

Joe Costello TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

16 July 2014

Ref: Thank you

Dear Joe,

I am writing on behalf of the Board and member organisations of Dóchas, who have asked me to thank you for your enormous commitment and drive during your time as Minister of State for Development and Trade.

You have guided the Irish aid programme through a turbulent period, as the country was going through difficult economic times, and we know that your personal commitment was instrumental in limiting the damage to the ODA budget. We thank you for keeping Ireland's commitment to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals high on the political agenda.

We are convinced that you have left a strong legacy for the Irish Aid programme, in the shape of the "One World One Future" strategy. As you know, Dóchas members were happy with the strategic choices made in that document and with the clarity that it brought to the future orientation of Ireland's development priorities. In particular, we want to thank you for your personal commitment to the priority being allocated to human rights and to the inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as for the inclusive nature of the consultation process that led up to the articulation of "One World One Future"; that process set the bar, in terms of openness, accountability and inclusiveness.

We believe that you can take great pride in the role you played in protecting the aid programme, and – more importantly – we thank you for your personal engagement and openness in your role as Minister. Throughout your tenure, you demonstrated great interest in the work of our member organisations, and true passion for all matters relating to our collective efforts to rid the world of extreme poverty, hunger and disease.

For that, I want to thank you, on my own behalf, and on behalf of all the members of Dóchas. I look forward to continuing to work with you in your new role.

Best wishes,



Hans Zomer
Director