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No One Behind
promise



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Submission on the Draft National Implementation Plan (NIP) on the SDGs

by

All Together in Dignity Ireland (www.atdireland.ie)

and the

**Irish Committee for the UN International Day
for the Eradication of Poverty** (www.17october.ie)

22 December 2017

All Together in Dignity Ireland is a registered Charity founded in 2009 and one of the 30 national organisation member of the international human-rights movement ATD that works through grass-roots projects in partnership with people living in poverty. For the past 17 years, ATD volunteers in Ireland have been close to family members facing persistent poverty and struggling daily to live in dignity. ATD Ireland is member of the **Coalition 2030, Dóchas, the Children's Rights Alliance, the Community Platform, the ESC Rights Initiative, the Irish 17 October Committee, IDEA, EAPN Ireland, Social Justice Ireland, The Wheel.**

The **National Irish 17 October Committee** is an informal body founded in 2002 and is made up of activists and groups in local communities, teachers, home school liaison officers and members of organisations such as: ATD, Coláiste Eoin, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland, Focus Ireland, Inner City Organisations Network ICON, I-Smile International, Larkin Community College, Life Centre, Ballyfermot, Life Centre, Cork, Matt Talbot Community Trust, Ballyfermot, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Neighbourhood Youth Project 2 – NYP2, North West Inner City Training and Development Project, the O'Connell School – Dublin 1, the Saol Project, The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice.

1 - Background of the Submission

From 2011 to 2015, ATD International campaigned to introduce the Leave No One Behind Promise in the 2030 Agenda:

In 2011, thanks to the persistent efforts of the ATD United Nations advocacy team, the UN General Assembly commissioned an assessment of the MDGs **from the perspective of populations in extreme poverty**. ATD was entrusted with leading this evaluation which was carried out in collaboration with other actors such as Social Watch and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). To this end, ATD carried out participatory action research from early 2011 to late 2013 which gathered over 2,000 people together in 22 countries north and south, the majority of whom were living in extreme poverty. ATD presented a set of proposals and recommendations based on this research at the final seminar at the United Nations in New York in June 2013 and published a Common Statement with ITUC and Social Watch in which the three organisations promised to “commit to working for the global development agenda, up to and beyond 2015, to ensure no one is left behind and to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights ... to support full employment and decent work for all, including the implementation of social protection floors at national level in all countries ...” In April 2014, ATD published a comprehensive report about this 4 year process: **'Towards a Sustainable Development that Leaves No One Behind : Challenge 2015'**. In 2015, **the principle of 'leaving no one behind' was officially included** in the language of the new Agenda 2030.

From 2015 to 2017, ATD Ireland and the Irish 17 October Committee have been very active in promoting public engagement towards the 2030 Agenda, the 17 Goals and the “Leave No One Promise”. Here are some of the initiatives lead by ATD and/or the Committee:

Contribution to the annual event to celebrate the adoption of the 2030 Agenda	2015 - "Light The Way" on the Millenium Bridge 2016 - NGOs Together on Grafton Street 'SDGs Building Blocks for Peace 2017 - An Elephant in the Room - Act4SDGs event and march from Rosie Hackett Bridge to the Famine Statues and the Human Rights and Poverty Stone
'Stronger Together' - an annual community Agenda 2030 event for Dublin 1 in Mountjoy Square	"Stronger Together" a community event on Sunday 24th September in Mountjoy Square Park from 1pm to 5pm - with games and display from local Mountjoy Square NGOs and with awareness raising on the Global Goals (with the Magnificent 17)
Annual observance of the UN End Poverty Day	Since 2015, the UN Day message contributes to awareness raising and ownership of the Goals, especially in grassroots communities who have many members experiencing poverty. In 2017 awareness was raised by the Launch of Global Goals Boats by David Donoghue - Project co-organised with INTO Global Citizenship Schools

From December 2017 to October 2018: Project: "Growing Together to Leave No One Behind" co-funded by Concern and the ATD Foundation (Paris)	A series of community or citizens conversations with people (youth, adults) from different walks of life aiming to produce a handbook "The Leave No One Behind Promise: Walk the Talk" to be launched around 17 October 2018 (End Poverty Day)
Thus far, on a voluntary basis , ATD runs the Social Media communication for the Coalition 2030 - Facebook and twitter	www.facebook.com/IrishCoalition2030 https://twitter.com/coalition2030ir
The Magnificent 17 Happenings and the Giant Global Goals Family Card Game - ongoing projects	#Magnificent17 - Promotion of the 17 Global Goals inspired by the "Magnificent 7" --- Thanks to a NYCI small grant: development of a giant card game for groups based on the European tradition of the "7 families" card game about active families involved in Global Goals issues. In 2018, development of a normal size version.
Annual march - The 2016-2030 Long Walk To Freedom (on Human Rights Day, 10 December each year since adoption of the Goals)	Inspired by the Mandela Legacy and the fact that in every country North and South the poorest citizens walk a lot... A walk with symbolical stops (ending at famine statues and Human Rights and Poverty Stone) with the message "Human Rights for All with the 17 Global Goals)
St Patrick's Day Parade and promotion of the Agenda 2030 - The 17 March for the 17 Goals - A contribution of Ireland and the Irish Diaspora to the worldwide promotion of the 2030 Agenda	Following a Coalition 2030 meeting with UNRIC Europe representatives some first contacts are taken (initially for the Dublin 2018 parade) but maybe also for a worldwide campaign... The world goes green for the Global Goals on 17 March. All Parades worldwide could include a float about the 17 Goals... This could be a symbolic follow-up of the special role of Ireland in the co-facilitation of the 2015 agreement on the Agenda

2 – Introduction

ATD Ireland and the Irish End Poverty Day Committee welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft NIP. **We welcome the overall framework and the high priority that is being given to developing an implementation framework by the Government. In particular the emphasis on a “whole government” approach** and the proposed institutional arrangements for “mainstreaming” the SDGs in policy making are encouraging.

For the sake of clarity, comments are made here in general points first, and then later, following the structure of the Draft NIP as circulated for comment.

3 – General Points

ATD and the 17 October Committee as active members of Coalition 2030 **fully support the submission by the Coalition** and hope the Government will be able to follow up on its recommendations. With Coalition 2030, we welcome the proposed high-level political engagement with the SDGs, with the national implementation of the SDGs subject to overall political oversight through the Cabinet, and the role of the Taoiseach regarding the HLPF. The preparation for Ireland HLPF's first Voluntary National Review in the coming months should include both appropriate mechanisms and sufficient time for meaningful public participation. The inclusion of stakeholder representatives in the Irish Delegation, and the provision of speaking time for stakeholder representatives are very welcome.

A - The "Leave No One Behind" promise

With the Coalition 2030 we believe that the plan needs to show how it will deliver on the commitments **that we are not leaving anyone behind and furthermore ensuring that we reach those furthest "behind" who are indeed most in need.**

We would for instance suggest that some elements of language should be added in some action commitments.

For instance on page 22, the paragraph on "A Participatory Approach",
A commitment could be: *To support public awareness raising **around the SDGs and the "Leave No One Behind" promise**, the national SDG Stakeholder Forum will also be asked to develop and share communications materials which can be used specifically at the local level, and which can support community and voluntary organisations wishing to engage with the SDGs.*

and

*Action: Develop in conjunction with the SDG Stakeholder Forum communication materials/toolkits to raise awareness of **the Goals and the "Leave No One Behind" promise** among the general public and help national and local organisations engage with the Goals and communicate their own contributions*

B - Participation of the most vulnerable

ATD Ireland and the Irish End Poverty Day Committee welcome the importance given to participation and stakeholder engagement and the establishment of a National Stakeholder Forum but it will be important **to make more explicit the participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the implementation and monitoring of the plan.**

For example, Page 21, the marginalised and excluded members of our society will need customised mechanisms to reach them. It is clearly intended to “leave no-one behind”, but as written the plan doesn’t really offer any mechanisms for doing this.

C - Consistency with EU frameworks

The consistency with the EU approach of the Agenda 2030 implementation should be checked if needed (for example it seems that Eurostat already chose EU-level indicators).

More emphasis should be given to linking the implementation of the SDGs with the implementation of the EU’s 2020 Strategy, particularly the achievement of the EU’s high level targets on poverty and social exclusion, climate change and energy, employment and education. Also it will be important to establish a strong link with the implementation of **the European Pillar of Social Rights** taking account of the solemn proclamation by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17th November 2017.

D - Realising Human Rights

The preamble of the Agenda 2030 states: the 17 Goals "seek to realise the human rights of all". The draft document refers in various places to the challenge of strengthening the protection of rights but lacks commitments to make this happen.

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission could be involved in one way or another in the monitoring and implementation of the plan. As an example, IHREC could be commissioned to make a Human Rights assessment of the process and deliver recommendations (every 4 years starting in 2019?).

The legal framework of the "**Human Rights and Equality Public Sector Duty**" could be added to the list of strategic or legal frameworks on page 14.

As the Agenda preamble identifies the eradication of poverty as the central challenge of the plan, the **2012 UN guiding principles on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty** could be treated in the plan as a reference document for "sustainable development and Human Rights" work in communities in Ireland and overseas. The plan could commit to a process regarding the Guiding Principles of 2012 similar to the one the DFAT led on the UN guiding principles of 2011 on Human Rights and Business and which led to the recent launch of a national strategy on Business and Human Rights.

It will also be important to establish a strong link with the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights taking account of the solemn proclamation by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17th November 2017. The Irish commitment to the new European Pillar of Social Rights could also be listed in the frameworks of page 14.

Eventually, the State could commit as part of its plans to implementing the SDGs to timely reporting on its Agenda 2030 implementation to the Human Rights bodies and reviews in the coming years: Universal Periodic Review, the periodic state reports to UN expert treaty monitoring bodies that monitor various covenants, ICCPR and ICESCR, CPRD, CRC, CERD, CEDAW...

E - Ireland Lights the Way

We are all proud of the role played by the Irish Mission at the UN and Ambassador Donoghue in the process of the drafting the last negotiation and leading to the adoption of the Agenda 2030.

We believe that the Saint Patrick's Day parades all around the world (which are a promotion of Ireland and help the recognition of the role of the Irish Diaspora on this day when the world goes green) could give an international opportunity for Ireland to “light the way” again for the Agenda 2030.

This idea was quickly discussed by some Coalition 2030 members at a meeting in June 2017.

As Paddy's Day falls on the “17” of March, considering the role of Ireland in the adoption of the Agenda, an invitation could be made to the organisers of the parades all over the world to systematically include a colourful and powerful 17 Global Goals float in their parade. This would have a positive impact on the awareness, ownership of the Agenda in Ireland but also give Ireland a very special role in the promotion of the 17 goals worldwide.

The Plan could include a possible assessment of this idea among various stakeholders.

4 - Specific items

1. Starting position: In the list of specific challenges for Ireland in 2018 (page 7) it will be important to add references to **“reducing high levels of poverty and social exclusion, especially child poverty”, “tackling the multiple problems faced by the most disadvantaged communities” and “achieving the social inclusion of groups at particular risk such Travellers and people from a refugee and migrant background”.**

2. Mainstreaming and Budgeting: While it is encouraging that from 2019 “Departments will consider whether it is feasible and appropriate to identify those items of departmental expenditure which support specific SDGs” there is a need to go beyond this and to align departmental budgetary decision-making with the achievement of the SDGs. Also, the current commitment to “proof” Ireland’s overall annual budget process for its contribution to tackling poverty and social exclusion should be extended to cover an impact assessment of the budgetary decisions on the implementation of the SDGs.

3. Stakeholder Engagement: As introduced in the general points, It will be important to ensure that **the voices of those experiencing poverty, social exclusion and discrimination are directly heard at all stages of the SDG process** (preparation, implementation and monitoring). In particular they should be represented on the proposed National SDG Stakeholder Forum and **provided with the necessary support to ensure their effective participation.**

4. Communication strategy: It will be important to make explicit that a key element of the proposed communication strategy (page 21) will focus on the most deprived individuals and groups experiencing discrimination and exclusion and on how the SDGs are relevant to addressing their situations and to empowering them and to ensuring that no one is left behind. In this context the idea of nominating SDG Champions to promote the SDGs is welcome. We would welcome a focus on the “Leave No One Behind” challenge when nominating some Champions.

5. Follow-Up and Reporting: The significant attention given to regular reporting on progress in the draft Framework is welcome and in this regard the emphasis on linking with EU commitments and making use of EU indicators for monitoring is positive. In addition a key element in the monitoring process should be to put in place arrangements to monitor the views of those experiencing poverty, social exclusion and discrimination on the implementation of the SDGs – this will require complementing more statistical analysis with qualitative research.

6. Matrix of Lead and Stakeholder Departments: Given the high risk of poverty and social exclusion amongst children DCYA should be included as a stakeholder for most of the targets under Goal 1 and especially 1.2.

7. Contacts: A specific contact person and address should be established for each Department. (Page 16) A list of the members of the Senior Officials Group and of the Interdepartmental Working Group together with their contact details should be published on the new SDG Website.

END – 22 December 2017