



An Taoiseach
Enda Kenny TD
Government Buildings
Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Thursday 24 September 2015

Reference: UN Summit on Sustainable Development Goals

Dear Taoiseach,

As you are leaving for New York to represent Ireland at the historic United Nations Summit which will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we call on you to use this moment to announce the Irish action plan for the implementation of this new global framework.

All Together in Dignity Ireland (known as ATD, a human rights and anti-poverty international organisation - in Ireland for the past 15 years) is a member of different networks which wrote to you on 2nd September. We support fully their request: Ireland should launch as soon as possible a detailed Action Plan which will show how our country will implement its commitments under this agreement, here in Ireland for our own national development, and globally.

Together with many Irish organisations, we are proud both of the role that Ireland, represented by Ambassador David Donoghue, has played in the run-up to the Summit. We also value that you and our President will be representing us at the Summit, together with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, NGOs representatives and UN Youth delegates.

ATD worldwide has invested a great deal of time and effort to influence the 2030 agenda. “Leave no one behind” was the primary message of ATD’s advocacy around the SDGs. We carried it out globally with civil society partners, governmental authorities, and the wider international community. “Leave no one behind” was also the 2014 call put forward in Ireland by the Irish Committee for the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October).

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We are happy that the Heads of State have kept this primary ambition “leave no one behind” for the 2015-2030 agenda. Tomorrow, with them, we understand you will affirm your determination to “eliminate poverty in all its forms and dimensions” and “envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity,” that will strive to “combat inequalities,” reinforce the participation of all, and take “a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind.”

Such determination should inspire a surge of hope around the world.

However, we know that to “leave no one behind” is a difficult challenge - in the fight against poverty as in the fight against climate change - that more and more will mobilise people in Ireland and other nations.

It requires that the dignity of people living in deepest poverty be respected and that their life experiences and unique knowledge be recognised. We want to stress that this global agreement alone cannot yield the changes needed to address the imbalances and injustice we encounter in our work and which affect vulnerable people around the world as well as in Ireland.

We will stay vigilant. We will follow how the new Global Goals are incorporated into national programs. We will seek to dialogue with those who are responsible for their implementation and bring a contribution nourished by the thinking and lives of people and families living in extreme poverty.

Tonight, 24th September, with hundreds of people from all walks of life, we will gather on the Millennium Bridge in Dublin at 8:00pm to join citizens around the world in calling on governments to commit genuinely to the SDGs and tackle the most urgent issues of our time - poverty, inequality and climate change.

We strongly believe that this is a once-in-a-generation agreement to address these most pressing issues. It is crucial that you, and our other national leaders, now and in the coming 15 years, commit to these Goals and take action to deliver an equal, safe and secure future for all citizens, both here in Ireland and worldwide.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Hogan, Chairperson, Board of Directors



Pierre Klein, National Coordinator

All Together in Dignity - ATD Fourth World is an international non-governmental organization with no religious or political affiliation which engages with individuals and institutions to find solutions to eradicate extreme poverty. Working in partnership with people in poverty, ATD's human rights-based approach focuses on supporting families and individuals through its grass-roots presence and involvement in disadvantaged communities in both urban and rural areas, creating public awareness of extreme poverty and influencing policies to address it. www.atd-fourthworld.org

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