

DÓCHAS

The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

Press Release

20th October 2014

Irish NGOs welcome Ireland's appointment as co-lead in UN negotiations for new Global Development Agenda

Dóchas, the Irish association of overseas development NGOs, today welcomed the announcement that Ireland, alongside Kenya, would lead international negotiations on a new global development strategy to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, which will come to an end in 2015.

Ireland and Kenya were jointly appointed this weekend by the UN General Assembly, to co-facilitate negotiations which will agree a new set of global development goals, for adoption at a summit of world leaders in New York in September 2015. The new goals will set targets for the eradication of global poverty and hunger along with targets for addressing other global issues such as climate change, human rights, health and education.

Ireland's role will be led by the Ambassador to the United Nations, David Donoghue.

Sharan Kelly, Chairperson of Dóchas and CEO of overseas development agency Tearfund Ireland, said:

"This is a huge opportunity for Ireland as it means that we can take the forefront, in partnership with Kenya, on what is one of the most pressing agendas for the future of our world. This appointment points to Ireland's considerable international reputation and to our political and diplomatic standing, which is largely down to our role in overseas aid and our human rights work."

Dóchas also said that it would be important that as Ireland takes co-lead in these negotiations, it should ensure its own commitments to the eradication of poverty and hunger are met.

Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas, said:

"This new global framework is going to be binding for all UN Member states. This is important as to-date rich countries have failed to honour their commitments on aid and fairer trade under the existing agreement. Ireland has now been put in a leadership position and it should lead by example and achieve its overseas aid and climate change targets."

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Notes to the Editor

- Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and a platform for them to speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie
- Dóchas membership is comprised of 61 overseas development and global justice organisations. A list of Dóchas members can be found at <http://www.dochas.ie/membership/our-members/>
- More information on the new goals being negotiated can be found at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1561> and <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml>
- In 2000 Ireland committed itself to reaching the 0.7% ODA/GNI target by 2007. However that deadline was later deferred to 2012 and then to 2015. Earlier this year, the Government indicated that also this third deadline would not be achieved, despite the target and the deadline being outlined in the Programme for Government.