

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE, FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL

COALITION 2030
ELECTION MANIFESTO

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FRIDAY MAY 24, 2019

LOCAL AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019



SOME FACTS ABOUT IRELAND TODAY



- Despite significant improvements within the economy and employment rates, the impact of **austerity** is still very much being felt across Europe and in Ireland, as thousands of people continue to struggle on low wages and precarious working conditions and we continue to grapple with the seemingly intractable crises in housing, homelessness and health.



- **1 in 10 renters in Ireland are spending over 60% of their income on housing costs**, while the number of homeless people in emergency accommodation has exceeded 10,000 for the first time.



- **Climate targets** continue to be missed, and inequalities remain entrenched.

- **Biodiversity is in rapid decline.** 91% of Ireland's internationally important habitats have bad or inadequate ecological status.



- **Groups and communities that suffered most from the recession** are now **benefiting least from the recovery.** 61% of Irish households are having difficulty making ends meet; over 40% can't meet unexpected expenses.



- Ireland is one of the **richest countries in the world**, yet **almost 800,000 people are living in poverty**, including children, pensioners and even 110,000 people already in employment..



- Ireland has the **3rd highest child poverty rate in Europe.** 1 in 10 (105,000) of Ireland's children grow up in consistent poverty and 23% of children in Ireland meet the definition of deprivation.



- Ireland's **commitment to sustainable development** and international **solidarity**, and actions in these areas, were recognised in the 2019 Good Country Index, which ranked Ireland second out of 153 countries. Ireland's contribution to the common good of humanity is based on a commitment to collective action to tackle global challenges.

AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, Ireland led the way in coordinating and shaping the global **Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development**. Agreed by 193 countries, the Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. This transformative framework, with its 17 Goals and underlying principles that apply to everyone, includes the promise to **Leave No One Behind** and sets out to **reach the furthest behind first**.

Ireland continues to have an important role at home and in countries where we work, to ensure this globally agreed plan works for a greener, fairer and healthier world for all people, everywhere.

With just over 10 years to go, now is the time to lead with urgency and ambition on the Goals in implementation and actions.



COALITION2030 IS ASKING CANDIDATES RUNNING IN THE UPCOMING LOCAL ELECTIONS TO:

Position Ireland as a leader at local and county levels to ensure urgency and ambition on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a transition towards a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable Ireland



1. EXCITE LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SDGs)

With 17 Goals and 169 individual targets to be measured, reported on and met, new partnerships are needed which bring together citizens and organisations from across the country, from across sectors and from across the various strands of Government.

Local Councillors have a key role to play in:

- **helping build public engagement** around Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, to develop a sense of collective ownership around the Goals at the community and local level, where each stakeholder and citizen has an understanding of their importance and role that they can play in implementing the SDGs, and is empowered to do so.
- **ensuring people participate in the decisions that affect them**, and that open consultative decision-making processes are at the heart of implementing the SDGs in Ireland at school, at the work place, in housing developments or in local and community activities. Local Councillors can help set up regular local citizens' structured conversations about the ways to walk the talk of the Leave No One Behind promise.
- **supporting information and education-led participation** decision-making processes

Deliver strong monitoring and accountability for Sustainable Development



2. **ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE SDGs** by local community Public Participation Networks (PPNs) and Local Area Plans.



3. **ENSURE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND** through reliable local data which is an essential tool to monitor local and regional variations in progress, to enable the development of effective policy responses and in targeting resources to ensure that no one is left behind.

Local Councillors can identify relevant sources of data that would enable collection and analysis of data at a local level with information about groups of people where among these groups you have very different levels of need.



4. SUPPORT SDG CENTRED BUDGETS as budgetary decisions should be equitable, fair and just, protect the vulnerable, address structural inequalities and promote the well-being of this and future generations. The SDGs are a tool to guide priorities for public spending as well as helping to assess impacts of public spending cuts.

Adequate resources should be provided to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and civil society organisations to ensure frequent reliable data on all SDG indicators, including data on vulnerable groups and sectors not currently addressed by CSO statistics.



5. ENSURE AN ADEQUATE FOCUS ON AND RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC INVESTMENTS that are needed to finance public goods and provision of social and natural environment services in the community.



6. ENHANCE POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT as Ireland must make sure that all its internal and external policies are aligned with the SDGs, across all sectoral policies and programmes, from national to local level. Joining up policies to be coherent with each other at the local level are crucial to address the multiple challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development.



COALITION2030 IS ASKING CANDIDATES RUNNING IN THE UPCOMING EUROPEAN ELECTIONS TO:

Position Ireland as a leader at EU level to ensure urgency and ambition on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a transition towards a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable Ireland



1. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS THE POLITICAL PRIORITY FOR THE EU'S NEW POLITICAL LEADERSHIP as MEPs have a role in ensuring that all internal and external policies are coherent and aligned with the SDGs by taking account the environmental and social impact of Europe's actions within and beyond its borders. The European Commission has yet to establish targets or timelines.



2. URGE COMMITMENT TO AN OVERARCHING EU STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS THAT GUIDES ALL ACTIONS OF THE EU AS WELL AS ITS MEMBER STATES. Avoid taking a hands-off approach (for example, by avoiding collective targets or an all-Europe strategy for the SDGs) or by only supporting implementation in developing countries through external policies alone; instead, **support ideas** such as universality through a comprehensive EU SDG Strategy for everyone, everywhere, at home in the EU and abroad, which is at the heart of the Agenda 2030.

Build a strong social Europe that ensures to Leave No One Behind



3. SAFEGUARD AN EU BUDGET FOR THE SDGS - use its potential to leverage sustainability, economic justice and wellbeing through investment in social infrastructure, education and climate action.



4. ENSURE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND - with wealth inequalities rising and over 22% of Europe's population at risk of poverty and social exclusion:

- **greater emphasis is needed on realisation of Agenda 2030 and its principles** to 'Leave No One Behind' within Europe and within planetary boundaries.
- **the EU must rebuild its social model** by fully implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights at European and national level. This must include the full and fair protection to all citizens, while alleviating poverty and providing opportunities for everyone to thrive.
- **socio-economic status as a ground of discrimination** in the Equal Treatment Directives of the EU should be recognised.

Deliver strong monitoring and accountability for Sustainable Development



5. ENHANCE POLICY COHERENCE ACROSS WORKING COMMITTEES –

Debate, input and engage on SDG implementation and monitoring beyond the Environment and Development Committees, with MEPs from other key committees – trade, economy and employment etc. Recognising how human rights and the SDGs are interlinked agendas, support and engage the Poverty and Human Rights Cross-Party Intergroup on monitoring and implementation progress work on the SDGs.



6. SUPPORT IN THE NEW ELECTED PARLIAMENT THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE (or at least an Intergroup) fully dedicated to the

monitoring and the strengthening of the EU commitments towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Leave No One Behind, at home as well as globally. Clear aims of this group work would be to break the silos of the existing Committees or Intergroups and to discuss ways, whatever the policies, to “reach the furthest behind first”.



7. STRENGTHEN MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION – set up a strong

monitoring mechanism to ensure accountability of the European Commission in implementation of the SDGs, including establishing a governance framework that is suitable for supporting a transition towards a sustainable future, such as a fundamentally reformed European Semester, as well as a sustainability-proofed Multiannual Financial Framework.

Cover photo: Ireland and UK by night as seen from the International Space Station. Photo: NASA, 2012

Coalition 2030 is an alliance of over 60 civil society organisations working together to ensure Ireland keeps its promise to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both at home and abroad.

ON THE 24TH MAY 2019 PEOPLE IN IRELAND WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN EUROPEAN AND LOCAL ELECTIONS.

There are many challenges that we face globally as we look to adapt to a low carbon, sustainable society and this year of transition provides opportunities to reshape the overall story of Ireland and the EU. It gives candidates the opportunity to lead on building policies and frameworks that will serve present and future generations and to give sustainable development (not just economic development) the political weight it urgently demands.



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

In January, Dail Eireann marked its 100th anniversary. The Democratic Programme was a core element of that first Dail meeting, outlining the aspirations of what the new government would achieve and the rights that citizens would enjoy under it. As Ireland enters its second centenary, the aspirations and values of the Democratic Programme, and of the European Union, remain as vital and relevant as ever.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles which underpin them, provide the framework to empower us to incorporate and advance these aspirations to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



Similarly, among the core values of the European Union are respect for human rights, freedom, equality and the rule of law. Despite its historic legacy and mission, the response of European decision makers, including Ireland, to the financial crisis, to combating climate change, halting growing inequality, protecting Biodiversity and to increased migration, have seen these core values come under attack and be compromised.