



**ATD  
FOURTH WORLD**

**All Together in Dignity**

## *Open Letter to TDs and Senators*

Sunday 25 September 2016

Reference: The first Anniversary of the 2030 Agenda

*«This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.»*

From the Preamble of 'Transforming our world:  
the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'

**Dear Deputies and Senators,**

One year ago today, our President and the Taoiseach were in New York to represent Ireland at the historic United Nations Summit to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the past week, one year on, members of ATD Ireland marked the first anniversary of the 2030 Agenda in different ways:

- with volunteers from many NGOs we met the public in Grafton Street to raise awareness about this transformative agenda,
- with ATD members we planned a series of “Leave No One Behind” conversations with Irish citizens to be run in 2017,
- with a wide range of organisations from various sectors (development, environment, global education, community groups, anti-poverty, human rights, migration, disabilities, trade unions...) we are preparing the setting up of the “Coalition 2030”.

Today, as some Ministers and Secretary of State of the Irish Government have just attended the UN events marking the first year of the 2030 Agenda, and at

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a time when Ireland continues to be praised as one of the “Midwives” of this historic agreement, we come back to you with a few thoughts regarding the implementation of the agenda in Ireland and by Ireland.

As you would know, for a few years and especially from January 2015 onwards, when Ambassador David Donoghue started his co-facilitator work in New York, a large number of Irish-based Civil Society Organisations from the sustainability, development, environment and social sectors have been meeting to consider how all Irish stakeholders could contribute to the design, the implementation, the monitoring and follow-up of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both in Ireland and beyond.

Most of the NGOs have a clear understanding that all stakeholders, the Government, the private sector, the education sector, civil society, the media, have a role to play to build a better future for people and the planet.

Now, one year after the adoption of the #GlobalGoals, it's time for all of us to walk the walk! We believe it is the task of the 32nd Dáil and of the Seanad to make sure Ireland keeps its promises!



**ATD volunteers gathered on Saturday 24th September 2016 marking the 1st Anniversary of the 2030 Agenda**



**Street action in Grafton Street with volunteers from ATD Ireland, Development Perspectives, Concern, World Vision Ireland, Unicef Ireland, INTO, Dóchas**

**We believe it is time for:**

- the Budget 2017 to set aside funding for the participatory design of a 2030 Agenda Strategy and Action Plan as well as funding for pilot projects with the aim of developing long-term participatory processes in which “people affected” and their organisations could contribute to the design, the assessment and monitoring of areas of SDGs policy;
- the Government to develop an overarching Irish Sustainable Development Strategy and a concrete Implementation Plan which coordinates the achievement of the 17 goals, 169 targets and their indicators. This new strategy and its associated implementation policies should be subject to a broad consultation with all stakeholders through an institutionalised and inclusive process. The leadership to implement this strategy should be based within the Department of An Taoiseach and involving all Government departments, to steer, implement, monitor, and report on the goals;
  - the 32nd Dáil and all stakeholders to ensure that this new Strategy does not cherry-pick the easiest or preferred goals and must go beyond policy-as-usual by aiming for the highest level of ambition in all the targets, guaranteeing that no-one is left behind and that the environmental challenges are met. All goals should be met for all and the strategy needs to find ways to deliver for the most marginalised and vulnerable;

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- all the stakeholders including the Government and the 32nd Dáil to make sure that Ireland will design strong monitoring, review and accountability mechanisms. As “Ending poverty, everywhere and in all its forms” is the central goal of the #2030Agenda, the implementation plan should create permanent spaces for reflection and dialogue with people who have experience of poverty, together with other partners. This will ensure that the people are able to contribute to the definition and evaluation of the policies that affect them;
- all the stakeholders including the Government and the 32nd Dáil to discuss the possible creation of an Irish 2030 Agenda volunteer corps enabling adults from all walks of life, young or older, to dedicate themselves full-time for six months or more to the realisation of the goals in Ireland or abroad;
- all the stakeholders including the Government to discuss and the 32nd Dáil the possible choice of the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty, on 17 October each year, as an appropriate time to review and discuss formally and publicly the way the Irish 2030 Agenda strategy is being implemented;
- the designed strategy to recognise that sustainable development challenges and solutions for Ireland and beyond rarely sit within local or national borders. Ireland must develop with the EU a means to differentiate between the parts of the 2030 Agenda for which individual EU member states are primarily responsible versus those for which an EU lead is necessary and for which the EU must be held to account.

We believe that now is the time to act, or as Ban Ki-Moon said it earlier this week: “**Fifteen years may seem a long time, but it can pass in the blink of an eye. We have no time to waste.**” So we are calling on you to act, and especially to act to end poverty.

Yours sincerely,



**Gerald Doherty**, 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](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org)*

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