



# IRELAND

Statement by

**H.E. Mr David Donoghue  
Permanent Representative**

at the

**HLPF General Debate**

**New York, Wednesday, 20 July 2016**

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Thank you Chair. I am delighted to have this opportunity in the final session of the general debate to present my country's reflections on the last two weeks of fruitful discussion and how together we can ensure that no one is left behind in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

There is strong cross government engagement in Ireland to establish the most appropriate institutional arrangements for implementation, monitoring and review of the SDGs at national, regional and global levels. This work includes consideration of the adequacy of existing governance mechanisms across Departments, based on the objective of achieving efficiency and effectiveness, coherence and inclusion. We are also working with our Central Statistics Office, which will perform a key role as part of the implementation framework and will support the development of national objectives and indicators that best align with the SDGs.

Given that effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national level will require a broad and integrated domestic policy response across the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, the national implementation framework will need to provide for coordinated engagement across Government as well as outreach to a broad group of stakeholders.

In particular we see a strong role for civil society, which had a major input into the framing of the new goals, at all stages of their implementation. We welcome the strong endorsement at this meeting of the HLPF, of the key role of civil society in turning the ambition of the 2030 Agenda into reality. Likewise we very much support the importance of young people in delivering the new agenda. Given that today's youth will be the generation that will experience the impact of the success or failure of the SDGs, we are giving all consideration to ensuring that SDG implementation will be inclusive and responsive to the needs of the youth.

There must be coherence between national and global implementation, so that our domestic and international policies complement and reinforce each other.

At the global level, Ireland's implementation of the SDGs also requires that Irish Aid, in its programming and policy, supports the achievement of the Goals in developing countries. Ireland's aid programme, which is central to our foreign policy, will continue to focus on ending poverty and hunger in some of the poorest countries in the world, notably in sub-Saharan Africa. At last year's Financing for Development Conference in Addis, Ireland committed to continuing to allocate at least 50% of our ODA to the world's poorest countries.

While Ireland has much work ahead of us, we are absolutely clear about the cost of failure and the transformative benefits that will come with success. In this regard, this year's session of the HLPF has provided us with invaluable insights on the work already underway in so many countries and at the regional and global level.

The HLPF was always envisioned not as a forum for criticism or judgement, instead it needs to be a place where Governments, civil society, business and academia can gather together to share experiences and commit to assisting each other. The past two weeks have shown that that vision is being realised.

Many speakers have emphasised the importance of engagement this week. Governments are driven by the will of their people, and we have a duty to build awareness among our populations of the 2030 Agenda, which was agreed in their name and the names of generations to come, as we strive to protect our planet while securing prosperity for all.

This must mean visibility of the SDGs in national policies, and outreach to foster understanding as to why these policies matter, to people, to countries, to the world. It is only by creating ownership and understanding that the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda will be realised. There is no 'us and them' in this Agenda, there is only we, the peoples.

Thank You