5: Deepen our global engagement and drive our trade prosperity

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: Active engagement with EU programmes and instruments for private sector and trade through development cooperation			
68	**In our development cooperation, with the EU through Global Gateway and through our bilateral country programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthen our focus on enabling inclusive economic growth**		
	68.1 Build Global Gateway Team national networks within DFAT and across Government with relevant Departments / agencies to support awareness within private sector of the Global Gateway Strategy	DCAD (Multilateral Unit)	Q1
	68.2 Provide €2.22million in funding to partners working Aid for Trade to support effective participation by developing countries, especially LDCs in the WTO; ensure LDCs are supported to develop and implement trade related policies and regulations to build trade capacity and strengthen productivity	DCAD (Multilateral Unit)	Ongoing
Outcome: Enhanced promotion of Irish culture abroad			
69	**Working with Culture Ireland, lead Ireland's cultural diplomacy and international cultural relations, including through curated programming, sectoral expertise (including specialist Cultural Attachés in priority locations), strategic investment in flagship cultural centres and support for Irish cultural engagement and Irish studies globally**		
	69.1 Deliver UK Ireland 2030 Culture Partnership programme with D/Culture Communications and Sport and UK Government for announcement at UK Ireland Summit in March, Q1; Deliver UK Ireland 2030 Culture Partnership programme with DCCS and UK Government, Q2 – Q3	GLOBEC (Culture Unit)	Q1 & Q2-Q3
	69.2 Deliver EU Presidency Cultural Programme in partnership with Culture Ireland and missions	GLOBEC (Culture Unit)	Q3-Q4
70	**Deliver a new International Sports Diplomacy Strategy for Ireland in collaboration with the Department of Arts, Sport, Culture and Media**		
	70.1 Finalise and launch the International Sports Diplomacy Strategy; commence governance structures and implementation plan and begin implementing Department-led actions of the Strategy	GLOBEC (Global Ireland Unit)	Q1
	70.2 Launch a new International Sports Diplomacy Fund	GLOBEC (Global Ireland Unit)	Q3

Goal 6: Build our capacity to innovate and deliver

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: A Department that consistently delivers excellent public service and is agile and responsive to national and global developments.			
71	**Contribute to public sector reform, including through the Civil Service Renewal 2030 initiative, the Civil Service Management Board, and alignment with Better Public Services the Public Service transformation strategy**		
	71.1 Recruit a Chief Information Officer to develop the Department's ICT network, infrastructure and business support systems, Q2; and establish a new ICT Division, Q4	COO/SGCU	Q2, Q4
72	**Implement the Department's Climate Action Roadmap**		
	72.1 Complete SEAI's Monitoring & Reporting System; deliver projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions; lead staff initiatives and deliver guidelines on sustainable meetings	CSD (PMU)	Q1-Q4
Outcome: An adaptable, innovative, skilled and supported global team			
73	**Support and invest in continuous learning and development (including language training) for all staff at home and abroad**	HRD (Learning and Development)	Q1-Q4
74	**Promote and champion a culture of innovation and transformation, including by leveraging new technologies and exploring opportunities to deploy AI in line with Public Service guidelines**		
	74.1 Develop an Innovation Strategy for the Department following staff consultation; promote and support Public Service Transformation Week and organise a DFAT specific event	SGCU	Q1-Q4
	74.2 Deliver a revised iteration of the Department's AI Policy and support its rollout	CSD (ICT) / GLOBEC (PCIT)	Q1

Goal 6: Build our capacity to innovate and deliver

Outcomes & 2026 Actions		Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: A positive, accessible and inclusive workplace, with a diverse workforce where fairness, dignity, and respect for all is fully embedded			
75	**Embed a culture of dignity and respect, fostering an accessible and inclusive workplace that supports staff to live healthy and balanced working lives, and enhancing the diversity of our workforce**		
	75.1 Launch Reasonable Accommodation Implementation Group	HRD (Strategic HR / Workplace Relations and Wellbeing)	Q1
	75.2 Deliver the *10 Days of GEDI* initiative for 2026	HRD (Strategic HR) / SGCU	Ongoing
	75.3 In line with the ongoing DFAT commitment to gender equality, ensure at least 50% of Heads of Mission posts are held by female officers (at each of the A/Sec; Counsellor/PO; & FS/AP grades)	HRD (WFP)	Q4
76	**Strengthen supports for our posted staff and accompanying family members as well as for our locally engaged colleagues overseas**	HRD (Posted staff)	Q1
Outcome: An open, accountable and sustainable Department delivering best practice in governance and organisational performance			
77	**Provide effective Management Board leadership in line with the Department's Corporate Governance Framework**	Management Board / SGCU	O1-Q4
78	**Refresh and implement Departmental strategies led by Corporate Services Division (Property Strategy, Security and Corporate Compliance Strategy, Digital Transformation Strategy) and Human Resources Division (Human Resources Strategy and Gender, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan)**		
	78.1 Implement the final year of the SCC strategy; and extend the Department's Digital Transformation Strategy 2022-25 by one year to facilitate the development of a new ICT Strategy in 2027	CSD (SCC) /(CCU/ICT/ SH&S/PMU)	Q1-Q4
	78.2 Launch 2026-2027 HR Strategy Action Plan	HRD (Strategic HR)	Q1

Goal 6: Build our capacity to innovate and deliver

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
	78.3 Launch 2026-2027 GEDI Action Plan	HRD (Strategic HR)	Q2
	78.4 Publish a Public Sector Duty Assessment; integrate PSD into strategic business cycle	SGCU	Q2; Q4
79	**Continue to deliver projects governed by a robust project management approach and in line with public spending regulations**	Management Board / SGCU	Ongoing
80	**Drive and deliver high-level visits and events that advance Ireland's values and interests, including in the context of the Presidency of the EU Council in 2026**		
	80.1 Deliver a high-quality overall programme of visits for Heads of State, Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, and other high-level visitors, in collaboration with other Departments, external stakeholders; deliver world-class events in Iveagh house and other venues, including during the Presidency	Protocol	Q1-Q4
	80.2 Plan and deliver high quality visits of the President abroad, in coordination with the relevant Embassy and local authorities	Protocol	Q1-Q4
81	**Enhance the culture of responsibility on cybersecurity, data security and information security through appropriate supports, training, and awareness-raising and ensure compliance with NIS2 legislation**		
	81.1 Participate in and complete National Cyber Security Centre NIS2/CyFun Pilot Project	CSD (ICT Unit)	Q4
82	**Ensure efficient and effective processes to comply with statutory obligations in information management, including Customer Services; Data Protection; Lobbying; Freedom of Information; and Protected Disclosures and with regard to the Official Languages Acts**	CSD (CCU/ILO)	Q1-Q4
83	**Maintain an effective Evaluation and Audit function that provides management with objective assessment, assurance, advice and insight regarding corporate performance, governance, risk management and internal controlin 2026**		
	83.1 Conduct internal audits of key risk areas, including 8 to 10 Mission audits; conduct 5 evaluations including 3 Mission Strategies; support the Department in combatting fraud in its business operations and programmes	EAU	Q1-Q4

Goal 6: Build our capacity to innovate and deliver

	Outcomes & 2026 Actions	Action Owner	Delivery Date
Outcome: A safe and secure work environment for all			
84	**Continue to invest in a strong health, safety and security culture within the Department, recognising the challenges and risks associated with operating in increasingly unstable and insecure environments globally**	CSD (SH&S) & HRD	Q1-Q4

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade