



Mr Leo Varadkar
Taoiseach
Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Dublin, 14th July 2017

Re: *Implementation of the United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development*

An Taoiseach,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We haven't yet had an opportunity to wish you well in your new position as Taoiseach.

Included with this correspondence please find documentation about All Together in Dignity Ireland and our International Movement as we haven't had direct contact with you. In your position as Minister of Social Protection you indirectly supported our work promoting the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty via your small DSP UN Day Grant Fund.

In the enclosed copy of our Annual Report from 2016, we outline ATD's work within the area of human rights and the SDGs. The report presents a range of activities undertaken by ATD aimed towards ensuring that the rights of all citizens are respected and that greater goals concerning the community and environment are achieved.

As the UN High Level Political Forum enters its second week with Minister Denis Naughten now participating in the Ministerial work, we would like to refer you to our most recent correspondence with Enda Kenny regarding the Sustainable Development Goals after which we received a response from the Taoiseach's office outlining the Irish commitment to the Global Goals. (copy of correspondence attached)

We thank you very much for your colleagues' response and the Government dedication to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we are proud to be actively involved in the Coalition 2030 officially launched by Minister Naughten on 1st of March 2017.

We are aware that the steering committee of the Coalition are now looking forward to a meeting with you as we are convinced that leadership for the implementation of the 2030 agenda has to be taken by your office.

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With the civil society grouping of more than 40 Irish social inclusion, development, environment and trade union groups and networks, ATD Ireland as members of Coalition 2030 shares this desire and want to work with our government to deliver this promise to the world.

ATD will mainly continue to focus its work on the ways Irish society can respond to the 'Leave No One Behind' promise of the 2030 Agenda. We will be supportive of all the actions taken by your office as well as the Coalition, which we feel will be paramount to the successful achievement of these important goals.

The question remains, however, as to who in government, along with civil society, the public and private sectors and stakeholders in general, will help drive the delivery of this promise? The work of both of the DFAT and DCCAE, their Ministers and their officials is very much welcomed and lauded by Coalition 2030

However, in order to deliver on the 17 SDGs between now and 2030, together with civil society, it will require an all-of-Government approach, with almost every Department having to work individually and jointly on them.

As we see it, this will require the Taoiseach to provide the necessary drive and cohesion needed to ensure successful delivery of the objectives of these Goals – which are so essential to the well-being of humanity and its survival, both in Ireland and the rest of the planet.

With other members of Coalition 2030, we urge you Taoiseach to put in place a structure that will survive the changes of Government and Ministers that inevitably occur in our democracy, and one that will ensure that your Office and Department take overall responsibility for ensuring that Ireland delivers in full on its promises regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We wish Minister Denis Naughten and all the Irish delegation at the HLPF 2017 all the best for their work there next week. We include with this letter the statement prepared by ATD International to contribute to the debates in New York.

Kind regards

Gerald Doherty, Chair

Pierre Klein, Coordinator

ATD Fourth World - Ireland
26 Mountjoy Square
Dublin 1

Copy to : Minister Denis Naughten, Minister Simon Coveney, Minister Regina Doherty, Ciarán Cannon T.D.

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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Registered Number 475746 - Charity Number CHY 18678

Directors: Marie Williams, Juliette Pechenart, Isabelle Perrin, Patrick O'Gorman, Martin Byrne, Gerald Doherty, Gary Broderick and Hugh Frazer.

Registered Office, 26 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1.



Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

16 December 2016

Gerald Doherty & Pierre Klein
ATD Fourth World
26 Mountjoy Square
Dublin

Dear Mr. Doherty & Mr. Klein,

I refer to your recent correspondence to the Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D. in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Taoiseach has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

As you are aware, the 2030 Agenda, which encompasses seventeen SDGs, was adopted by world leaders at the UN Summit in New York last September. Ireland played a key role in the process to agree the SDGs through our Ambassador to the UN, David Donoghue, who co-facilitated the final intergovernmental negotiations along with Kenya's UN Ambassador, Macharia Kamau. Ireland's appointment to this role was a great responsibility and was testament to the excellent reputation of our overseas aid programme.

Like many of our EU partners, we are considering the most appropriate institutional framework to support implementation of the new agenda. The Taoiseach has asked me to assure you that the Government is fully committed to implementation of the SDGs. Given that effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national level will require a comprehensive and integrated policy response across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, the national approach to implementation will provide for coordinated engagement across Government as well as outreach to a broad group of stakeholders.

The Taoiseach has asked me to let you know that he has taken note of the



Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

recommendations in your letter and he has copied your correspondence to other relevant Government Ministers for their information.

Yours sincerely,

Maura Duffy
Assistant Private Secretary
to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194000

E-mail: privateoffice@taoiseach.gov.ie



An Taoiseach
Enda Kenny TD
Government Buildings
Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Sunday 25 September 2016

Reference: Our letter from Thursday 24 September 2015
and 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 Taoiseach,

One year ago exactly today you were in New York to represent Ireland at the historic United Nations Summit to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On 24 September 2015, we wrote you a letter that we allow ourselves to copy at the bottom of this new one.

In the past week, one year later, 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 a “Coalition 2030”.

.../...

Today, as some of your Ministers and Secretary of State just attended the UN events marking the first year of the 2030 Agenda, and at a time when Ireland continues to be praised as one of the “Midwife” 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 in which way 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 planet.

Now, one year after the adoption of the #GlobalGoals, it's time to walk the walk! We believe it is the task of the 32nd Dail and of your Government to make sure Ireland keeps the promises!



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



Street action in Grafon Street with volunteers from ATD Ireland, Development Perspectives, Concern, World Vision Ireland, Unicef Ireland, INTO, Dochas

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 Dail 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.
- all the stakeholders including the Government 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 able to contribute to the definition and evaluation of the policies that affect them.

- all the stakeholders including the Government 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 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 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 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 it is now really 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. This letter, ahead of next UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty could in fact bear the title: **We count on you Enda, Enda, end it now!**

Yours sincerely,



Gerald Doherty, Chairperson, Board of Directors

Pierre Klein, National Coordinator

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www.atdireland.ie twitter: [@ATDIreland](https://twitter.com/ATDIreland) Facebook: facebook.com/togetherindignityireland

Copy of our letter sent one year ago, at the eve of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

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).

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

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