



IRELAND

ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum

New York, April 2018

Check against delivery

PERMANENT MISSION OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
885 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017 TELEPHONE 212 421-6934 FAX 212 752-4726
newyorkpmun@dfa.ie

President, Excellencies,

In our interconnected and uncertain world, a safer, more peaceful, sustainable and equal world is in all our interest. Ireland's international development cooperation, along with our human rights, peacekeeping, disarmament and security policies and actions enable us to help realise this vision. We firmly believes that there is no scope for allowing momentum on the 2030 Agenda to slacken. There is an obligation on us all to continue in the spirit of partnership, to engage in long-term responses, to fully implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to continue to focus financing efforts on where they are needed most.

A strong sense of sharing the planet informed the negotiation of Agenda 2030, which Ireland was privileged to co-facilitate. I am pleased that we were able to demonstrate our continued support earlier this week with a contribution of 500,000 Euro to the new Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda, as a signal of our commitment to the important role the UN will play in supporting the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ireland welcomes the important focus on women and girls in the outcome document of the Forum on Financing for Development and in our deliberations this week. Just last month, the Commission on the Status of Women, with Ireland as Chair, reaffirmed the importance of significantly increased investments to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Gender, along with climate, will be amongst the key issues when the Government of Ireland produces a new policy on International Development this year, shaped by changes in the context for development, our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, and our ambition to make concrete progress towards reaching the UN target of 0.7%. The new policy offers an exciting opportunity for Ireland to explore innovative channels and modalities for eradicating poverty, whilst at the same time maintaining our steadfast commitment to untied aid.

The majority of the countries in which we work experience fragility. We share the concerns raised by others this week that debt vulnerability is a growing risk and poses serious threats to development gains. We join the call for a response which addresses this and prevents further deterioration.

Ireland is committed to whole-of-government approaches and aligning long term strategic planning with national systems and processes. We have made key strategic investments to support the Addis Agenda and the important priority of Domestic Resource Mobilisation. The private sector and role of technology in development must be viewed practically, with an ambition to align incentives to enable development, while not setting unrealistic expectations. As we look ahead, Ireland will seek to engage with new partners including the private sector, the multilateral development banks and other actors to develop innovative financing solutions.

While we have been having important discussions on financing in this Forum, our Heads of State and Government have been in the next chamber debating Sustaining Peace. The links between the two concepts are far deeper than a mere coincidence of timing. Ireland stands fully behind the UN Secretary General's vision to place conflict prevention and sustaining peace at the heart of the UN's mandate. The motivation and rationale is sound. It is easier and more effective – if not always as visible - to prevent rather than react to a crisis. Let us ensure that alongside this political aspiration, the financial means for all facets of sustainable and peaceful development are forthcoming.

Thank you.

ENDS