



**Elements for Intervention on behalf of
Denmark, Norway and Ireland at the
Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals:**

**‘Food and Nutrition Security, Sustainable Agriculture,
Land Degradation, Drought and Desertification’**

**by Ambassador Anne Anderson,
Permanent Representative of Ireland**

**United Nations Headquarters
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- Ireland, Denmark and Norway consider this complex of issues as critical for the post-2015 development framework. We welcome the Thematic Issues papers provided by the UN system, which we think capture very well the issues under discussion. We also appreciate the cogent interventions from the Panel this morning.
- In April, Ireland hosted an international conference in order to highlight the importance of 'Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice'. We hope the outcome of that conference will be a useful input to our deliberations here.
- Our team would like to support the outcome of the Global Thematic Consultation on Food and Nutrition Security as captured in the Madrid Synthesis Report. We agree with the level of ambition: we should be working towards nothing less than a world that is free from hunger and malnutrition in our lifetime, based on the right of everyone to safe, sufficient, nutritious and affordable food.
- We feel that any new framework should add these critical issues and we see merit in looking at an ambitious goal and set of targets in relation to food and nutrition security for all. (We certainly heard your strong hint in that regard this morning!). We consider that the Food Security Thematic Paper, and particularly the combination option set out in paragraph 5 C, provides an interesting basis for further discussion.
- As with any other goal and set of targets that we consider in the Open Working Group, we believe that any goal and targets in this area should be clear, measurable, and bound with timeframes; and should incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development. We also believe that a rights-based approach should condition all our work. The compelling words from the NGO community this morning about placing human dignity at the center of our deliberations resonate strongly with our team.

I would like very quickly to enumerate a number of specific points. We do not claim that these are particularly original, or indeed "intellectually combative" as you have asked us to be – in fact we note quite a high degree of convergence emerging from the discussion so far. But these will be the watch words guiding our team as we deepen the work in this area.

- Susceptibility: we must ensure that we place a greater focus on those most susceptible to food and nutrition insecurity, including smallholder farmers, women, children and those in marginalised areas and conflict-affected and fragile states.
- Role of Women: we wish to underline the critical role of women for food and nutrition security. The message emerging from all sources could not be clearer: women are agents of transformation in the agricultural sector. Gender equality and equal access to resources throughout the value chain is imperative. As our team has repeatedly emphasized, the Post-

2015 framework must adopt a stronger and more specific approach on the rights of women and girls and embed this concept across the whole of the new framework.

- Production: we must ensure a focus on increasing and diversifying agricultural production in a sustainable manner, reducing food loss and waste. This will involve improved management in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.
- Coherence and cross-cutting: agriculture clearly impacts on, and has linkages to, so many other sectors we will be discussing both later in this meeting and in meetings ahead. For example: sustainable management of water resources is crucial for food production. A major objective of our work here must be to encourage coherent policy formulation, so that decision-makers in one area are conscious of the impact of their decisions in other areas.
- Nutrition: it is essential to place a greater emphasis on nutrition, including infant and child nutrition. We must recognise the double burden of malnutrition – under and over nutrition – and the link to non communicable diseases.
- Biodiversity: enhanced investment in the preservation of biodiversity will be crucial.
- Land degradation: We must take concrete measures towards eliminating land degradation, including achieving the Rio commitment of a ‘land degradation neutral world’ as part of our overall framework.

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