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ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment



UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals- Update

Sustainable Development Division
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Presentation Contents



1. Government Policy
2. SDG Stakeholder Forum
3. Ireland's First Voluntary National Review
4. Next steps, including UN HLPF 2019 SDGs

In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) ("*Transforming our World*"). The 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and applies to both developed and developing countries. The centre piece of the 2030 Agenda is the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 169 targets, adopted by 193 UN member states. The 17 SDGs reflect economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.



Government Policy



- The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020, April 2018.
- The Plan indicated a coordinated whole-of-Government approach to implement the SDGs, - set out in the Policy Map.
- Minister for Communications has overall responsibility for ensuring coherent implementation of the SDGs across Government.
- The Plan contained Actions for Department:
 - *SDG Stakeholder Forum*
 - *VNR presentation at 2018 UN HLPF (next one due 2022)*
 - *SDG Champions.*

SDG Stakeholder Forum



- Forum established in June 2018.
- Forum allows a unique opportunity for policy makers, civil society, business and other interested parties to come together on SDG related activities. Draft Terms of Reference have been published.
- Forum is an Open invitation to all interested parties.
- So far, two meetings held to-date with a further planned for end January 2019.



Ireland's Voluntary National Review



- In July at the UN High Level Political Forum, Ireland presented its First Voluntary National Review (VNR), on the implementation of the SDGs.
- The Review provided a comprehensive overview of Ireland's progress towards meeting each of the 17 SDGs and of how Ireland is supporting the SDG's global achievement.
- An important secondary aim was to establish a baseline for Ireland's future SDG reporting.

Ireland's Voluntary National Review



- Specifically, the Review identified Ireland's strengths in relation to those SDGs dealing with **education**, health, economic growth, innovation, some environmental issues such as air quality, and the enjoyment of a peaceful and safe society.



Ireland's Voluntary National Review



- However, we also face challenges in many areas, including addressing high levels of obesity, meeting our own national poverty targets, achieving sustainable consumption and production, protecting our marine and terrestrial habitats, and achieving full gender equality in Irish society.
- The Review drew attention to housing and homelessness and climate action as two major challenges facing Ireland.

Next Steps



- Building on this VNR, through the Inter Departmental Working Group will see the appointment of SDG Champions to further advance the awareness of the SDGs.
- We expect the SDG Champions will be appointed in early 2019.
- An Educational Champion (s) will be appointed. Attendance at UN HLPF 2019, where
- **SDG 4 Quality Education** will be discussed, as well as SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions as well as SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals.
- In order to demonstrate a clear coordinated approach across all Government departments on SDG activity a draft DCCAE communications protocol is under development.

Next Steps



- When completed and replicated across all Government Departments, it will SDG brand all SDG related activities being developed in each Department in a more visual manner demonstrating the whole-of-Government principle.
- In 2019 the DCCAE intends to provide modest funding for SDG awareness uptake. Details will be announced in early 2019.
- The development of linkages to other Fora (Business, or SDG Goal specific and all associated activity across the country will also be a priority going forward.

Next Steps



- Whole of Government portal site: www.SDG.Gov.ie
- The Portal will when completed allow for a comprehensive resource link for all national and international SDG Goal specific activities undertaken by: Government, with linkages for business and civil society. It will be the ultimate resource for Irelands' SDG activities.
- All SDG Content will be managed, refreshed and updated regularly.

Summary and Conclusion



- There has been progress since April on SDG activity at a Government policy level, but more still needs to be done.
- The SDG Champions, along with the SDG Communications protocol will clearly demonstrate that Ireland means business when it comes to playing our part as a society in the implementation of the SDGs.
- Working together with all stakeholders, we can shape the future and make it more sustainable for those generations who will inhabit it.



Thank you.



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