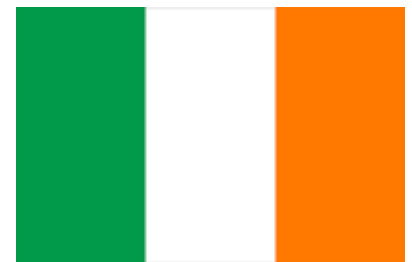


Civil Society approaches to achieving the SDGs in Ireland

Meaghan Carmody
Coordinator, Coalition 2030

All Eyes on the SDGs
SIDA Conference
27 September



SDG Action Weekend and Summit: Key takeaways



Lack of meaningful civil society engagement (although better than before)

UN snubbed by many leaders; credibility and authority challenged

Strong focus on UN processes, structures; reforming IFIs

Political Declaration adopted (had been weakened)

Drivetime interview





UN is 'losing credibility', President Higgins tells Ploughing Championships

While he criticised the organisation at present, he said it would be saved by countries like Ireland, who have 'no other aim or ambition other than to have a safe, sustainable, peaceful world'



President Michael D Higgins meets competitors at the horse section of the National Ploughing Championships. Picture: Niall Carson/PA Wire

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U.N. General Assembly opens with world in crisis – but only 1 of the 5 key world powers attending

BY PAMELA FALK

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 / 3:12 PM / CBS NEWS



Why?

☐ Strengthen civil society



☐ Foster connections between civil society



Anti-nuclear



Women's bodily autonomy



8h amendment:

*“The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the **equal** right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.”*



Marriage equality



Fracking banned



LNG terminal rejected

Climate Crisis

Planning board refuses permission for €650m Shannon LNG terminal

An Bord Pleanála says development would be inappropriate pending review of Ireland's energy supply

Expand



Demonstrators against the Shannon LNG project at a protest in Dublin last year. Photograph: Gareth Chaney/ Collins Photos

Kevin O'Sullivan

Anne Lucey

Fri Sep 15 2023 - 12:25

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But the SDGs...?



coalition 2030

FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Coalition 2030 is an alliance of 70 civil society organisations from the international development, environmental, anti-poverty and trade union sectors working together to ensure Ireland keeps its promise to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both in Ireland, and abroad.

Role

Convene

Hold govt. to account

Structure

Funding

Staff

Members

coalition 2030





HOW?

SDG public policy; government watchdog.

Engage and promote informed action
(**'politician-first' approach**)

Be a strong, effective coalition



Our approach – broad



'Helpful friend' / 'critical ally'

Conduit from members → government

Serious, calm, non-adversarial

National policy focused*

*due to capacity

Structural policy focused





Our approach – mid-level



'Reach the **furthest behind first**'

Highlight **discrepancy** between international talk and national action

Make all political party manifestos for government **manifestos for achieving SDGs by 2030**





Our approach – specific and structural



Led from the top?

Budgeted for the SDGs?

SDG-proofed policy?

Measured what matters?

Future-proofed policy (Future
Generations Commissioner)?

*Might any
of these
work in
your
context...?*

Key successes

Whole-of- government launch of SDG plan



Civil society statement at UN during July HLPF



Government engagement



Furthest behind First report

Civil society spotlight
report to shadow
Ireland's VNR



Furthest Behind First, or Falling Behind Further?

The human stories
that challenge Ireland's
claims to be leaving
no one behind.

**coalition
2030**
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Challenges

Public and political awareness and engagement

Backwards reporting, tagging, seen as an 'add-on'

Ad-hoc across *departments* and across *levels* of government (not sufficiently mainstreamed)

Stakeholders forum improved, but still not used effectively

Media not interested, and Parties not being explicit

Data

Someone needs to be the 'first mover'

CTA

Connect our politicians?

Joint work?

...?



POWER
CONCEDES NOTHING
WITHOUT A DEMAND.
IT NEVER DID
AND IT NEVER WILL.

Frederick Douglass

Get in touch:

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