

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

under the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 24-25 September 2019, New York

An open letter to Heads of State and Government



Coalition 2030 calls upon all political leaders to accelerate implementation of Agenda 2030 and commit to the inclusion of civil society, addressing inequalities and climate and environmental justice

For the first time since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Heads of State will come together under the 74th session of the **UN General Assembly** (UNGA 74) on Tuesday, 24 September **2019** to review progress and plan for the acceleration of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Given that Ireland is recognised as a world leader due to its role in co-facilitating negotiations for the development of the SDGs in collaboration with Kenya, it is a matter of **urgent priority** for the Irish Government to set a strong example in implementing all SDGs, in line with the guiding principle to **'leave no one behind'**.

The 2030 Agenda provides a framework to address **inequality, loss of rights, environmental degradation, and poverty**, to maintain and establish peace and ensure climate and environmental justice. The SDGs Summit (UNGA 74) is an opportunity for Ireland to strengthen its commitment to implementing an ambitious roadmap for sustainable development, shaping a new narrative for leadership and social change.

- We ask Ireland to ensure greater accountability, enhanced ambition and clear, measurable action both at home and internationally, to move towards a just, peaceful and sustainable world by 2030.
- As part of a global movement, Coalition 2030 calls upon world leaders to accelerate SDGs implementation, paying particular attention to **equality, civic space and climate and environmental justice**.

In Ireland, Coalition 2030 calls for:

- Government to strengthen and increase its efforts to deliver upon commitments outlined in the National Implementation Plan and to ensure that in doing so, Ireland becomes a leader in implementing Agenda 2030
- A National SDG Progress Review on Ireland's National Implementation Plan for the SDGs
- A report to the Oireachtas regarding Ireland's progress after four years of SDGs implementation
- A series of SDGs debates to take place in the Dáil and the Seanad
- The SDGs to become the subject of scrutiny for the Citizens Assembly
- Financing for the SDGs across all government departments

All of these actions would promote a greater awareness and invite full participation and collaboration from Irish citizens and civil society in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

Globally, Coalition 2030 calls for:

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- Concerted action to address the multiple dimensions of inequality and deliver on the promise to **leave no one behind**
- All policies and action plans to be reviewed, developed and implemented in line with the **Agenda 2030** framework under the overarching principle of **'leave no one behind'**
- The consideration of the most vulnerable groups affected by poverty and marginalisation as the highest priority in SDG implementation to tackle rising inequalities both within and between countries

SDG 13: Climate Action

- Ireland to review its commitment and increase its ambition in emissions reduction, taking a cross-departmental, integrated and inclusive approach to climate adaptation and mitigation to ensure a just transition to full decarbonisation by 2050.
- Ireland to push for greater ambition at EU and UN level to ensure all countries honour their commitments under the Paris Agreement and be a global leader in providing support and resources to those who are both highly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change and who contribute the least to the climate breakdown.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- At a domestic level, the re-establishment of the social partnership model (dismantled during the economic crisis). In addition, reinstated support for programmes and infrastructure to strengthen and facilitate political participation by communities and social groups in decision-making processes to ensure meaningful participation and full engagement of civil society.
- At international level, Ireland to increase engagement in international forums on the protection of civil society space and human rights defenders by taking a leadership role in implementing international mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders.
- At both national and international levels, Ireland to defend the importance of civil society space and ensure Civil Society Organisations are actively engaged in political processes. This requires channelling aid through civil society to reach the most vulnerable, improving governance and ensuring aid effectiveness supporting a diverse civil society and ensuring activists are invited to work with policy makers to ensure adequate stakeholder representation.
- Increased policy coherence for sustainable development with oversight by the Dáil to support the realisation of SDG commitments both across and within government departments in line with SDG **Target 17.14** calling on all countries to “enhance policy coherence for sustainable development” as a key mechanism for implementation.

Coalition 2030 is an alliance of sixty-five leading international and local civil society organisations from all sectors of civil society representing two and a half million people by affiliation. We are working towards upholding Ireland’s commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both in Ireland and internationally by 2030. Coalition 2030 members support the shared vision *“to transform our world through collaborative partnerships that will free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want, and to heal and secure our planet”*¹.

Coalition 2030 member organisations from the following civil society sectors:



Academic & Learning Institutions	Environmental sustainability
Advocacy & human rights	Sustainable agriculture, horticulture and farming
Anti-poverty	Humanitarian aid & relief
Asylum Seekers, migrants & refugees	Social enterprise
Climate advocacy	Social justice and social inclusion
Charities	International development
Community Groups	Trade Unions
Community Food Systems	Youth & children
Disability advocacy organisations	

¹ See UN Resolution, 25 September, ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, (known as the SDGs)