Compendium of Contributions from National Stakeholders in Ireland

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Ireland strongly supports stakeholder participation in the 2030 Agenda process at both a national and global level, in order to ensure that voices from civil society and the private sector continue to be heard as the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are implemented.

Therefore the Government of Ireland has facilitated the production of this compendium of stakeholders' inputs to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The intention was to provide national stakeholders with an equal opportunity to present their individual observations regarding the SDGs, and Ireland's implementation, directly to the 2018 session of the HLPF.

Stakeholder contributions where collected by means of an on-line process.

Stakeholders were encouraged, when providing contributions to the compendium, to consider and respond to the following three questions:

- What are you/your organisation/your sector doing to support achieving the SDGs?
- What are your/your organisations key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation?
- What would you/your organisation suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?

All contributions received have been included in the compendium and the content of those contributions has not been edited in any way by the Government of Ireland.

It should be noted that this compendium is separate to Ireland's Voluntary National Review 2018 and that the views expressed in this compendium are solely those of the listed contributors, and do not represent those of the Government of Ireland.

Ireland's Voluntary National Review 2018 remains Ireland's sole official report to the 2018 session of the HLPF.

List of Contributor's

Dr Jon Yearsley	3
Scouting Ireland	3
University College Dublin	4
Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliance	5
Social Innovation Fund Ireland	6
Electricity Association of Ireland	7
European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland	8
World Vision Ireland	9
Irish Congress of Trade Unions	10
IDEA	12
Self Help Africa	14
Misean Cara – Mission Support from Ireland	15
Dochas	16
Bord Iascaigh Mhara Ireland's Seafood Development Agency	18
All Together in Dignity Ireland –	19
ESC Rights Initiative (ESCRI)	20
Children in Crossfire	21
A Partnership with Africa (APA)	22
National Youth Council of Ireland	22
80 MAX	24
Permaculture Network of Ireland	25
The Global Goals Gals	26
Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce	26
International Presentation Association	27
Sustainable Ireland Cooperative Society Ltd. TA Cultivate	27
The Rediscovery Centre	29
National Adult Literacy Agency	30
Irish Environmental Network	31
80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World	33
Christian Aid Ireland	34
Dawn Meats	35
Cultivate	36
FLAC	38
An Taisce: the National Trust for Ireland	39
Early Childhood Ireland	40
Killybegs Fishermen's organisation Ltd	41

Dr Jon Yearsley

Our research group are researching the broad role the Ireland's biodiversity plays in maintaining resilient agricultural production under more extreme weather events (e.g. fodder crisis of 2012/2013). This area of research aligns closely with goal 2 (zero hunger: sustainable agriculture), goal 13 (climate action), goal 14 (life below water), goal 15 (life on land). Biodiversity is an important component of the sustainable development goals and the bio economy. Ireland has explicitly recognized the importance of biodiversity by publishing an up-to-date biodiversity action plan (2017-2021) and it acknowledges innovation in the environment as part of its Innovation 2020 strategy. However, science funding in Ireland could be more proactive in developing research on the contribution of biodiversity into people's lives. Ireland's funding strategy currently mirrors the EU's societal challenges, which do not explicitly promote biodiversity, despite its importance for a sustainable bio economy. Ireland has a chance to promote the bio economy by developing science and business that has some explicit focus on biodiversity's contribution to our economy and wellbeing.

Scouting Ireland

Currently we are engaging on mapping our community based work so that we can make the links between policy and practice. This work is done through an online collaboration tool that shares examples of what various groups are doing. We are also training young people and adults to identify what they are currently doing that impacts on the SDGs. This mapping in turn highlights the gaps in our work. With this knowledge we are able to tailor support to address specific areas. One example of this is in the area of sustainable energy sources while using the outdoors. This addresses SDG 7. We have partnered with SEAI to look at ways of addressing this by utilising our campsites network

University College Dublin

What is UCD doing to support the SDGs?

Undergraduate: A discovery module on the Global Goals can be taken by any first year student in UCD as an elective. There are many disciplinary Modules on the SDGs on offer across Social Science, Economics and Politics, Business, Veterinary Science, Law and Agricultural degrees. UCD SDG Awareness Week is organised annually, where there are talks, poster exhibits on campus, social media campaign, all with the aspirations of raising awareness and implementing the SDG's on the UCD Campus. UCD Volunteers Overseas has extended its activities to projects in India, Haiti, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Uganda, and employs two full-time staff to co-ordinate its activities. To date, approximately 1,500 volunteers have engaged in environmental, educational, healthcare, construction and computer training projects in disadvantaged communities overseas. Postgraduate: MPA in Development Practice (MDP) to train young professionals to implement the SDGs in government and in stakeholder partnerships. Ph.D. in Global Human Development, to train academic staff in mainly African countries up to the level of a Ph.D. in any area relating to the SDGs Research: The Irish EPA and the IRC/EC have commissioned University College Dublin's Centre for Sustainable Development Studies to research governance, data needs and a follow-up and review framework for achieving the SDGs in Ireland. At the core of our research focus is government enabled multi-stakeholder partnerships for SDG implementation in Ireland. Outreach: UCD is an active member of the UN SDSN, operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. UCD has Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC consultative status for an organization enables it to actively engage with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of important ways. One aspect is to be an active member of the UN Major Group for Science and Technology during UN HLPF meetings.

UCDs key observations on Irelands SDG implementation?

Irelands VNR provides a strong framework for governance arrangements that can facilitate a whole of government approach to SDG implementation. We welcome the: Updating of national sustainable development strategy to directly reflect the SDGs; The high levels of political engagement, including cabinet oversight and ministerial responsibilities of SDG implementation; The clear assignment of SDGs responsibilities across all departments, including the mainstreaming and mapping of policies; The development of mechanisms for interdepartmental coordination on the SDGs, e.g. the SDG Interdepartmental Working Group; The development of a SDG Stakeholder Forum.

How would UCD further enhance SDG implementation?

The Irish Government need a better framework for a whole-of-society approach to SDG implementation. The period 2018-2020 is stated as the government period for defining a baseline, taking stock of policy gaps and defining roles and responsibilities of government departments and agencies. The whole of Government committee and the Stakeholder Forum, over the next two years, have in their terms of reference the need to formalize the role of stakeholders in setting policy agendas, SDG implementation and follow up and review. Our research in UCD over the next two years will explore ways that government can engage stakeholders and ways that stakeholders can be enabled to work together in pursuit of the SDGs. The Irish SDG plan during 2020 to 2030 should have best practice and smart innovations in terms of engaging all stakeholders in achieving the SDGs in Ireland and beyond.

Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliance

The Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliance (CESCA) is an alliance of 18 community and voluntary groups in Cork City, who have joined forces to better address issues of disadvantage in the city. These groups share a common goal of social inclusion and social justice. We are particularly committed to the following SDGs: no poverty, zero hunger, good health, quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, peace, justice and strong institutions and partnerships for the goals. Here are some good practice examples of us working towards these goals. CESCA, in collaboration with the Social and Health Education Project (SHEP), funded a QQI Level 6 accredited course, Leadership in the Community: An Introduction. The course equips students with the skills to bring about positive change in their own communities. CESCA also runs an Equality and Social Inclusion Small Grants Scheme, with funding from the HSE. Since 2014, it has supported a number of grassroots groups with grants of up to 2000 Euros for one-off projects. These projects have promoted social inclusion in a variety of innovative ways, such as an LGBT 5-a-side football team, and a community garden for children. What sets this scheme apart is that grant recipients must work collaboratively in order to achieve these goals. When citizen engagement is tacked onto other social goods, such as public health, it lays fertile ground for creative projects and collaborations. A prime example of this is CESCA member organisation NICHE 2014 workshop on the health benefits of voting, in collaboration with University College Cork. Several CESCA member organisations have also been involved in the Cork Healthy Cities Initiative. Its inaugural conference took place in May 2016, and acknowledged the work of the city health champions. What is unique about this is that both CESCA and the Healthy Cities Initiative are committed to the social determinants of health model. Individual CESCA member organisations NASC and the Cork YMCA also collaborated with the Together-Razem Centre, to host a one-stop shop active citizenship event for migrants in July 2016. One of the strengths of this was that it combined practical skills training e.g. job applications, with less pressing but equally important skills, such as community engagement. CESCA member organisations Nasc and Frameworks created a film entitled – Who are we now? In which a group of asylum seekers and refugees spoke about their status, and their lives in Cork. These and other films were broadcast during the Cork Community Television Pilot week. Further, CESCA member organisation, Cork YMCA, is the biggest provider of Techspace in Cork. Techspace is about engaging young people in citizenship through identifying local or global issues of concern to them, then producing a short video to highlight said issue.

In terms of Ireland's implementation of the SDGs, we note that the Irish Government has created an implementation plan, which is the first in a series of plans in the period leading up to 2030. We appreciate the fact that Ireland is adopting a whole of Government approach to implementing the goals, together with local authorities. Part of this would entail close collaboration with Public Participation Networks and LCDCs, which CESCA has been strongly engaged in. There are four ambitious strategic priorities for implementation: awareness, participation, and support and policy alignment. CESCA strongly supports the SDG Champions proposal within the awareness-raising section, as well as the creation of an online SDG platform to share good practice. It is crucial that good practice from existing alliances who work on SDGs is amplified. We would also recommend stronger partnership-working between alliances like ourselves and those like Coalition 2030. We had requested to join in 2017, but this has not happened as yet.

Social Innovation Fund Ireland

Question 1: Social Innovation Fund Ireland selects and supports Irelands best in class social innovations with dedicated funds and non-financial supports. SIFI tracks the awardee social impacts in relation to the SDGs and will contribute this data to the Irish Country Report to the UN. SIFI has 31 social innovations to date, with more to come. We have started with SDG 3 & 4. We therefore foster the SDG Champions leveraging their public profile to raise awareness around the SDGs and to create the best ecosystem with the objective to mainstream their innovations.

Question 2: Ireland's general performance for SDG implementation is currently far behind its potential. There are 2 issues – first, the need to drive innovation to achieve the SDG goals. Second, the need to track current and future progress against the SDG metrics. This is a great opportunity for Ireland to showcase leap development for a sustainable future. The best way to strengthen and fast forward progress is to create public and private partnerships to spur social as well as climate innovation in order to scale the best solutions for Ireland.

Question 3:

A) Development and implementation of further concrete policies which cater to specific SDGs, such as the much needed increase of renewable energy production and prohibition of highly polluting practices (such as the sale and burning of coal which does not correspond to European standards). We would also recommend the urgent introduction of Government supported community energy schemes.

B) Further support and financing of climate and social innovations in Ireland through dedicated vehicles such as our own organisation.

C) Creation of an impact Investment Fund for Ireland with government support to leverage private capital in order to scale substantial growth for businesses catering towards the SDGs. In partnership with the government, we would like to organise annual conferences to showcase SDG Champions to the public in order to foster further support and to raise public awareness.

Electricity Association of Ireland

Goal 7 and Goal 13. The electricity industry globally is undergoing fundamental transformation. The drivers are shaping a future electricity industry that will be: Decarbonised: reducing its own emissions to net zero; Decentralised: with localised generation making an increasing contribution to electricity production as technology costs continue to fall; Digitalised: taking full advantage of ICT to manage a highly complex system and at the same time delivering value and cost savings for customers; and Democratised: leveraging the application of ICT and low cost to maximise the participation of customers in the day to day operations of the overall energy system. A decarbonised electricity system will play a crucial role in decarbonising all energy use as it assists other energy end-users do likewise, in particular through the progressive electrification of heating and transport. The Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI) recently commissioned PwC to prepare a roadmap for the measures Government could take to achieve a 90% reduction in emissions from energy use in the economy by 2050 at least cost. This roadmap transitioning to a low carbon energy system: What is the best route forward for Ireland? Addresses how Ireland might achieve its 2050 low carbon objective while also significantly reducing energy imports. The three key areas examined are the Electricity, Heat and Transport sectors. The Roadmap focuses on the deployment of proven, cost effective, technologies and recommends that the policy system must ensure the alignment and integration of energy policy, infrastructure planning, capital investment frameworks and energy regulation. To deliver reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will require changes to the patterns of energy use and consumption, some easy and some more difficult. As a community we are well aware of the resistance to any form of change inherent in society. Consequently, how future change is presented and supported and the fairness with which associated benefits are allocated will ultimately determine the extent of Ireland's leadership. EAI is concerned that there is not sufficient urgency in the consideration of future actions to ensure delivery of Irelands 2020 and 2030 commitments. Deferral will result in the need to adopt more robust, costly and higher risk measures in the future. Rollout of a workable regime for the system services necessary to support a higher proportion of RES-E on the system is required and to limit constraints and curtailment from renewable generation to the lowest economic level. Additional measures to quicken Pace: Adopt measures to encourage wind turbine upgrades (repowering) Prioritise solar/wind farm co-location the current target of generating 40% of electricity from renewables should be maintained at a minimum post 2020. Additional measures to strengthen Democracy: Produce detailed national wind planning policy roadmap Phase out fossil fuel subsidies and use the revenue to support the target sectors Energy efficiency is a key tool in reducing costs and CO2 emissions. Facilitate the development of demand-side measures on an equal footing as provided for in the EUs market re-design proposals.

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland

EAPN Ireland is a national community organisation with over 200 members. It was founded in 1990 to put the eradication of poverty at the top of the Irish and EU policy agenda. It is a member of EAPN (Europe) and of Coalition 2030. There are over 780,000 people living below the poverty line and more than double the number in consistent poverty than before the crash. There are much higher levels of poverty in groups such as lone parents, people with disabilities, Travellers, people who are unemployed, people living in disadvantaged urban or remote rural communities. Without an integrated approach to addressing poverty and social exclusion involving access to an adequate income for those in and out of work, access to quality services and access to decent jobs for those who can work, that many people will be left behind. This would breach the key pledge of the SDGs to leave no-one behind. The new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion due to be published in the next few months needs to reflect this integrated approach and commitment to leaving no one behind. An integrated approach must be consistent with other national strategies related areas such as housing and homelessness, health, education and training, childcare and ECCE, and specific strategies for specific groups in society. All of these strategies must be implemented effectively and remain ambitious enough to meet the challenge involved in providing the level of accessible and affordable quality services and income needed for everyone in society. Specific policy measures need to be progressed in relation to poverty and inequality including:

- Benchmarking social welfare (minimum income) supports at a level which is adequate to lift people out of poverty and provide them with a minimum essential standard of living (see www.budgeting.ie). But also to ensure everyone who needs these supports can access them.
- Introducing socio-economic status as a ground for discrimination in Irish law.
- Raising the national minimum wage to a level adequate to provide a living wage €11.50 in 2017.
- Finalising legislation to prevent and address precarious work. Ireland's economic policy must be aligned with its social objectives.

Within these key objectives of Irelands taxation policy must be to:

- redistribute resources and address income inequality. Within this objective there is a need to understand and tackle the root causes of market inequality. Social transfers in Ireland currently play a key role in reducing this market inequality to just below the EU average.
- provide the level of resources necessary to fund the level of high quality affordable services and an effective social protection system. Currently Irelands tax levels are among the lowest in the EU and should be raised closer to the EU average over a series of budgets Another measure to aligning social objectives and economic policy is implementing effective poverty proofing/impact assessment. The Government is currently developing a process for equality budgeting. It is essential that this process continues to be implemented in full and include socio-economic status in the areas being monitored. The SDGs provide an integrated approach to social, environmental and economic development for both a national and global level. In order to effectively deliver on the Goals, including addressing the causes and consequences of poverty, the Irish Government must continue to develop and

implement a whole of Government, integrated approach as outlined in the National Implementation Plan. The Irish Government, as co-brokers of the UN SDGs, should take on a lead role in ensuring that in its deliberations on the Future of Europe that the EU agrees to use the SDGs as a framework for an integrated and sustainable approach to moving forward as a Union.

World Vision Ireland

1) World Vision Ireland works with the Irish Environmental Network, Social Justice Ireland and Eco-UNESCO in the implementation of an EC funded project- Make Ireland Sustainable for All, (July 2017-June 2020). This is part of a consortium project which is implemented across 15 EU member states and 26 NGO partners. The overall objective of the project is to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through raising awareness among the public and mobilising for action from the Irish government. The specific objectives of the project in Ireland are to:

- Work with government stakeholders to ensure plans, progress and commitments to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, through a) publishing monitoring reports, progress indexes and policy recommendations and b) organising an annual National Conference to dialogue with government representatives and civil society to ensure commitments for action on the SDGs.
- Promote the adoption of the SDGs by local community groups (Public Participation Networks) and Local Government Authorities.
- Build awareness and action among the Irish Public and specific target groups on the SDGs through: a) Annual Thematic Campaigns and SDG action weeks and b) Targeted awareness raising through SDG awards, workshops and events among schools and universities around the country.

2) The 2030 Agenda is a tool to realise a more just and better world for all. This Agenda, with 17 Goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators sets out a detailed, measurable and effective roadmap to end poverty, combat climate change and ensure that we leave peaceful, just and equal societies for future generations It is only through its full implementation and through meaningful, active and universal participation will this vision be fully realised, for all people everywhere. It is essential then, that we get this right. However, buy-in, support and coherence across government departments may prove to be challenging. We commend the lead role that the DCCAE and the role that the SOG will take in overseeing implementation. Yet, to ensure real and active ownership is taken by the government and by each department, implementation needs to be led- and sit- with the Office of An Taoiseach. Linking strongly to political will for future governments, up until 2030, is the need for public awareness and ownership. Yet public engagement of the goals in Ireland is below the EU average. Through a concerted effort between government and civil society, this needs to change, to ensure ownership at local level across the country. In 2000 the OECD nations agreed a target of 0.7% of GNI towards ODA. Yet as of 2017, Ireland's commitment stood at 0.3% of GNI. Given the principles, values and universal nature of Agenda 2030, alongside targets set out in Goal 17 (17.2), it is essential that progress is made on this.

3)

- The need for responsibility for oversight of implementation to be transferred to the Office of the Taoiseach (to ensure effective buy-in and support from all government departments)
- Engagement, Awareness and Education on the SDGs to be actively built- to ensure public ownership through a communications plan and budget support.
- A transparent, well-resourced Policy Coherence for Development mechanism to deal with inconsistencies across the government that would impact implementation.
- The 2nd National Implementation Plan should be delivered by the end of 2019 with a longer term vision for the full implementation of the SDGs to 2030. This should include ambitious targets, detailed implementation plans and clear timeframes across all 17 goals.
- It is essential that the principle of Leave No One Behind and Reaching the Furthest First is at the forefront of SDG implementation. To this end, implementation plans in each government department, disaggregated data collection and monitoring, and reporting need to represent marginalised and excluded groups, in particular young people, across Ireland.

Irish Congress of Trade Unions

What are you/your organisation/your sector doing to support achieving the SDGs?

Congress works to raise awareness and to integrate the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth into the work of Irish Trade Unions.

This has included:

A conference in November 2016 on implementation of Goal 8 and a paper entitled "The SDGs as a transformative development agenda for workers in the era of Global Supply Chains?";

Session at our 2017 Global Solidarity Summer School

Integration of the relevant goals into the agenda for our June 2018 Women's Conference;

Congress is a founding member of Coalition 2030 an alliance of over 100 leading civil society organisations working in Ireland and across the developing world. The coalition was formed on the basis that Ireland is in a unique position to play a leadership role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Our President participated in the launch in March 2017 at which we stressed the importance of getting the foundations right and called for:

1) A National Action Plan with a strong commitment from every Government Department to cooperate in reporting to achieve the SDGs.

2) An inclusive SDG Monitoring Forum in which civil society, and those vulnerable groups who stand to gain or lose most from Ireland's work on the Goals, are fully represented. We look forward to participating in the 1st session of the forum in June 2018.

3) Increased financing for Development to support delivery of the SDGs in Ireland and internationally – a demand that is currently outstanding.

We sent in a submission to Government on its draft implementation plan and attended the launch, stressing that Ireland has the potential to be the best performer on every single goal, showing that it's possible to combine economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In relation to the Irish Government's report to the UN at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018, we participated in the composition of Coalition 2030's shadow report and are also working on an SDG factsheet to summarise the trade union position on the implementation of the SDGs here.

We are participants internationally within the trade union movement's work on Agenda 2030, including liaison with the ITUC trade union development cooperation network and are also members of the ETUC ad hoc group on Agenda 2030 which

We have a page on our website that seeks to keep trade unions updated on SDG developments – https://www.ictu.ie/globalsolidarity/agenda-2030/

What are your/your organisations key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation?

Trade unions are concerned about the government's lack of progress on meeting some key SDG targets. The recently published "Sustainable Progress index " on how Ireland is doing at meeting her commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals places Ireland's overall ranking in the Sustainable Progress Index at 11th out of 15 countries analysed (EU-15). The report highlights Ireland's particularly poor performance on low pay and we also believe there are a number of decent work deficits in Ireland including:

According to Eurostat, 22% of workers in Ireland, 6 percentage points above the euro area average, fall into the category of being low paid. Congress has repeatedly contended that over time the Low Pay Commission should seek to narrow the percentage gap between the Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage by ensuring the minimum wage is growing faster in real terms than the living wage.

The growth in precarious work practices across the island of Ireland illustrated by a 2018 Congress survey and confirmed in Eurofound's 6th European Working Conditions Survey. The Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017 presents a real opportunity to deliver improved employment rights for some of the most vulnerable and exploited workers in Ireland;

- A persistent gender pay gap of 14%;
- The lack of any substantial implementation of a "Just transition" towards a carbon free future;
- People with disabilities are only half as likely to be in employment as others of working age
- Fundamentally, Workers in Ireland are still denied their fundamental right to bargain collectively with their employer and the right to be represented by their trade union

What would you/your organisation suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?

Congress looks forward to actively participating in the stakeholder forum where we will bring forward suggestions to tackle decent work deficits outlined above and will also seek to discuss the indicators used to assess our performance. Currently, for Goal 8 they are general labour market indicators with little reference to decent work. (We understand that there is a lack of consensus/clarity on how to measure labour rights and freedom of association in particular) The EU list of indicators doesn't even mention Freedom of Association or collective bargaining rights – or any rights measures for that matter.

IDEA

1. How are IDEA members supporting the achievement of the SDGs?

IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association, is the national network for Development Education in Ireland and a leading voice for the sector. We represent over 70 members involved in the practice, promotion and advancement of Development Education in formal, non-formal and informal settings. Together we work to strengthen Development Education in Ireland and to grow understanding of the crucial role of Development Education in achieving an equal, just and sustainable future. In this way, through both their individual and collaborative Development Education work, IDEA members make a vital contribution to Ireland's support for and achievement of all 17 SDGs. IDEA has also an active member of Coalition2030.

2. What are the key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation?

IDEA welcomed the Irish Government's Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020, and its focus on government leadership and public participation in the achievement of the SDGs. We welcomed the proposed high-level political engagement with the SDGs, and commitment to mainstreaming SDGs across all government policies. We believe Ireland must continue its leadership in the implementation of the Goals.

To deliver on the transformative agenda of the SDGs, Ireland must take a 'whole of society' approach to the Goals and make public participation a central priority for implementation. Achieving the goals requires more than public awareness, it needs the Irish public to participate as partners with the state and other institutions in delivering the promise of the SDGs. Education should be included in the Vision and Priorities of the government's National Implementation Plan. To achieve the level of public engagement and participation in the SDGs envisaged by the National Implementation Plan, a broader public education and outreach plan is crucial. Focussing solely on awareness-raising will not achieve the desired aim. Further, a deeper engagement through public education is required to achieve meaningful participation. Ireland has a very strong track record in this area, and our work in Development Education has been acknowledged internationally. This strength can contribute to the 'whole of society' approach in Ireland, as well as promoting this approach at an international level.

Progress on target 4.7 is necessary to enable Ireland's progress on all 17 SDGs. Unfortunately, we do not see a strategic prioritisation of SDG target 4.7 by the government at present. This is reflected in the level of investment in Development Education. Despite welcome increases in Ireland's ODA in recent years, the rate of investment by Irish Aid in Development Education has not been in line with these increases, and as a percentage of ODA, Development Education investment between 2011 and 2017 actually declined. This underinvestment in SDG 4.7 is a significant barrier to achieving the aim of integrating sustainable development into all spheres of learning in Ireland, and will prevent formal, non-formal and informal education fulfilling their potential in supporting the delivery of the SDGs in Ireland.

IDEA welcomes the proposed Stakeholder Forum and the emphasis on working with civil society. However, we also believe that the need for wider consultation on and participation in Ireland's implementation of the SDGs remains. Within the Stakeholder Forum, Development Education should be specifically represented given its crucial role in the fulfilling of the SDGs.

3. What can Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?

IDEA believes that Development Education must be recognised at a more strategic level in future National Implementation Plans and department strategies on the SDGs.

To demonstrate that the Implementation Plan will go deeper than awareness raising to meaningful participation, a Participation Strategy should be drawn up, with concrete measures including public education and active mechanisms for participation by 'the furthest behind first'. It should clearly demonstrate how the Government intends to support public participation in Ireland's delivery of all 17 of the Goals. This strategy should include engagement with formal, non-formal and informal education.

To address the current lack of investment in SDG 4.7, funding to Development Education should be significantly increased and strategic multi-annual funding modalities put in place. IDEA believes that Irish Aid investment in SDG 4.7 should move towards or beyond 3% of ODA.

To make the proposed high-level political engagement with the SDGs and commitment to mainstreaming SDGs across all policies a reality with strong oversight, we believe that there needs to be a Cabinet Committee chaired by the Taoiseach.

Finally, within the proposed Stakeholder Forum, Development Education should be specifically represented given its crucial role in the fulfilling of the SDGs. Given the Government's emphasis on working with civil society, there is a need for wider consultation on Ireland's implementation of the SDGs beyond the Stakeholder Forum and a mechanism for this should be decided up by the end of 2018.

Self Help Africa

Self Help Africa's vision is a thriving and resilient rural Africa where smallholder farmers and their families prosper and meet their full potential. The organisation aims to contribute to this vision by supporting the development of sustainable and profitable farm businesses that provide gainful employment opportunities and a disposable income for smallholder farmers and their families, to effectively contribute to food security and nutrition.

Self Help Africa (SHA) has programmes in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo and Eritrea. The organisation has a proven track record of world class technical expertise and delivery, and is increasingly working with the private sector to create sustainable and scalable solutions for lifting smallholders permanently out of poverty.

SHA has been working in post-primary schools in Ireland for more than a decade delivering Development Education workshops, supporting teachers with resources and assisting young people to become engaged and take action on issues of social justice and global citizenship.

Observations on IE implementation:

Agriculture is vital to creating jobs and improving livelihoods in the developing world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where approximately two-thirds of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. SHA fully supports the commitment of Irish Aid (IA) to inclusive, sustainable and climate-sensitive economic growth that advances employment and incomes for vulnerable smallholders, particularly women. This commitment should be maintained and enhanced by prioritising the delivery of Goals 1, 2, 5, 8 and 17 as part of IA's new development policy to be finalised in the coming months. The focus of the Ireland-Kenya Agri-Food Strategy and the Africa Agri-Food Development Programme on partnerships to encourage investment in local food industries is particularly important and constructive in this regard. SHA also welcomes departmental support for multi-disciplinary platforms such as the Irish Forum for International Agriculture and Development which promotes policy coherence and sharing of good practice.

Development education is a key component in of Ireland's SDG implementation in relation to target 4.7. It plays an important role in raising awareness of the Goals and in facilitating greater support from citizens for meaningful actions in support of the SDG targets. However, funding for development education has decreased over the past 12 years and the capacity to carry out increased activity on the Goals is challenged by funding constraints.

Proposed actions to enhance implementation:

Promoting decent employment and access to markets in the agriculture sector is key to enhancing growth and reducing poverty. Currently in Africa, agri-businesses account for more than 30% of national incomes and provides jobs for 70% of the poorest. Closing the gender gap must be a central criterion of rural growth and the employment creation agenda. In order to support delivery of targets (including 1a, 1b, 2.3, 2.4, 2a, 5.5, 8.3, 8.5, 17.3 and 17.17), SHA recommends that the Government follows the example of other leading donor states and establishes a specific fund to deliver targeted investments in sustainable agri-business in Africa.

IA should seek to enhance knowledge transfer related to sustainable food production systems, land and resource management and agricultural productivity in order to further support the delivery of targets 2.3, 2.4, 4.4, 4c, 17.9 and 17.17. It is recommended that IA prioritise capacity building in support of smallholders and small-scale agribusiness in Africa and assist state authorities, cooperatives and businesses by establishing partnerships with Irish academic and research institutions.

Greater progress can be achieved in relation to target 4.7 by facilitating partnerships between civil society, government and the private sector.

Misean Cara – Mission Support from Ireland

Misean Cara embraced the SDGs in its Strategic Plan 2017-2021, which blends a strong sector focus, the Missionary Approach to Development and human rights engagement. On Leave No One Behind, we target vulnerable groups: women, children, people with disabilities, refugees, displaced people; isolated, conflict-affected and slum locations; and low-HDI and conflict-affected countries. Misean Cara is active in Coalition2030 and engaging with Irish government initiatives. Agenda 2030 is essential to the future direction of Irish policy, domestic and international, towards ending poverty, inequality and climate chaos. Ireland acts strongly through Irish Aid, peacekeeping and disarmament but, after a leading role in negotiating the SDGs, it must now dramatically increase the commitment, clarity and resources it devotes to achieving them. Ireland only published its first National Implementation Plan in March 2018 and Coalition 2030 has noted key shortcomings. We need to reach the furthest behind first yet the Plan sets out no clear strategies to prioritise them, at home or abroad. Irelands failure to meet the 0.7% ODA/GNI target is a strong concern: ODA was just 0.3% of GNI in 2017. Ireland needs to tackle Policy Coherence for Development issues like climate change, energy and corporate tax policy by establishing a robust, politically backed PCD mechanism. The Department of the Taoiseach should directly oversee SDG implementation to ensure leadership and resource allocation, full implementation of SDG across Departments and local authorities, and lead the whole of society approach needed. After this, Ireland's late baseline VNR, the state should deliver a second SDG National Implementation Plan before the end of 2019, detailing ambitious targets, detailed means of implementation and clear timeframes for each SDG out to 2030. On SDG2: Focus on empowering 500 million small-scale farmers, particularly women, to practise resilient agriculture: to increase production, maintain ecosystems, be climate resilient. Support reduced post-harvest losses and spoilage, and sustainably enhanced soil quality. On SDG3: Invest in the Right to Health for All, especially through Universal Health Coverage. Promote increased resources, enhanced

policies to strengthen health and related systems (water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, social protection), especially in low-HDI countries. On SDG4: Promote quality education as a human right and the role of states as duty bearers. Increase investment in education from 4% of ODA to 15% through mixed modalities: international partnerships and funds, but also CSOs and FBOs focused on hard-to-reach groups at grassroots level. On SDG5: Pursue an active international agenda on gender equality, especially regarding access to quality education and essential healthcare, vulnerable cohorts (widows, girls in early marriages, victims of trafficking), decent work, public participation and representation, and security. On SDG10: Promote fair global financial and regulatory structures, supporting low-HDI countries. Strengthen asylum and immigration systems to ensure fair and efficient procedures; urge the explicit inclusion of non-refoulement within the Global Compact on Migration; and ensure that the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration protect existing rights and laws within the EU. On SDG13: Close the gap between Irelands emissions and 2020 targets; substantially increase the ambition of state actions contributing to the Paris Climate Agreement; map the steps to reaching a €175m contribution to the UN Green Climate Fund; tackle sector policies that undermine climate action. On SDG 17: Establish a firm multi-year plan to reach 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2025, sustain untied aid and focus 0.15-0.2% of ODA/GNI on LDCs. Create a robust PCD mechanism. Strengthen partnership with CSOs and FBOs, who have global reach and still more potential to support sustainable development.

Dochas

How are Dochas members supporting the achievement of the SDGs?

Dochas members provide relief and development to the poorest communities in 68 countries around the world, including in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. The reach, diversity and innovation of the sector is helping to tackle the root causes of poverty, inequality and climate change, through interventions on a full-range of issues from health, education, human rights, governance, women & girls empowerment, economic empowerment, technology, and much more. Irish NGOs work in partnership with other civil society actors, both locally and globally, to ensure these long-term sustainable development outcomes. And central to that work is the need to hold governments to account to respect international human rights and humanitarian obligations. Dochas members are also working in Ireland to mobilise citizens for action on the SDGs, including through active membership of Coaltion2030. Actions include dialogue with local communities across the country, as well as providing small grants to promote local level ownership of the SDGs.

What are the key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation?

The SDGs demand a re-framing of Irelands efforts to focus on long-term change, not short-term results. It also demands policy coherence as the only solution to meeting the inter-linked challenges of climate, hunger, inequality and injustice. An effective whole of government approach to implementation needs to be adopted urgently. The Government has failed to provide a realistic costing or prioritisation of targets and outcomes, at home and abroad, although the recent publication of the National Implementation Plan is a step in the right direction. We also acknowledge the efforts of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Irish Aid in aligning their strategies to the SDG framework, and continuing to push this agenda. The Government has made insufficient effort to raise public awareness of the SDGs. In particular, development education has a central role to play, but despite Irish Aids new Development Education Strategic Plan (2017-2023) which has SDGs centrally placed, it has not been adequately funded. Without the Irish citizen getting behind the vision and plan of the SDGs, the agenda will struggle to get the political traction and prioritization that it deserves. The Government's commitment to funding the delivery of the SDGs has not been shown. Of particular concern is the fact that funding on ODA has gone down since the SDGs were signed, despite economic recovery. While we acknowledge that Irish Aids strategic prioritization of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and its exploration of how to reach those left behind is to be commended, its fiscal commitment to ODA stood at just 0.3 percent of GNI in 2017, which is less than half of the 0.7 percent target. Lastly, the Government has not done enough to involve key stakeholders in a meaningful way in the development and implementation of the SDGs. Civil society, under the auspices of Coalition2030, has been actively collaborating to ensure the universality of the goals, and raise awareness among the public. Efforts of the Department of Communications, Climate Action, and Environment to link and share information are welcome, but much more needs to be done.

What can Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?

As part of the National SDGs Implementation Plan, the government should strengthen a whole-of-government approach to the SDGs. In particular, responsibility for oversight of SDG implementation should be transferred to the Office of the Taoiseach. The government should also take steps to ensure strong horizontal alignment between different levels of policy making and implementation, vertical alignment with Local Authorities, and continuous monitoring. It should also develop a transparent, well-resourced Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development mechanism to identify and tackle inconsistencies such as relevant aspects of the country's tax regime and greenhouse gas policies. Another example would be to ensure policy coherence in its international relations, particularly with regard to fiscal policies, climate change policies, migration/refugees, peace, defence and trade. Achieving the SDGs also requires greater prioritization of the goals, based on a clear gaps analysis, and making clear funding commitments, across all Departments, to ensure sufficient investment in the SDG National Implementation Plan. In particular, the Government needs to urgently publish a predictable, multi-year roadmap towards achieving 0.7 percent GNI budgetary allocation to overseas development aid, as this remains a clear gap. Irish Aid needs to set clearer indicators as to how it will succeed in leading on this agenda in its partner countries and on the international stage.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara Ireland's Seafood Development Agency

Bord Iascaigh Mhara – Irelands Seafood Development Agency is Irelands state agency charged with the sustainable development of the seafood sector, from fishermen and fish farmers to fish processors right into the retail sector. In May 2018, BIM launched its Statement of Strategy 2018-2020 Enabling Sustainable Growth setting out how BIM support for the seafood sector will be delivered under Food Wise 2025 and through the allocated European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) budget of 104 million over the next three years. BIMs mission is to lead the Irish Seafood sector through our effective support and deep expertise so that Ireland becomes the international leader in high value differentiated products that satisfy the growing demand for healthy, safe, responsibly and sustainably produced seafood. The environmental, economic and social sustainability of the Irish seafood sector is central to BIMs strategy. BIM recognises how crucial the careful management and conservation of Irelands natural capital is to the continued sustainability of the Irish seafood sector. BIMs strategic priorities are focused on Sustainability: Establish and drive a range of effective approaches to differentiate Irish seafood products, based on demonstrating their environmental credentials; Skills: Deliver a structured path through the provision of life long, accredited learning to create a professional, educated talent pool for the sector; Innovation: Fleets, farms and factories are developing new and smarter ways of doing business; Competitiveness: BIM to become recognized experts on national, regional and global seafood economic trends and share them with the sector; Leadership: In collaboration with other agencies, ambitiously champion the seafood sectors development. Current environmental sustainability initiatives are diverse and far-ranging and include the following: research in gear technology; certification and stock management; energy and waste management to stewardship of the natural environment; continually improving measures by implementing management systems and achieving voluntary standards. BIM schemes supporting environmental sustainability initiatives throughout the industry include the Sustainable Fisheries and Sustainable Aquaculture schemes, the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme, the Fisheries Local Action Group Development Scheme, the Green Seafood Business Programme, Fishing for Litter and the national Fisheries Improvement Projects amongst others, all funded under the EMFF. In many coastal areas the seafood sector is at the heart of the community and a key driver in economic activity supported by a range of BIM schemes including the Fisheries Local Area Development Scheme, the Seafood Processing Capital Investment Scheme, the Seafood Training Scheme, the Sustainable Fisheries and Sustainable Aquaculture Schemes, and the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme. In addition, BIM has been and continues to be involved in many local and international collaborative projects that cover issues related to marine and coastal environment, responsible fishing and aquaculture, and the sustainability of seafood supplies within the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Through its work programme, local and international collaborative projects and wide range of services to the industry BIM actively contributes to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 2 Zero Hunger 4 Quality Education 6 Clean water and Sanitation 7 Affordable and Clean Energy 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities 12 Responsible Consumption and Production 13 Climate Action 14 Life below Water 15 Life on Land 17 Partnerships for the Goals

All Together in Dignity Ireland

All Together in Dignity Ireland is one of 30 National ATDs members of the International Movement 'ATD Fourth World'. ATD works through grass-roots projects, in partnership with people and communities who are living in poverty, and who have experience of social exclusion. From 2011 to 2013, ATD International carried out 'Towards a Sustainable Development that Leaves No One Behind: Challenge 2015', a participatory action research to assess the MDGs. This research influenced the inclusion of the principle of Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda. In 2014, ATD Ireland joined the working group 'Beyond 2015', facilitated by the Irish Network DOCHAS. With other members of this group, ATD has been active in the establishment of the Irish 'Coalition 2030'. Since March 2017, ATD has been managing the Coalition's social media platforms. From 2015 to 2018, ATD Ireland has also been promoting public engagement around the 2030 Agenda. The ATD activities listed below have, among others, a common feature: making sure people from marginalised communities develop ownership of the SDGs: The annual anniversary event of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda (25th Sept); The 'Magnificent 17' open-air happenings; #GoGreen4GlobalGoals on St. Patrick's Day: a contribution of Ireland and the Irish Diaspora to the worldwide promotion of SDGs; The 2015-2030 'Long Walk To Freedom' " A Human Rights Day march inspired by the legacy of Nelson Mandela; In 2018: 'The Leave No One Behind Conversations' project, which is co-funded by Concern: a series of community conversations aiming to produce a handbook 'Walking the Talk'; Our key observations ATD welcomed the Irish Implementation Plan 2018-2020. It is particularly encouraging to see a foreword from the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in the document. Yet we believe, as do many other Irish NGOs, that the driving force and leadership of this Agenda should be moved from the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment, to the Department of the Taoiseach. This would strengthen the Whole-of-Government Approach, and the delivery on all of the Plan's 17 Goals. The 2018-2019 period will be the critical next step in the implementation of the Irish Plan. For ATD, it is crucial that the National SDG Stakeholder Forum invites delegates from the most marginalised communities, and that their participation in the Forum is supported, thus ensuring that we fulfil the commitment to 'Reach the Furthest Behind First', by listening to the needs and interests of those who are too often either voiceless, or silenced. The National SDG Stakeholder Forum requires more explicit resources and structures to support this participation. Suggestions Realising Human Rights: As the eradication of poverty is the central challenge of the Agenda, the '2012 UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty', could be treated as a reference document for sustainable development and human rights work. Ireland could commit to a process regarding these Guiding Principles, similar to that which the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade led on the UN Guiding Principles of 2011, concerning Human Rights and Business, and which led to the launch of a National Strategy on Business and Human Rights. Realising Equality: We are calling on the Irish government to give its support for the inclusion of 'disadvantaged socio-economic status' as a ground for discrimination under Irish equality legislation. This move would ensure that those who have experienced discrimination and exclusion based on their housing status, address, income level, and family background, have necessary redress under equality law. The recognition of this new ground will not present a burden on the State greater than that which has materialised under the grounds already operating within equality legislation; nor will it create unintended consequences. What it will create is a greater opportunity to reach even more of the Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

ESC Rights Initiative (ESCRI)

The ESC Rights Initiative – Who we are The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Initiative (ESCRI) is an organisation dedicated to strengthening the application and implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in Ireland. We believe that a strengthened human rights legal regime, combined with a robust human rights policy framework offers the best opportunity to eliminate poverty and inequality, bringing about a fairer, socially coherent and better functioning society. The ESCRI welcomes Irelands commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as outlined in its action plan. We believe that there are key elements that need to be put in place if there is to be a successful implementation of the SDG action plan, including: The strengthening of economic, social and cultural rights in Bunreacht na hEireann as outlined in the 8th Report of the Convention on the Constitution. The Convention conducted a full investigation and concluded (by 85%) that protection of ESC rights needed to be strengthened in the constitution. Successive UN committee concluding comments on Irelands reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Periodic Review have been critical of Irelands failure to integrate human rights instruments into its domestic law. Findings recently published by the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) in its review of Irelands performance under the European Social Charter, covering the years 2012 to 2015 found 13 conclusions of non-conformity including lack of an adequate overall and coordinated approach to combating poverty and social exclusion, as well as an effective and equal access to social services. Ireland was also criticised for maintaining austerity-era cuts to social security entitlements, despite the onset of economic recovery. In addition, the recent finding by the Committee of Social Rights that Ireland is in breach of article 16 of the Revised European Social Charter following a Collective Complaint on the inadequacy of housing provision underpins the need for legislative measures to implement human rights and to deliver on the SDGs. Conclusion This submission draws upon the work experiences of our members in dealing with the many social issues (including accommodation, health, poverty, educational and cultural alienation) faced by the communities they work with. The submission is also informed by the work of human rights lawyers in seeking the vindication of human rights through the courts. It is the firm conviction of both that no substantial progress will be made on these matters until they are recognised as fundamental rights in our Constitution. This contention is made in the full knowledge that the elected legislature and appointed executive have over many decades proved to be either unable or unwilling to adequately address poverty and inequality. Incorporating the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into domestic law would provide a strong impetus to government to develop effective legislation and robust implementation mechanisms to address housing needs, health inequalities and endemic poverty among other issues – all of which are outlined as sustainable development goals. This would ensure a minimum level of provision for which the institutions of the state “legislature, executive and its administrative agencies “ could be held accountable. It would compel the legislature and executive to establish baselines, define statistically the needs to be met, set targets and timescales commensurate with available resources and monitor and review progress.

Children in Crossfire

Support for SDGs:

As a development organisation, all the work that Children in Crossfire does is situated within a broader vision for eradicating global poverty for all and bringing about a more compassionate and sustainable world. Across Ireland and the UK, through our Development Education and Public Engagement Programmes, Children in Crossfire works to build understanding of, and support for, all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Through our Educating the Heart schools programme we support teachers to bring global justice issues to the heart of the classroom, giving children and young people the chance to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to take action for a fairer and more compassionate world. Through our Public Engagement outreach, we work with partner organisations under Irelands Development Aid programme to create a space in which we can inform and collaborate with our public audience in a commitment to build awareness of how sustainable development works, and provide everyone with a stronger insight into the actions we can all take to further its progress. Through our International work carried out in Tanzania and Ethiopia, we focus on addressing poverty and injustice through SDG 4: Quality Education. Through our focus on Early Childhood Education, we work with our overseas partner organisations to address issues of injustice affecting children, and to positively change the conditions for those caught up in the crossfire of poverty and injustice.

Key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation:

At Children in Crossfire we recognise that the Sustainable Development Goals are a universal set of goals, which will never be fully achieved until we all take responsibility and action to work towards them. Through our engagement with the public, we have observed that a deeper engagement process is necessary to create a full national implementation of the SDGs, in order that people have a complete understanding of what they are and feel equipped to take sustained action to work towards their achievement. According to research published by the European Commission Special Eurobarometer (2017) only 36% of people in Ireland have ever heard or read anything about the Sustainable Development Goals, and as little as 15% of people recorded that they had heard of them and understood what they were. Having said that, Children in Crossfire recognises the strong effort made across the whole International Development sector to raise awareness of the SDGs, and will continue to collaborate with our partner organisations to support the Irish public in sustained action, and awareness-raising efforts, to work towards their achievement by 2030.

Suggestion for Ireland to further enhance SDG implementation:

At Children in Crossfire we recognise that sustainable change depends on an informed and engaged public who support national and international development efforts. We believe that the first step to achieving any goal is to educate yourself around it and gain a full awareness and understanding for what it means for you, and for those in the world around you. Without an in-depth understanding of what the Sustainable Development Goals are, we will never be able to demonstrate full support for them, or take action towards their achievement. In order to do this, Children in Crossfire has created a programme of using the arts for public outreach to raise awareness of the SDGs and

invite people to take action towards them. By engaging through the arts, we work to reach wider numbers of public networks, in turn reaching increased numbers of people and creating a wider level of support. Furthermore, we also believe in the importance of continuing to keep pressure at an advocacy level. We feel that in order to enhance the SDGs on a full national scale, that a proactive commitment at local council and national level is key; including a measurement tool of how we are implementing SDG actions through already existing policies.

A Partnership with Africa (APA)

What APA is doing to support achieving the SDGs: APA is a partner in a 12-country consortium working on a European Commission funded project to increase teacher capacity to embed teaching about the SDGs in their classroom practice. Teachers engage in professional development, trial classroom materials that help students to critically engage with the SDGs and facilitate student awareness raising actions in relation to the Goals. This project is rooted in target 4.7 and has a particular focus on cross-cutting themes of migration, gender equality, climate change and international inequalities. Suggestions for enhancement of SDG implementation: Policy documents need to communicate the vital role of education in delivery of the SDGs at home and overseas. Quality education is transformative. Education is not, and should not be communicated as, simply having a role in raising awareness about the SDGs. This is just a starting point. Quality education, particularly in relation to target 4.7, is about much more. It is about facilitating learners to critically engage with the SDGs, equipping them to become active, reflective local and global citizens.

National Youth Council of Ireland

What are you/your organisation/your sector doing to support achieving the SDGs?

The National Youth Council of Ireland is a national organisation representing community, voluntary and not for profit youth organisations in Ireland. http://www.youth.ie/members

1. NYCIs new Strategic Plan commits to: Support the awareness and understanding of the SDGs in partnership with our members to strengthen their role in influencing Irelands responsibilities as a signatory. NYCI is including the SDGs across all our work programme areas and supporting members to do likewise – in terms of policy, research, advocacy, and practice.

2. NYCI has created SDGs educational resources for use by educators with young people – http://www.youthdeved.ie/publications NYCI organises One World Week each November and have committed to linking this to the SDGs every year until 2030. Within this programme, NYCI provides mini grants for youth organisations to take action in their local communities, free training to up skill educators, a youth summit that brings up to 300 young people together to discuss key SDG issues, as well as the free SDGs resource which is available online for download.

3. NYCI is a founding member of Coalition2030 and sits on the Steering Group.

4. NYCI manages the UN Youth Delegate Programme which in 2018 produced a Spotlight Report on SDGs and Young People in Ireland: http://www.youth.ie/nyci/Poverty-quality-employment-and-homelessness-top-issues-young-people-Ireland-according-UN-Youth

5. NYCI is a member of the European Youth Forum on Sustainable Development Taskgroup and a member of CONCORDs Hub 4 focusing on Global Citizenship Education and Development Education.

6. NYCI was successful in having the SDGs and Development Education named in the National Youth Strategy in 2015 (Outcome 5) – the first policy in Ireland to do so.

https://www.dcya.gov.ie/documents/publications/20151008NatYouthStrat2015to2020.pdf

7. NYCI is a member of the Irish Development Education Association and Dochas. NYCI is represented on External Bodies including the North/South Education and Training Standards Committee, National Children and Young Peoples Advisory Council, Volunteering and Young People Working Group, LGBTI+ Youth Strategy Oversight Group, Youth Mental Health Taskforce, National Economic and Social Council, Community and Voluntary Pillar, EPA, and the Youth Homelessness Coalition.

What are your/your organisations key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation?

SDGs must be championed more strongly in Ireland by Government, legislators, politicians, academics, policy makers, civil society organisations, etc. And especially young people. Greater recognition needed for Development Education and education for sustainable development A national communications strategy is required. Policy coherence across all government departments. What would you/your organisation suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation? Young people and the non-formal education sector must be engaged and adequately resourced to raise awareness, educate, and take action on the SDGs. As youth organisations are based in every community urban and rural they should be a key resource to Government. Target groups would include young people, youth leaders, youth organisations, youth workers, volunteers, youth work students, academia, policy makers, and Government Departments. There is no specific target for non-formal education under SDG4.7. Irish Aid, DCCAE and the Irish Government should recognise and develop an indicator on SDG Target 4.7 " particularly looking at the non-formal sector " for which there is limited information at global level. Government must reach the 0.7% of GNI spend on ODA by 2025. Funding for Development Education should be set at a percentage of the ODA budget each year, no less than 3%. Leave No One Behind must be put at the heart of all government policy

80 MAX

80 MAX (www.80max.ie) is primarily concerned with the private road transport sector. We give talks and get people to sign up to commit to drive no faster than 80km/hr. on all roads as fuel consumption increases exponentially for every 5km rise in speed above this. It is the optimum speed for fuel consumption in the average car. If an 80km/hr. speed limit were robustly implemented we could see a 16% reduction in emissions overnight and a 30% reduction in the long term as society adjusts to a slower speed through various feedback loops. We see this as an equitable transition to a low carbon future. We will be promoting this move during the summer months at fairs and community halls around the country. People signing up will have their name(optional) and GPS put up on our Google map and sent stickers to put on their car. Another sticker is provided for inside the car as a reminder to the driver. We will be promoting slower speeds for road safety to allow people to cycle and walk on country roads. A second strand to our scheme is giving out oak saplings to be planted since they are the best for carbon sequestration while also being the best for supporting biodiversity. These will also go up on a map on our website. One of the key SDGs is: [3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents"] Reducing speed to 80km/hr. would be the most effective way to dramatically cut road deaths and catastrophic injuries.

Our key observations about the sustainable goals is that the emphasis is on global goals rather than local or national goals. We feel that by working locally and nationally we will achieve sustainability more effectively than by supporting projects in countries that we know little about and cannot be measured against our efforts. The goal: 8.9. By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products This is an achievable goal and our project enhances it by promoting slower speeds that will allow more tourist and domestic use of roads by cyclists, walkers and hikers. National roads with 100km limits around the country are forcing people to take to their cars, as they are neither safe for walking or cycling on. The goal 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning would be one we would wholeheartedly support. Reducing speed limits to 80km/hr. would improve lives all around the country and if taken on globally would go a good way towards reducing emissions. It is an equitable way for everyone to personally transition from fossil fuels. To further enhance SDG implementation we would recommend a nationwide project like Tidy Towns where towns, villages, cities, individuals can all enter competitions for reducing their carbon footprint. Prizes could be given in the form of vouchers for renewable energy installations, insulation, energy saving gadgets, rain harvesting, gardening vouchers etc. It would be a sustainable way of both educating and getting the general public on board.

Permaculture Network of Ireland

Permaculture, a key SDG implementation tool. We work in a bottom up collaboration to provide opportunities for permaculture education and the development of permaculture solutions in practice. Set up in 2010 our network promotes innovation and egalitarian, and inclusive organizational structures that value diversity. We host annual convergences (150-350 attendees), and network member organisations provide permaculture training in the adult and community sector. This year we are hosting the European Permaculture Convergence in Ireland. Permaculture is an approach that uses systems thinking and ecology to gain a deeper understanding of complex systems. It uses nature inspired thinking to design practical approaches to resilience system creation. It is an adaptive toolkit, with a set of principals and ethics that can link ecology, culture, economics, and society. Its most widely know area of application is in working to sustain agricultural productivity, biodiversity and viable farming communities. The permaculture framework acts as a synthesis of many disciplines including agro-ecology, organic agriculture, bio-intensive, natural building and appropriate technology. Through careful observation and thoughtful design, permaculture aims to create systems that use resources efficiently, minimize inputs and maximize outputs, whilst regenerating the natural environment, building soil fertility and regenerating water tables. Permaculture emphasizes designing systems specific to the context and has a bottom-up, accessible to all educational levels, pedagogy and methodology. It mirrors development education or global citizen educations approach to knowledge. It is highly adaptive. Permaculture has been successful in the Global north in disadvantaged urban or rural contexts. Agro-ecological methods used in permaculture are proven to significantly improve yields and income for small-holder farmers in the Global south, whilst providing essential ecosystem services such as improving biodiversity and soil fertility and reducing vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. There are very low levels of awareness of the SDGs in Ireland. ENGOs and Development Organizations and Development Education Associations Public Participation networks are aware of the opportunities that the SDGs present to further many of their own goals. There are no specific financial supports for SDG focused activities in communities. There are extremely limited non-financial supports for SDG implementation in existing grass roots networks: Permaculture, Transition Towns, Co-housing, Local Food or Community energy. Government is unaware of grass roots attempts to work towards SDG implementation despite many small organisations and networks best communications efforts. There are very few effective pipelines of communication between Government and the Irish public. Create more pipelines of two way listening and communication between people working on the edges innovating and those with the power to change policy and allocate resources Utilize the mechanism of the Talanoa Dialogues to start creating meaningful dialogues Support the integration of permaculture education in the adult and community sector through funded partnerships as a component of Development Education or Global Citizen Education programmes Initiate specific research funds to target permaculture practice and projects in Ireland Implement this key recommendation by SIC (social innovators across Europe) https://www.siceurope.eu/policy-portal/sideclaration-policy-proposal-social-innovation-fellowships (http://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/commonwealth-calls-pioneering-approaches-climate-change) COP22 Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland asserted that our priority is to move from agreement to action¦ developing positive action for the living world to restore climate balance, including biomimicry, permaculture

The Global Goals Gals

In May 2017, we won the Concern Worldwide All Ireland Debates. As part of our prize, we travelled to Malawi to visit the projects that Concern are implementing there to achieve the SDGs. After the trip, we returned to Ireland inspired and empowered. We took it upon ourselves to become true agents of change. Armed with the information and insight we had gathered, we set up a blog, @theglobalgoalsgals on Instagram to aim to engage and enlighten young people on the Sustainable Development Goals. We use this blog as a platform for information, inspiration and ideas. We have made a presentation to members of the Oireachtas about the SDGs and had a private meeting with Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney about Irelands pledge of support to achieving the SDGs. We believe the youth are pivotal to achieving the SDGs and that their knowledge of such world issues will greatly benefit the world.

Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce

The Environmental Education Unit (EEU) of An Taisce develops and delivers a wide range of international and national environmental education, management and ESD related action programmes. These include Green-Schools, Blue Flag, Learning About Forests (LEAF), Litter Less, Young Reporters for the Environment, Green-Campus, Clean Coasts, Neat Streets, GLOBE and the Climate Action Programme. These programmes are strongly participant and action focused, long term and have substantial reach into Irish Society. For example 95% plus of Irish Schools are participating in Green-Schools; around 400,000 participants take part in National Spring Clean each year. These programmes have been operating for over 20 years. Furthermore, these programmes are examples of international best practice e.g. Green-Schools. The EEU is the Irish member of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and national operator of all FEE programmes. All of the programmes deliver on various aspects of the SDG's and the programme operations and outcomes have been mapped against the SDG's. This mapping clearly illustrates SDG's implementation via the programmes. Also programme reporting has been adapted to reflect the SDG's. All EEU programmes are based on multi-level, long-term, operational and institutional stakeholder partnerships and are supported by a wide range of Government Departments, Government Agencies, Local Authorities and Corporate Sponsors. Continued support which allows the programmes to develop and deliver will have a substantial impact on SDG implementation in Ireland.

International Presentation Association

1. SUPPORT We are involved in education and awareness raising of all sisters, students and staff through a variety of means and programmes. We are in many communities engaged in SDGs #1,#2,#3,#4,#8,#11,#12,#13,#15 and #16 in particular. We have engaged as part of civil society and Coalition 2030 and inputted on the Draft National Implementation Plan and our own Shadow Voluntary National Review. We have an NGO with ECOSOC Status at the United Nations and are represented capably. We have made our statements to our representative at the UN for inclusion at the HLPF 2018 which we will attend. We have contributed to a number of side events that will be run at the upcoming HLPF 2018.

2.OBSERVATIONS The International Presentation Association represents all Presentation people around the world and we can see varying degrees of support in each country for the implementation of the SDGs and therefore in Ireland we can say with confidence that we are laggards relative to our commitment to mitigate Climate Change. We are not nearly as committed as we should be. We had a significant and important role in the negotiation of the SDGs but we haven't continued this excellent start. A more pertinent observation is that currently 1 in 4 people if asked could say that they have heard of the SDGs and together we must create this necessary awareness if we are serious about Ireland achieving the SDGs.

3. SUGGESTIONS We feel it would more effective if the National Implementation Plan for the SDGs was to be led from the office of the Taoiseach. We need a greater discussion re the targets and how exactly each minister will proof their policies and decisions against the SDGs. We must establish a baseline data gap analysis that so that we can properly benchmark our progress. We need to face up to our responsibilities with respect to our GHG emissions and tackle vested interests rather than rush to renegotiate our limits. We are not on track to hit any of the agreed and set targets 2020 or indeed 2030. We need to be prepared to take account of agriculture, transport and energy as we try to realign with our promised commitments. We would hope that the next NIP would have a lifetime of more than two years.

Sustainable Ireland Cooperative Society Ltd. TA Cultivate

What are you/your organisation/your sector doing to support achieving the SDGs?
The Sustainable Ireland Cooperative Society Ltd. operate as Cultivate Living and Learning, a national NGO focused on education, communication and civic engagement. We are part of Coalition 2013 and sit on the events and communication working group. Cultivate have been promoting a community-led approach to sustainability framed in local stories addressing the Sustainable Development Goals for the last 18 months. Cultivate have organised the annual Convergence Sustainable Living Festival since 2000. In 2017 as part of Convergence we developed and hosted 7 civic dialogue workshops called, Stories and Conversations for a Sustainable Ireland. Designed to engage citizens in the 2030 Agenda, these sessions all began with a scene-setting presentation introducing the context of sustainability, local wellbeing, climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals. This was followed by a number of local projects telling their own stories, specifically selected to focus on activity in different goals. A facilitated cafe conversation was then held to explore questions designed to bring a deeper understanding of the SDGs. This

resulted in awareness what is already being done locally, deepened knowledge of the goals and increased collaboration at local and regional levels on climate actions and the SDGs. Using our Stories and Conversations methodology Cultivate have hosted sessions for other organisations and have facilitated SDG workshops for PPNs and Local Authorities with the DEAR Project, Make Ireland Sustainable For All. In Convergence 17 Cultivate launched a campaign collecting local stories. This information is being developed into a mobile installation showcasing replicable local initiatives from across Ireland that are addressing the global goals. These stories will also be showcased on a dedicated website www.sustainable.ie, which is being revamped to highlight these. Cultivate plan to take the installation and the Stories and Conversations session around the country as part of Convergence 19, which is being held on the European Week of Sustainable Development at the end of May. This installation will be an integral feature of the Global Green, the Electric Picnics sustainability area that Cultivate coordinate. For the last ten years Cultivate have brought development, community and environment organisations together to creatively engage festival participants on issues around sustainability. In Global Green 2018 we plan to make the Sustainable Development Goals the focus of all of our activities. Over 30 organisations – including Irish Aid, will be highlighting topics such as sustainable development, community energy, solar, bicycle culture, upcycling and reuse, climate action and community gardening. This is a huge opportunity to raise public awareness of the SDGs and foster public participation through a rich programme of workshops, panel discussions and talks held over the three days.

What are your/your organisations key observations related to Ireland SDG implementation?

Unprecedented attention is being given to sustainability and climate action around the world at this time. Global agendas are set to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and greenhouse gas emission targets. With this in mind, meaningful action, awareness and behavioural change at regional and community level is critical. This can best be achieved by supporting bottom-up initiatives to complement a necessary well planned and communicated top-down approach. Local Authorities, civil society organisations and community groups need to be at the forefront of engaging citizens in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to enable community-led and citizen engaged projects to play a part in achieving the 2030 agenda.

What would you/your organisation suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?

A lot of work has been done by civil society organisations and NGOs on sustainability issues over the years and the SDGs give us an opportunity to build on this. The National Implementation Plan will hopefully help Ireland to take a whole system approach, align the policy changes that will be needed to achieve the goals over the next 12 years, and support and enable the effort of Local Authorities and civil society to engage citizens to play a part in driving this transformative change. We welcome the National SDG Stakeholder Forum and look forward to increased support for community and local organisations wishing to engage with the SDGs. Collaboration and synergy between different actors and actions will be essential in achieving the goals, Cultivate would like to work with all stakeholders to raise awareness of the SDG process and find opportunities to engage citizens in local actions that address them.

The Rediscovery Centre

What is the RDC doing on the SDGs?

As the national centre for the circular economy, the Rediscovery Centre (RDC) aims at driving sustainable development in its own activities and supporting the implementation of the SDGs into national legislation. The RDC operates four social enterprises that reuse waste and provide community access to training and employment. Through its activities, it specifically supports these SDGs: SDG 2: Particularly supporting target 2.4, the RDC has submitted a proposal for an EU LIFE project that aims to improve sustainable food production, promote local, organic, and home-grown food. The project promote reduced food inputs and seeks to change consumer behaviours with respect to food consumption. SDG 4: RDC drives SDG target 4.7 by providing environmental education and reuse training to citizens of all ages. The education and skills disseminated through the RDC promote sustainable lifestyles and development amongst an excess of 10,000 students participating. The RDC promotes equitable an inclusive education through providing free workshops for DEIS schools. SDG 6: In the Irish context, the RDC is a best practice centre of a sustainable water system. It demonstrates a sustainable urban drainage system, on-site greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting. The RDC also provides workshops on sustainable water management. SDG 8: The four social enterprises of the RDC provide employment as well as community-based training. Its employment schemes support the local area and provide work and skills to the long-term unemployed. Following their time at the RDC, 90%of the participants progress to full-time employment or education. Target 8.4 aims at improving global resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation through sustainable consumption and production. The RDC's work support Ireland in meeting its commitment to decoupled economic growth by promoting resource reuse and a decrease in material consumption. The RDC's mission is to lead the change from waste to resource. SDG 9: The RDC building demonstrate best practice in sustainable building and construction. Furthermore, the RDC operates an active research unit supporting translational research working with academic, corporate and policy partners to support innovation in the area of sustainable development. Through this, the RDC helps achieve target 9.5. SDG 11: One of the key objectives of the RDC is to provide an eco-destination to support developing a more economically and socially attractive area. Ballymun Regeneration Limited was one of the largest regeneration programmes in Europe, facilitating physical, social and economic improvement to the approx. 16,000 inhabitants of Ballymun. SDG 12: In its position as the national centre for the circular economy, the RDC drives the implementation and achievement of SDG 12 in Ireland. Through its behavioural change activities, it promotes sustainable consumption and resource reuse. A circular approach furthers an efficient use of natural resources and helps protect the natural environment. The intended new LIFE project on circular living will furthermore promote target 12.3 to halve per capita food waste in the Irish context. Through its activities, the RDC spreads knowledge about the waste hierarchy and particularly facilitates repair and reuse of discarded materials. It disseminates information to the public for a sustainable lifestyle. SDG 13: Through its educational activities, the RDC drives target 13.3 and helps nationally improving education, awareness-raising and capacity on climate change mitigation. SDG 15: Through promoting the sustainable use of resources, the RDC also helps protect natural resources, including land, and biodiversity in Ireland. SDG 17: The RDC's Wiser LIFE project is a European

demonstration project and supports target 17.7 of the SDGs. The RDC as the national centre for the circular economy is also a mechanism to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development, as set out under target 17.14. Observations on the SDG progress in Ireland and suggestions to enhance Ireland's implementation The great work currently undertaken on the national Irish level is reflected in the membership of Coalition 2030, a civil society organisation alliance committed to driving the implementation of SDGs in Ireland. Coalition 2030 provides a platform to further promote the SDGs and has the opportunity to support a successful implementation at the national level.

National Adult Literacy Agency

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) is supporting SDG 4.6 through advocating for literacy as a right and collaborating with our partners to influence policy and practice to support the development of literacy, numeracy and digital skills. Some of the work we did in 2017 is outlined below. Our annual report has more details on these areas: http://bit.ly/2lqKj68

Awareness campaigns – We did interviews and raised awareness about literacy on 17 national and regional radio shows, one TV show and in 80 national and regional newspapers. 30,000 promotional leaflets and 2,400 posters were distributed through Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and at awareness raising events nationwide. Distance learning service 900 people got QQI accreditation through this service. We gave out 3,080 QQI Level 2 minor awards and 570 Level 3 minor awards. Improving the quality of teaching o 530 people attended our professional development events. 128 FET practitioners took part in our integrating literacy workshops. 93 tutors from 30 adult education centres received training on how to use WriteOn.ie

Plain English and Literacy Advisory Service: 1,000 people took our plain English training and improved their communications skills. 118 organisations used our Plain English Editing and Training Service. 50 companies and organisations entered our Plain English Awards.

68 pharmacies and 5 general practices now have the Crystal Clear quality mark. Policy work We made three written submissions to the Government in 2017 and contributed to the EU Semester process and National Reform programme for Ireland.

Research We did research to show why literacy matters to Irish society and to ensure that learning experiences are accessible to everyone. Working with adult literacy students 1,400 students took part in learning activities funded by our Student Development Fund with 66 adult education centres receiving €35,000 in grants for this. 174 people attended our student days in Dublin and Kilkenny. 15 students carried out awareness raising events as part of our learner ambassador programme Working with parents 178,000 people used our website helpmykidlearn.ie.

Our observations on Ireland's SDG implementation

We welcome the SDG implementation plan and look forward to supporting the achievement of goal 4.6. The SDG action is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Skills. However literacy cross cuts a number of government departments. NALA works with up 10 government departments on adult literacy, numeracy and digital

skills " for example workplace literacy under Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and health literacy under Department of Health and media literacy under Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. There is no mention of other government departments in the implementation plan and it is not clear how the Department of Education and Skills will coordinate adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills development in the range of other government departments.

One observation on Ireland's Voluntary National Review 2018 is that there was no reference to adult literacy statistics. The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies: Survey Results from Ireland (CSO, 2013) showed that one in six Irish adults (521,550 people) find reading and understanding everyday texts difficult: for example, reading a leaflet, bus timetable or medicine instructions.

One in four (754,000 people) has difficulties in real world maths, from basic addition and subtraction to calculating averages. It is disappointing to see these statistics missing from the Review.

Suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation NALA believe we need to develop a radical, creative and ambitious plan to meaningfully improve adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills across government departments.

One suggestion is for government to set up a cross departmental co-ordination group to develop, implement and evaluate a national plan for improving adult, young people and children's literacy, numeracy and digital skills. This should include community, cultural, digital, family, financial, health, media, sport and workplace literacies among others.

Irish Environmental Network

The Irish Environmental Network, or IEN, is made up of 32 nationally active Irish Environmental NGOs. The IEN and its members work to protect and enhance the environment, and to place environmental issues centre stage in Ireland and internationally. The IENs mission is to promote the interlinked principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability, and works to secure core and other funding for its members activities. The IEN is working specifically on SDG implementation through the EU DEAR-funded project 'Make Europe Sustainable For All', a three year project being implemented in 15 countries by 25 partners across Europe. The Irish project partners are the Irish Environmental Network and World Vision, supported by ECO-UNESCO and Social Justice Ireland. Together, these four organisations are working to:

1) Engage in dialogue with the Government on plans, progress and commitments to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs

2) Encourage the adoption of the SDGs by local community Public Participation Networks (PPNs) and local authorities

3) Build public engagement with the SDGs through the delivery of workshops, events, campaigns & SDG action weeks

4) Educate & engage young people about the SDGs through youth programs and university workshops.

What are your/your organisations key observations related to Irelands SDG implementation?

1. At present, the responsibility for oversight of the SDGs lies with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and not with the Department of An Taoiseach. We believe that without strong political engagement from Taoiseach's office taking the lead on the SDGs, buy-in and coherence across departments will be a challenge. Similarly, strong leadership from the highest level of government is required to ensure Local Authorities across Ireland integrate SDG targets and indicators into County Development Plans and Local Economic & Community Plans in the years ahead.

2. Despite Ireland taking the lead alongside Kenya on the SDG negotiations at the UN in 2015, the Irish government only published its National Implementation Plan in April 2018. Further, whilst known stakeholders were given a very limited opportunity to review a draft National Implementation Plan, the general public had no opportunity at all. Preparation of the Voluntary National Report (VNR) was even worse, with only one opportunity to discuss the VNR without actually seeing any text.

3. Irelands performance on environmental SDGs is particularly poor with Ireland judged to be the second worst performing country in Europe on the Climate Change Performance Index. Projections based on current policies suggest that Ireland will fall significantly behind the GHG emissions targets set for 2020.

4. Public awareness levels in Ireland around the Sustainable Development Goals is very low, and there has to date been an absence of a strong national SDG communications plan which will be required to raise public engagement with the goals.

What would you/your organisation suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?

1. Overall responsibility for the SDGs must be transferred from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment to the Department of the Taoiseach. If Ireland is to achieve the whole of government approach to the SDGs that will be necessary for successful implementation, it is crucial that the Executive take the lead in ensuring full mainstreaming of SDG plans and policies across all government departments.

2. Meaningful civil society participation must be facilitated through the National Stakeholders Forum and other mechanisms. The second National SDG Implementation Plan should be delivered by the end of 2019 with a longer-term vision extending to the full implementation of Agenda 2030 between 2020 and 2030. In order to ensure public participation in the development of the new plan, public consultation should commence at the latest in January 2019.

3. A strong national communications plan must be developed in order to increase public engagement with the SDGs.

4. With regards to improving implementation of our climate-related SDGs, the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on how to make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change should be implemented in full. An ambitious commitment to tackling transport and agricultural emissions is essential to achieving required emissions reductions. The Polluter Pays Principle must be applied to all sectors equally. Future exploration for fossil fuels in Ireland, including offshore, should be banned.

80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present an unprecedented opportunity to realise the values and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Ireland's leadership role in international settings has been necessary to give Ireland moral credibility internationally and has been characteristic of Irish foreign policy since 1974.

How 80:20 is supporting the achievement of the SDGs: 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World is a non-governmental organisation promoting popular education on human development and human rights. For 80:20, education is a necessary, vital and intrinsic part of the overall agenda it is never an optional extra. 80:20's work supporting the SDGs includes: Producing research and popular resources that critically engage with the SDGs, such as a primer on human development, human rights and sustainable development, 80-20 Development in an Unequal World (2016) Leading digital partnership projects, such as the www.developmenteducation.ie consortium – an online hub for SDG resources and common agendas across formal and non-formal education and a landmark study to audit resources as part of research on the SDGs in Ireland, Learning to Change the World: An Audit of Development Education Resources 2013-2016 (2017) Designing and delivering global citizenship education projects which support young people to become involved in, discuss and take action on issues such as climate change, conflict, sustainable development, peace and reconciliation.

Observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation: Arguably the greatest threat to Ireland's implementation of the SDGs is a pronounced lack of policy coherence. This issue is particularly manifest in Ireland's poor performance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its continuing role in facilitating aggressive tax planning by multinational companies. GHG emissions have been increasing rapidly in Ireland with the economic recovery and the country is forecast to miss all reduction targets committed to under Europe 2020 plans. (See SDG13). These ongoing realities are problematic, highlighted acutely by education for sustainable development initiatives mostly targeting individuals with low impact carbon actions, as distinct from awareness and education programmes (with targets) for private and public sectors to transition to a low carbon economy via high impact carbon reducing actions. Being mindful that the role of international tax avoidance in undermining sustainable development, particularly in the Global South, is widely recognised, Ireland's fiscal policies are not compatible with its SDG commitments (See SDG13, SDG 17). Ongoing risks posed by the policy coherence gap may harm goodwill, support and credibility, what President Michael D Higgins at the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 commented on as, For too long, empty pledges and fine words have died in our mouths now is the time to turn promises into action for this generation. An area of immediate concern is the continuing shortfall in budgetary allocations to official development assistance (ODA). While Ireland's strategic prioritization of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in this arena fits well with the promise to leave no-one behind, its fiscal commitment to ODA stood at just 0.3 percent of GNI in 2017, which is less than half of the 0.7 percent target agreed to by OECD nations in 2000. Ireland's SDG implementation is also hindered by a lack of space for meaningful civil society participation, such as the social partnership model which underpinned policy design and implementation for decades in Ireland.

Further enhancing SDG implementation: As part of the National SDGs Implementation Plan, the government should strengthen a whole-of-government approach to the SDGs. To facilitate this, responsibility for oversight of SDG implementation should be transferred to the Office of the Taoiseach. The government should also take steps to ensure strong horizontal alignment between different levels of policymaking and implementation, vertical alignment with Local and Regional Authorities, and continuous monitoring. A key dimension in aligning policy coherence and state resources should include implementation and impacts in Ireland, impacts in other countries (worldwide impacts from, for example, trade, agriculture, energy and climate policies) and on public goods, and with regard to supporting other countries through ODA. A comprehensive education and communications plan is required to maximise awareness, ownership, and meaningful engagement by young people and adults in Ireland with the SDGs. Setting aside 3 percent of the proposed 0.7 percent GNI budget would facilitate Ireland to actively engage different sectors in society, as envisaged by the Irish Aid Development Education Strategic Plan and assist the Irish Government in delivering its SDG commitments. For a more, check Coalition 2030's Shadow report.

Christian Aid Ireland

Q1. Christian Aid is a development organisation, working globally in over 40 countries. We work for structural change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and supports people to realise their human rights, regardless of faith or nationality. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes, with a focus on governance and human rights and peacebuilding. We try to work across as many goals as we can, but with a specific focused in Ireland on Goals 10, 13 and 16.

Q2. The SDGs demand a re-framing of Ireland's efforts to focus on long-term change, not short-term results. It also demands policy coherence as the only solution to meeting the inter-linked challenges of climate, hunger, inequality and injustice. An effective whole of government approach to implementation needs to be adopted urgently. The recent publication of the National Implementation Plan is a step in the right direction. We also acknowledge the efforts of Irish Aid in aligning their strategies to the SDG framework, and continuing to push this agenda. Goal 10: While Ireland has been commended by the OECD and international NGOs for the poverty reduction focus of its overseas development aid, it simultaneously impedes the progress of many developing countries through its facilitation of aggressive tax planning by multinational companies (Target 10.B.1). In so doing, Ireland exacerbates inequality between countries even as its aid program seeks to narrow the gap. Ireland's support for important resolutions at the UN level for supporting civil society space are welcome, but there is a need to ensure this is applied nationally as well as in our international cooperation to ensure inclusion and reduced inequalities. Goal 13: Current climate policy and action in Ireland is not in line with our government's political commitments and is vastly out of step with its fair share of a global effort to deliver on the Paris Agreement. This is entirely out of sync with Ireland's strong and proud tradition of championing multilateralism and global poverty eradication. Increasing national and EU ambition in line with the global effort required to deliver on the Paris Agreement, and delivering on existing and forthcoming national emissions reduction targets. Goal 16: Christian Aid is concerned about the

dangers of the securitisation of development. There are good reasons for keeping security and development apart. Ireland's peacekeeping missions have an excellent reputation and Ireland's defence budget is currently one of the lowest in the EU. €956 million was allocated to defence spending in Budget 2018, however its aid budget is still significantly lower, at €707 million. In December 2017, the Dail voted to join the newly established EU Permanent Structured Co-operation (PESCO) on security and defence, both parliamentarians and CSOs expressed concern with how quickly the process happened, leaving very little room for public debate.

Q.3 Goal 10: The state should advocate for collective actions under the SDGs and FDF framework to expand the scope and definition of illicit financial flows to include abusive tax practices through avoidance, dodging and evasion. Ireland should continue and increase its support and protection to civil society organisations in developing countries and activists that are working to engage marginalised groups in decision making and building their relationships with local and national authorities. Goal 13: Ireland needs concrete and immediate action on climate change. The recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on how to make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change should be implemented in full. Ireland should increase its contribution to the Green Climate Fund in its current replenishment cycle (2018-2019). Ireland should increase the level of ambition of domestic and EU action on climate change to deliver on the temperature limits set out in the Paris Agreement. Goal 16: At a time of erosion of respect for human rights, the key challenge for governments is not only to look at the integration of Goal 16 across all indicators in Agenda 2030, but also to address Goal 16 in its entirety in the VNR and in practice, all of which will contribute to reduced violence. There are opportunities for Ireland to push the inclusion of women in peacebuilding in their external work and reducing GBV e.g. chairing CSW next year. A fully inclusive approach to Leave No one Behind is needed, without this peace efforts are undermined as grievances remain or are created, making society vulnerable to unrest or violence. Responding to the different vulnerabilities of individuals and local communities should be prioritised, rather than perceived threats to national security. A focus on delivering long-term, sustainable solutions should be at the heart of our approach towards building peace.

Dawn Meats

Dawn Meats is committed to playing it's a part to support the SDG's. In our March 2017 CSR report we cross referenced our goals against a number of the SDG's. Our CSR report can be found here https://www.dawnmeats.com/index.php/downloads/finish/1-sustainability/50-dawn-meats-sustainability-plan. Dawn Meats is a member of Origin Green since 2012 and have supported the Origin Green Ambassador programme from its inception. In support of driving and delivering sustainable practices we established a senior level CSR committee, led by our CEO, to maintain focus and we agreed 5 pillars for our sustainability strategy (with sustainable sourcing, animal welfare and resource management being three). In support of goals 2.3 & 2.4,; we were the founder and are a continuing supporter of the Better Farms Programme which through knowledge transfer seeks to drive efficiencies at farm level; we established and operate a demonstration suckler beef farm in Athenry to demonstrate the impact of sustainable farm practices and to share this information with all farmers; we run a programme called the Young Beef Farmers Sustainability Programme, to engage young beef farmers in more sustainable farm

practice; and we founded and continue to support the liver fluke reporting programme to improve productivity at farm level. In relation to goals 6.3, 6.4 and 7.3 we set 2025 targets to reduce our energy and water intensity by 40%; we have implemented a LEAN way of working; we have achieved ISO 50001 accreditation for all our Irish sites; and we run an annual week-long event dedicated to the environment. In relation to goal 12.3 we maximise food valorisation and where regulations require we send CAT1 material to generate low carbon energy; we do not send any waste to landfill and send CAT 3 animal by-products for conversion to pet food, energy and fertilizer; we are working with our supply chain to reduce waste; and we are investigating packaging and production solutions to extend the shelf life of our products.

In relation to Ireland's implementation of the SDG's we suggest that much still needs to be done to increase the visibility of this work. While pockets of work may well be underway, a greater effort must be made to link these work items with the relevant SDGs and in bringing key stakeholders together. In relation to the nexus of agriculture, food security, energy and climate change, an even stronger alignment of public policy and support framework needs to be put in place. In relation to goals 2.3 and 2.4 the focus must be both inward as well as outward looking. Supports, incentives and policy need to be in place that reward productivity improvements and mitigation measures at farm level e.g. farmers should be rewarded for increasing the carbon stock be it above or below ground, which offsets carbon emission increases elsewhere. In relation to 6.3 and 6.4, a significant focus on knowledge transfer and implementation support is required: for example, achieving the optimum pH levels for all soils and farming types would allow for a reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus, having the triple benefit of; water quality improvements, reduced emissions and increased on-farm profitability. In relation to 12.3 much additional work is required to sit alongside initiatives such as Newford Demonstration Farm, the Better Farms Program, SMART farming and others to ensure that farmers are not only made aware of practices to reduce waste but are also rewarded for their implementation. While improved knowledge transfer is required at farm level, the focus must now shift to supporting implementation. Much effort has gone into producing carbon footprints and nutrient management plans with associated recommendations, but in many cases these recommendations are not being implemented and improvements in the viability of farm enterprises are delayed. This is a significant wasted opportunity, and until we see greater implementation will serve to undermine Ireland's credibility as a leader in sustainability.

Cultivate

What are you/your organisation/your sector doing to support achieving the SDGs?

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sustainability, local wellbeing, climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals. This was followed by a number of local projects telling their own stories, specifically selected to focus on activity in different goals. A facilitated cafe conversation was then held to explore questions designed to bring a deeper understanding of the SDGs. This resulted in awareness what is already being done locally, deepened knowledge of the goals and increased collaboration at local and regional levels on climate actions and the SDGs. Using our Stories and Conversations methodology Cultivate have hosted sessions for other organisations and have facilitated SDG workshops for PPNs and Local Authorities with the DEAR Project, Make Ireland Sustainable For All. In Convergence 17 Cultivate launched a campaign collecting local stories. This information is being developed into a mobile installation showcasing replicable local initiatives from across Ireland that are addressing the global goals. These stories will also be showcased on a dedicated website www.sustainable.ie, which is being revamped to highlight these. Cultivate plan to take the installation and the Stories and Conversations session around the country as part of Convergence 19, which is being held on the European Week of Sustainable Development at the end of May. This installation will be an integral feature of the Global Green, the Electric Picnic's sustainability area that Cultivate coordinate. For the last ten years Cultivate have brought development, community and environment organisations together to creatively engage festival participants on issues around sustainability. In Global Green 2018 we plan to make the Sustainable Development Goals the focus of all of our activities. Over 30 organisations – including Irish Aid, will be highlighting topics such as sustainable development, community energy, solar, bicycle culture, upcycling and reuse, climate action and community gardening. This is a huge opportunity to raise public awareness of the SDGs and foster public participation through a rich programme of workshops, panel discussions and talks held over the three days.

What are your/your organisations key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation?

Unprecedented attention is being given to sustainability and climate action around the world at this time. Global agendas are set to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and greenhouse gas emission targets. With this in mind, meaningful action, awareness and behavioural change at regional and community level is critical. This can best be achieved by supporting bottom-up initiatives to complement a necessary well planned and communicated top-down approach. Local Authorities, civil society organisations and community groups need to be at the forefront of engaging citizens in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to enable community-led and citizen engaged projects to play a part in achieving the 2030 agenda.

What would you/your organisation suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?

A lot of work has been done by civil society organisations and NGOs on sustainability issues over the years and the SDGs give us an opportunity to build on this. The National Implementation Plan will hopefully help Ireland to take a whole system approach, align the policy changes that will be needed to achieve the goals over the next 12 years, and support and enable the effort of Local Authorities and civil society to engage citizens to play a part in driving this transformative change. We welcome the National SDG Stakeholder Forum and look forward to increased support for community and local organisations wishing to engage with the SDGs. Collaboration and synergy between

different actors and actions will be essential in achieving the goals, Cultivate would like to work with all stakeholders to raise awareness of the SDG process and find opportunities to engage citizens in local actions that address them.

FLAC

Input on behalf of FLAC – SDG Forum Input 22 June 2018 Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all 16.B Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development 16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Arising out of FLAC's experience as partner in the JUSTROM Programme to develop legal advice clinics and other initiatives to ensure that Traveller and Roma women have access to justice, FLAC is well placed to comment on inadequate access to justice and marginalisation of Roma and Traveller women in Ireland.

The needs to be addressed are – Protection against infringement of rights. The provision of adequate remedies for violations of rights Appropriate remedies for civil wrongs Promotion of education/knowledge of legal rights, entitlements and services. Promotion of access to legal information, advice and representation Roma Flac has identified access to accommodation, social welfare and healthcare as dominant areas of rights infringements noting that the barriers to rights vindication include language and inadequate knowledge and information as to supports available. Travellers Adequate accommodation, including accommodation that meets the cultural needs of Travellers, health and safety issues on unofficial and official halting sites and group accommodation schemes together with evictions from unofficial sites continue to be challenges in the vindication of Travellers rights. Law reforms are required to promote the achievement of Goal 16 and the overarching theme of leave no-one behind in securing concrete access to justice for these marginalised groups to vindicate their legal and human rights. Recommendations: The Social Welfare Appeals Office and Workplace Relations Commission be designated as a prescribed tribunals for the purposes of Section 27(2)(b) of the Civil Legal Aid Act 1995 with any necessary modifications; Ensure measures are put in place to ensure that civil legal aid is available to Travellers facing eviction proceedings and that the law is accompanied by appropriate safeguards against arbitrary eviction.

Recommendations: Section 14 of the Equal Status Acts 2000 2015 be amended to ensure that an effective remedy is available for discrimination that has a legislative basis; The scope of the Equal Status Acts 2000 2015 be broadened to include the functions of public bodies most relevant to Roma and Travellers (not just goods and services as defined under the legislation).

Recommendation: The Department of Justice and Equality undertake a review of the Habitual Residence Condition so as to establish whether it has a discriminatory impact on access to social welfare, particularly among Travellers and Roma.

An Taisce: the National Trust for Ireland

1. An Taisce is a prescribed body which under statute receives any planning applications which are considered to have potentially significant implications for environmental sustainability either in the built or natural environment. It makes observations directly to central and local government where it considers environmental sustainability may be compromised by any projects, policies or programmes. An Taisce acts in concert with several other civil society groups and is an active member of the Irish Environmental Network, the Stop Climate Chaos coalition and Coalition 2030. It is represented at most major international meetings concerned with environmental sustainability, particularly in connection with climate change policies and its members have participated in UNFCC and IPCC processes for over a decade.

2. Despite aspirational statements made in support of the SDGs, on the ground actions by the statutory authorities are not commensurate. Ireland's environment continues to deteriorate with breaches of air quality, water quality and climate obligations increasingly apparent. SDG implementation is not centrally positioned in international negotiations and a policy of national self-interest is prioritised.

3. Key Performance Indicators are required as a priority to ensure aspirations are translated into actions. In particular, actions in the following areas would be considered essential: A short time scale for cessation of the excavation and burning of peat bogs is required. Presently it is intended that burning of peatlands for electricity production will continue to the year 2030 after which some 100,000Ha of peatland will have been irrevocably lost. This is an area equivalent to that reclaimed from the sea by the Netherlands. Irish energy consumers are taxed to provide a subsidy for this practice which is clearly not in alignment with the SDGs. Application of the polluter pays principle for greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors is required to enhance SDG implementation. Ireland's burgeoning agricultural sector currently accounts for one-third of national greenhouse gas emissions. Methane emissions per cow are also increasing and ammonia emissions exceed the EU's National Emissions Ceiling Directive limit values. There are no plans to apply a carbon tax on agricultural emissions. Indeed, energy subsidies are applied to agricultural diesel. The continuing misleading claims that agricultural, particularly dairy, production is being decoupled from the associated emissions increase does not stand up to scrutiny. SDG implementation would be enhanced by an effective system whereby solar energy can be sold back to the grid. This is not presently possible. The implementation of the recommendations of the recently concluded Citizens Assembly on climate change would represent the single most progressive action in support of the SDGs. The range of recommendations, overwhelmingly endorsed by the Assembly, will be advocated strongly

by this organisation in coming months.The failings of conventional economic criteria to encompass sustainability considerations is well known. This has been well documented in the case of Ireland with the failure of GDP as a measure of well-being and sustainability comprehensively demonstrated in recent years. Alternatives should be urgently explored such as the National Well-being Index (NWI). The NWI is used for German national as well as regional and local well-being assessment projects and would offer a useful progress indicator for Irish sustainability analysis. An Taisce would seek a radical revision of the National Mitigation Plan. This has been widely criticised as toothless by civil society groups and has been criticised also by the governments Climate Change Advisory Council. The past record of National Policy Frameworks (National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines etc.) which espouse climate change aspirations has similarly been ineffective when undermined at regional and local levels. An Taisce would seek immediate and radical emission reductions to achieve an emissions pathway in compliance with the Paris Agreement. The recent projections by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency indicates that present government policies will result in a 0% reduction in Irish Non-ETS emissions by 2020. With additional measures this might improve to a 1% reduction. This is an unacceptable policy failure and incompatible with several sustainable development goals. An Taisce considers the SDGs are a essential to ensure sustainability and a modicum of intergenerational equity. To be meaningful, however, quantitative measures with milestones and deliverables with milestones and deliverables are essential.

Early Childhood Ireland

Early Childhood Ireland (ECI) is the leading organisation in the early years sector, representing 3,800 childcare members who support over 100,000 children and their families through preschool, afterschool, and full day-care provision nationwide. The most relevant SDG to the work of ECI is SDG4 Quality Education, Target 4.2: To ensure all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education. ECI supports early years providers to deliver high quality services to children through practice and business support as well as advocating on their behalf. ECI sits on a range of national forums, including government advisory groups. We have taken a leading position on the Better Outcomes Bright Futures (BOBF) Advisory Council, referenced in the SDG National Implementation Plan. We work to ensure that all children have access to quality early years education and care as specified in Target 4.2. We advocated for initiatives like the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) and we continue to advocate for supports that ensure all families, including the most vulnerable families have access to early years services. ECI advocates that children have the right to early years education and care, the goal of which goes beyond preparing them for primary education as specified in Target 4.2. SDG Implementation ECI welcomes the four strategic priorities of the SDG National Implementation Plan, particularly the partnership approach to implementing the SDGs. In relation to the early years sector, ECI is encouraged by the high participation rates of children in pre-primary education as noted in Ireland's 2018 VNR. The reported positive participation rates however, masks the sustainability crisis facing the early years sector and the high level of government investment required to both sustain the high participation rates and the wider early years sector. ECI is concerned that the implementation of SDG 4, Target 4.2, is too heavily focussed on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and neglects the equally important early years care and education of children aged under ECCE eligibility. The ECCE scheme is the only

national policy referred to in the National Implementation Plan's SDG Policy Map, under Target 4.2, and the 2018 VNR refers only to ECCE participation rates. ECI understands that both EU and UN indicators for Target 4.2 only require details of those in pre-primary education aged between 4 years and the starting age of compulsory education (EU) and the participation rate of those in organised learning one year before official primary school entry age (UN). We believe that the education and care of all children from birth to 6 years should be recognised in the implementation of the SDGs, as equally beneficial for children and wider society. The focus on participation rates indicators as a measure of Irelands implementation of SDG 4, Target 4.2, overlooks the quality and universal access to early years education elements of the Target. Early childhood care and education can only be truly beneficial to children if it is of high quality and accessible to all children. We also note that one of the UN indicators has been overlooked (4.2.1) that refers to health, leaning and psychosocial wellbeing of children under 5, that could capture some of the quality aspect. Enhancing Implementation Ensure the government consults effectively with stakeholders, so that implementing the SDGs is not simply a ticking the box exercise. Stakeholder input would ensure that areas in where Ireland appears to be progressing well, are not taken for granted e.g. SDG 4. Alongside this, it is important that the ambition of the government extends beyond meeting the specified targets and goals for successful implementation. For instance, viewing early childhood care and education as beneficial for children and society, beyond simply preparing children for primary school as noted in Target 4.2. ECI is encouraged by the willingness to include more indicators in the next VNR to create a more realistic picture of how Ireland is implementing the SDGs. In relation to the early years, ECI wants to see indicators on government investment in the sector, quality and the early year's education of children under 4 years. ECI welcomes the proposal for more stakeholder participation in the drafting process of the next VNR and hopes this will extend to national reviewing of the implementation of the SDGs. ECI appreciates the importance of the stock-taking exercise of the current VNR but hopes to see greater sectoral detail in the next VNR. Further detail on sectoral issues that are not specifically captured by the SDGs, would solidify a thorough implementation of the SDGs that solves issues specific to Ireland and meets official SDG requirements. This is already seen in the 2018 VNR through the consideration of childhood obesity as malnutrition under SDG 2.

Killybegs Fishermen's organisation Ltd

Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd supports achieving SDGs by participating in relevant EU programmes, for example, (1) the EfficientShip Project (LIFE 13 ENV/FR/00851) which aims to reduce fuel consumption by fishing vessels and thereby reduce greenhouse emmissions; (2) the Myfish project (FP7-KBBE-2011-5) which aimed to provide an operational framework for the implementation of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) concept in European waters; (3) a continuous process of certification of vessels (Bord Iascaigh Mhara Responsibly Sourced Standard) fisheries (MSC for pelagic fisheries utilized by KFO member vessels and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) for Brown Crab, Nephrops, Demersal species and Albacore tuna.)