Submission by the National Youth Council of Ireland to the
International Development White Paper Review Process

1. Nature of views (indicate personal / on behalf of an organisation):
   National Youth Council of Ireland

2. Organisation (if applicable):
   National Youth Council of Ireland

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8. Freedom of Information: Responses are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of
   Information Acts and may be released in total or in part. Please indicate if there are
   aspects of your response that you seek to have withheld, and the reasons for same.

   The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) wishes to have all of its submission
   released publically.

9. Date of posting response:
   23rd August 2018
“Together, we can build a world that leaves no one behind, but we must not build it for everyone. We must build it with everyone”

– UN Youth Delegate for Ireland

**Introduction**

The National Youth Council of Ireland is a national organisation which represents and supports community, voluntary and not for profit youth organisations in Ireland. Founded in 1967, we currently have 48 members across Ireland who represent the scope, scale and diversity of the youth work sector (www.youth.ie/members). At a conservative estimate, youth organisations influence the lives of almost 400,000 young people in every community in Ireland – rural and urban. In turn NYCI works in partnership with other local, national and European organisations and institutions to deliver strong outcomes and results that positively impact and support young people in Ireland and internationally.

NYCI offers a variety of programmes and supports to the youth sector through:

- National Youth Health Programme
- National Youth Arts Programme
- Interculturalism and Equality Programme
- International Programme
- Development Education Programme
- UN Youth Delegate Programme
- Child Protection Programme
- STEM in Youth Work Programme
- Youth Policy, Advocacy, Research, Media, and Communications

In our work:

- We believe that all young people have a right to be supported to develop a sense of belonging, competence, and empowerment.
- We believe that a strong and vibrant youth sector has a critical role to play in engaging all young people, especially those who are disconnected from the mainstream, and to work alongside them in building lives that are active, productive and resilient.
- We believe better outcomes are achieved when young people are involved in making decisions that affect them.
• We believe in young people being active participants in their communities (active citizens). This is good for community and good for individuals.
• We value volunteering and the vital role it plays in a healthy vibrant community.
• We value the diversity of the voluntary youth sector and believe that is a key strength.
• We believe that a fair and just society is one where young people are valued, where there is a commitment to justice; a belief in the interdependence of lives and a sense of solidarity that comes from people acting together; a strong commitment to freedom; and, a strong engagement with the ecological values of harmony and balance with nature.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new blueprint for the world and provide a unique opportunity to address the most urgent and fundamental needs of millions of people in Ireland and around the world – people who have the right, and who seek the means and the freedom, to live their lives in dignity. We cannot continue to do business as usual but take this opportunity through the 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators to ensure we are successful, for people and planet, so no one is left behind.

The SDGs will not be achieved without the support from those working in the Development Education and Global Citizenship Education sectors. SDG Target 4.7 calls on countries to

\textit{ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development}

In NYCI’s new 5 year Strategic Plan (2018 – 2023), NYCI has committed to:

• Support the awareness and understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals in partnership with our members to strengthen their role in influencing Ireland’s responsibilities as a signatory - including:

• Ensure the contribution of our members and the youth sector is recognised in Ireland’s reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

• Consult, inform, educate, and update the youth sector including young people about Ireland’s responsibilities under the Sustainable Development Goals and how these relate to their work.

• Demonstrate the benefits of all of our members pooling information, ideas and learning so as to achieve the SDGs in Ireland in terms of how we all do our work.
Following the adoption of the SDGs; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; the UN Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security; and the recent report on Youth and Human Rights; there is unprecedented momentum for working towards sustainable development. There is an urgent need for Irish Aid to work with the youth sector and with young people to engage their knowledge, insight and experience to raise awareness and educate about the SDGs, and key development issues of our time.
Response to the Draft Ireland’s National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1. What elements of Ireland’s long engagement with international development should inform the new policy?

We Irish people have a place within us that is open to the other. Our horizons extend beyond the immediate and the personal and become regional, national and international.

This extension means that we must become both aware and actively concerned about the fact that millions of people do not have access to basic necessities such as food, housing, energy, supplies and reasonable freedom from anxiety about the future.

Development Education challenges complacency — a tolerant and emphatic Ireland demands such a challenge for its vibrant and dynamic realisation

President Mary Robinson
Development Education Supplement in the Irish Times, November 22nd 1995

Development Education inspires global solidarity by supporting people to fully realise their rights, responsibilities and potential as global citizens. Development Education enables people to take action locally and globally - the understanding or theory of change being that such action will contribute to desired transformations in the social, cultural, political and economic structures which affect their lives and the lives of others

Irish Aid Development Education Strategy (2017-2023)

Development Education has formed part of the work of and funding by Irish Aid for close to 40 years. Development Education has supported greater knowledge and understanding about the world in which we live and has supported action by people who were and are empowered to seek a better world, for people and for planet, so no one gets left behind.

The work of Ireland’s Development Education sector has been widely recognised and commended including in the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) peer review where they acknowledged ‘the rich history, traditions, experience and skills evident in Development Education and Global Education in Ireland’ (2015). In fact, the GENE review process acknowledged ‘the important visibility that Irish Aid has achieved for DE within development policy, within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the general public, and elsewhere/with other institutions’. It was recommended by GENE that ‘ways of further strengthening this visibility should be considered’
(GENE, 2015). NYCI believes that this recommendation can be implemented by strengthening the visibility of DE as a core element of Ireland’s new development policy.

We live in challenging and exciting times. We are living and working in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals and it is now appropriate that Development Education be recognised as centrally placed to support Ireland to deliver on its/our SDGs commitments and be considered as strategically important to Ireland and its footprint on the world.

The chief aim of the Irish Aid Development Education Strategic Plan 2017-2023 is that:

*People in Ireland are empowered to analyse and challenge the root causes and consequences of global hunger, poverty, injustice and climate change; inspiring and enabling them to become active global citizens in the creation of a fairer and more sustainable future for all through the provision of quality Development Education.*

To achieve this, NYCI recommends:

**The new White Paper includes the strategic prioritisation of Development Education under an approach titled “Awareness, Engagement, and Participation”**

This approach is central to promoting sustainable development, equality, peace, and human rights through education with active involvement of local, European and programme country partners.

This approach should recognise the role for formal, non-formal and informal education in supporting the work of Irish Aid and its partners, in Ireland and throughout the world. NYCI would especially advocate for a *stronger focus on non-formal education and in particular the need for greater supports for youth work organisations to play their role in bringing about transformative change*. The SDGs National Implementation Plan recognises youth as one of the key stakeholders. NYCI is calling on Irish Aid to assist in making this a reality by advocating that the youth sector be recognised as a strategic partner of Irish Aid in its new White Paper and that strategic partnerships for the youth sector be put in place to maximise the opportunities laid out in the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy.

It is essential to the success of the Irish Aid programme that the people of Ireland continue their strong support for the work of Irish Aid and its partners. NYCI calls for greater policy coherence and communication between government departments to ensure that Ireland remains the leader in implementation as it was in the formation of the SDGs. Climate change, tax justice, trade, agriculture, inequality, migration, conflict, peace and security are issues that are and will
determine how our people and planet progress over the next century. These areas require careful consideration and targeting. Focusing only on awareness raising will not achieve the desired result. Education and active participation of the people of Ireland is necessary for the success of the SDGs, and Development Educators have the knowledge and skills to make this happen – in Ireland and throughout the world.

NYCI believes that the artificial and unclear distinction between Public Engagement and Development Education should be removed as it is causing confusion and is undermining the potential of Development Education.

**The new White Paper should include and support Civil Society regarding Solidarity, Universality, Learning, and Reciprocity.**

Development Education should not be limited to the island of Ireland. DE should be used as a tool to educate, raise awareness and encourage active participation and engagement in partner countries. In response to the changing global context the promotion of mutual exchange and cooperation between people from all corners of the world will advance critical engagement by learning from multiple perspectives to create new connections and diverse understandings. **NYCI is calling for a strategic partnership with Irish Aid to support greater solidarity, universality, learning and reciprocity between the youth sector in Ireland and in Irish Aid partner countries.** Among the areas that could be addressed are Development Education, Health, Technology, and Interculturalism. **NYCI calls for the adoption of a youth worker exchange programme similar to that run in the past:**

http://www.youthdeved.ie/development_education/zambia-ireland-exchange

**Increased investment in Development Education - NYCI advocates that Irish Aid increase investment in Development Education from 0.57% in 2017 to 3.0% of ODA within an agreed timeframe, and this funding should be ring-fenced in line with the ODA budget.**

Ireland’s high-quality DE has been driven by the commitment of civil society over decades, and the ongoing support from Irish Aid for DE must be commended. However, the Joint Oireachtas *Review of the Irish Aid Programme* found that ‘there is concern around the low levels of funding for communicating the results of Ireland’s development programme and educating people throughout the country about overseas development’ (JCFATD, 2018).

DE has played an integral role in providing continued support for development cooperation by the people of Ireland. However, underinvestment represents a significant barrier to it reaching its full potential. The success of Irish Aid’s DE Strategy 2017-2023 requires a strong DE sector for the delivery of high quality and effective DE in Ireland and further afield.
The review of the Irish Aid White paper illustrated that in 2015 the Irish Aid Development Education budget was 0.5% of ODA and has not been in line with increases in the overall aid budget. This underinvestment represents a barrier to DE in Ireland reaching its full potential. Furthermore, Irish Aids current DE Strategy will not be achieved if current financial commitments are maintained.

**Development Education should be properly (financially) resourced and recognised across government as a gateway through which young people and those who work with young people in the youth work, non-formal education sector are empowered to analyse, reflect on and challenge at a local and global level, the root causes and consequences of hunger, poverty, injustice, inequality, extremism, and climate change; presenting multiple perspectives on global justice issues.** Irish Aid should prioritise Development Education as essential for maintaining public engagement with Ireland’s Aid Programme. This should be reflected in Irish Aid funding of programmes, policy support, and communications including annual reports, print, visual and social media.

The SDGs is a huge agenda and capacity by youth organisations to engage in this is very limited. **NYCI would welcome special supports for the youth sector to actively and adequately engage youth target groups in SDGs work. Target groups would include young people, youth leaders, youth organisations, youth workers, volunteers, youth work students, academia, policy makers, and Government Departments.**

**NYCI strongly advocates for an increase in the DE budget from 0.57% in 2017 to 3.0% of ODA.** In 2005, a European Commission conference made up of member state ministries, including Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, and civil society representatives concluded that:

> National and European authorities should ensure there is adequate funding for development education and awareness-raising in their planning. It is proposed that the European Commission and Member states move towards or beyond a figure of 3% of ODA, as proposed in a UNDP Report. This increase in funding implies the necessary quality, efficiency and effectiveness of development education and awareness raising activities

(Belgian Development Cooperation, 2005)

https://www.dochas.ie/sites/default/files/Recommendations%20to%20NGOs%20and%20Governments%20on%20Development%20Education.pdf

**NYCI also proposes that upon reaching its target of 3% that it be ring-fenced according to the ODA budget.** Increasing investment in the sector can only strengthen and broaden the scope of its work that has already been highly commended by European peers.
NYCI is calling on the Irish Government to release a roadmap for achieving its 0.7% ODA commitment by 2025 as part of its new international development policy, including Development Education as a priority sector for support.

NYCI is calling for funding modalities to be altered to encourage innovation, sustainability and partnership. These should allow for a mixed, balanced and longer-term DE programme through multi-annual funding, strategic partnerships and innovation funding.

NYCI calls for match funding to be available to Irish DE programmes that access European or international investment.

NYCI calls for partnerships and networking to be positively viewed and encouraged through funding schemes and associated scoring mechanisms. Many NGO’s have different skillsets and experiences and could bring much needed added value to activities.

Encouraging a joined-up approach for activities in and outside of Ireland could improve the outcomes of our collective efforts. This partnership approach could be accompanied by the encouragement of innovation in development. An incubation scheme for partnerships could be set up to trial and prototype creative approaches. Incubation hubs work very well within the private sector so why not try it within the development sector.

The optional status of Development Education in Irish Aid Programme Grants should be removed, and the requirement to include Development Education in the work of INGOs should be reinstated.
2. What are the implications of the changing global context for Ireland’s International development cooperation and humanitarian action?

Young People must be a Key Population for Irish Aid – in Ireland and abroad – across all areas of policy and practice

- There are 1.8 billion young people aged 10-24 living on the planet today – representing one quarter of the world’s population and the largest number of young people in history.
- The population on the African continent is expected to double by 2050 to 2.5 billion people. Africa will then be home to 40% of the world’s youth.
- In Ireland, one third of the population are under 25 years and particularly those aged 10-24 years represent 18.3% of the total population of 4.59 million people.
- It is estimated by the United Nations that close to 90% of the world’s youth live in developing countries.
- More than 500 million young people aged 15-24 live on less than $2 a day.
- Some 74 million young people are unemployed and more than 600 million jobs need to be generated globally (including Ireland) by the year 2030.
- 1 in 10 children in the world live in conflict zones.
- 24 million young people are out of school.
- 37.7% of working youth live in poverty.
- Irish Census 2016 indicates that Ireland’s population aged 10-24 years will increase to over one million by 2025, so Ireland needs to invest in policies, services and supports to meet the needs of young people today, while preparing for demographic pressures in the coming years.
- Intergenerational solidarity has never been so important and urgent as we work together to build a safer and more sustainable present and future for people and for planet, so no one gets left behind.
- By 2050, with a projected increased global population of 9.6 billion, we would need the equivalent of almost 3 planets worth of resources to sustain our way of living, if our current consumption and production patterns remain the same.
- The impact of climate change is projected to slow down economic growth, make poverty reduction more difficult, further erode food security, and prolong existing and create new poverty traps. (IPCC)


These statistics begin to tell a story about the opportunities and challenges there will be to deliver ‘quality lifestyles’ for current and future generations of young people as they progress through their lives. It is therefore important that young people are involved and engaged in how we progress as a society and as a planet, as we tackle some of the key challenges of our and their time.
In global development terms, young people are connected in ways previous
generations could not have imagined. Young people in many cases are aware of the
world around them and those in developing countries are acutely aware of their
history and colonial past.

Youth engagement (policy and practice) and sustainable development is a key issue
for young people because:

a. Young people have the right to participate in decisions shaping their present
and future.
b. Young people are creative and motivated to bring about change.
c. It is young people who will be most impacted by how successful we are in
meeting targets set out in the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, and other
local, national and global agreements and strategies.
d. Many young people are already aware of what is just and unjust and are
making choices, participating in actions, and innovating with others, working
towards a more sustainable future.
e. Sustainable development is important across all policy areas and it is
important we all work together – the youth sector, the development sector, the
environmental sector, etc to ensure we achieve the SDGs to secure the world
for everyone and particularly those furthest behind.
f. In the interest of intergenerational solidarity, the National Youth Council of
Ireland and Irish Aid (and others) must represent the interests of future
generations of young people.

Irish Aid and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) have supported
youth engagement (on the SDGs and more broadly) in Ireland through Development
Education, One World Week, and the UN Youth Delegate Programme which
produced a Spotlight Report on Youth, Sustainable Development Goals and Ireland
report in 2018 http://www.youth.ie/nyci/Generation-Change This is most welcome.
However, there is great potential to engage young people more through
Development Education and across other areas of Irish Aid - policy and advocacy.

To support youth engagement, education, participation, and action; to facilitate
greater empowerment of young people and willingness to act on issues
affecting them and their communities/peers, Irish Aid must take a leading role
at local, national, European, and global level.
To achieve this, NYCI recommends:

**A new ‘Youth and Future Generations Unit’ within Irish Aid and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.**

Whilst every issue is a youth issue, there are some specific areas that could benefit from more coordinated attention and partnership between Irish Aid, relevant Government Departments and civil society in Ireland and partner countries (at policy and practice levels) in order to address the future challenges young people and society will face:

- **Sustainable Development Goals** (youth indicators, interconnectedness of the SDGs, and whole of Government approach to youth issues – in Ireland and in partner countries).

  Youth organisations and those working with young people have learning to gain and to give, and NYCI would like to explore the future potential of this with Irish Aid with regard to the White Paper – particularly with regard to Youth Health and the Health Quality Mark that NYCI runs each year; the greater engagement by Irish Aid in targeting xenophobia, racism and hate speech; youth and human rights; and broadening the reach/financing of Development Education to deepen engagement in the Youth Work non-formal education sector.

- **Youth, Peace and Security** – In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and this was followed in 2018 by Resolution 2419 both of which focus on the importance of empowering young people to participate and take ownership in bringing about more peaceful communities and a more peaceful world. **NYCI calls for a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security** – similar to that in place on Women, Peace and Security. This is something that the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence (2018: 29) said should be strongly considered in its Review of the Irish Aid Programme [https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/32/joint_committee_on_foreign_affairs_and_trade_and_defence/reports/2018/2018-02-22_report-review-of-the-irish-aid-programme_en.pdf](https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/32/joint_committee_on_foreign_affairs_and_trade_and_defence/reports/2018/2018-02-22_report-review-of-the-irish-aid-programme_en.pdf) NYCI would be happy to discuss this further.

- **A new UN Youth Strategy** is due for publication in September 2018. This is a new opportunity for exploring how Ireland and civil society in Ireland can operationalise this in Ireland and with partner countries.

- Children and young people form a core group who are most at risk in situations of conflict and climate change. NYCI would contend that greater connection between different units within Irish Aid and cross-departmentally
and with civil society would be hugely beneficial to Development Educators and to NGOs based in Ireland/internationally who work on development, peace, justice, climate, human rights, and youth issues.

- The LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020 is the first of its kind in the world. The Mission of the Strategy is that all LGBTI+ young people are visible, valued and included. It seeks to ensure a cross-governmental approach to put measures in place to address the key challenges faced by LGBTI+ young people. There is much learning from this which would be beneficial to Irish Aid in its work https://www.dcya.gov.ie/documents/20180709LGBTINationalYouthStrategyRev.pdf

We have all inherited a world that has a history and a past. We have a collective responsibility and must work together with young people today and into the future to secure a peaceful and sustainable planet for the generations to come.

**Migration, Irish Aid, and Development Education**

According to the latest estimates by UN DESA, the number of international migrants worldwide reached 258 million persons in 2017, an increase of almost 50 per cent since 2000. 5551 asylum seekers currently ‘live’ in the Irish reception system, 4185 over the age of 13 (http://www.ria.gov.ie/en/RIA/RIA%20Monthly%20Report%202018.pdf). Irish research has found that LGBTQI+ people were 8-11% of the population. Of the 4185 asylum seekers over the age of 13 currently in accommodation centres in Ireland 8% (represents 335) that could identify as LGBTQI+ and therefore be open to increased risk in accommodation centres in Ireland.

The European Migration Network report on Approaches to Unaccompanied Minors Following Status Determination in the EU plus Norway has found that:

- Between 2014 and 2017, some 219,575 minors came to the EU and Norway unaccompanied, i.e. without a parent or another adult responsible for them, to seek asylum.
- At least another 48,591 minors came unaccompanied for other reasons, though the number of those outside the asylum system remains largely unknown.
- The countries with highest numbers of minors applying for asylum in the EU were Germany (71,675), Sweden (45,065), Italy (22,540) Austria (15,500) and Hungary (10,860).
- The majority of unaccompanied minors were boys (89%). Most were young boys of 16 and 17 years of age (65%) with only a small proportion being less than 14 years old.
- The top five countries of origin were Afghanistan (82,625), Syria (34,205), Eritrea (15,970), Iraq (10,975) and Somalia (10,385).
The majority of unaccompanied minors arriving in Member States are granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, and Member States provide (temporary) residence permits once a positive decision on the application has been taken. 

In July 2018, the UN General Assembly agreed a final draft on ‘The Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration’ which is set to be formally adopted at an intergovernmental conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018.

The Global Compact on Migration recognises that:

Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history, and we recognise that it is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalised world, and that these positive impacts can be optimised by improving migration governance. The majority of migrants around the world today travel, live and work in a safe, orderly and regular manner. Nonetheless, migration undeniably affects our countries, communities, migrants and their families in very different and sometimes unpredictable ways.

Development Education has a central role to play in supporting the successful implementation of the Global Compact in Ireland and in countries who partner with Irish Aid.

To achieve this, NYCI recommends:

- Greater recognition for DE would see SDG4.7 fully operationalised, supporting greater understanding about migration (push and pull factors), education about human mobility, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity as well as Irish Aid and DFAT moving towards the successful achievement of SDG10, SDG12, and SDG16.
- Specific work on xenophobia, racism and discrimination is not currently funded by Irish Aid. This is a missed opportunity for Irish Aid to support Development Educators and migrant communities in Ireland to take a leadership role in raising awareness, educating and engaging the public on key issues affecting their communities, our communities, so that we can all flourish better together.
- Ireland could better support migrant organisations in Ireland where many struggle to meet the needs of their various communities and to meet the governance requirements set down for organisations in Ireland.
3. Do the proposed priorities contribute to the achievement of our vision of a more equal, peaceful, sustainable world in a changing global context?

Development Education, as a means of educating and engaging all parts of society, is a fundamental and essential part of international development. The universal focus on the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals together with the local-global dimensions of issues such as climate change, migration, human rights, health and advances in technology mean that development is no longer about north and south or developed and developing but about shared global crises, opportunities and phenomenon such as climate change and migration, threats to peace, democratic principles and practices and human rights.

NYCI supports the concept of development as shared responsibility – requiring citizens from all parts of the world, North and South, developed and developing. The world is more complex and connected than ever before with increasing inequality within countries – north and south. This was highlighted by President Michael D Higgins in 2016:

…one of the basic premises of the new framework for sustainable development is that all countries are inherently unfinished projects. No country is ever fully ‘developed’; all of them are ‘developing countries’, continuously transforming and seeking new ways to respond adequately to fluctuating global circumstances and to fundamental challenges at the heart of every society: that of guaranteeing the well-being, flourishing and full participation of all its citizens, both today and in the future.

To achieve this, NYCI recommends:

- Greater recognition by Irish Aid of the role of Development Education and SDG 4.7 in Ireland and the world in broadening support for the goals, increasing understanding of the root causes of the issues underpinning the goals and encouraging active engagement by people to ensure implementation of the goals.

- Irish Aid recognise the non-formal youth work sector when reporting on SDG4.7 as currently the indicator focus is on formal education only.
4. How can we improve delivery of Ireland’s international development cooperation and humanitarian action?

NYCI recommends the following to ensure a Strategic Prioritisation of Development Education and of Young People in the White Paper:

- Development Education should be identified as a ‘Strategic Priority for Action: Awareness, Engagement and Participation’ in the White Paper and the new Irish Aid Strategy.
- The Irish Aid Development Education Strategy should be integrated into Irish Aid management planning and overall strategic approaches, with clear actions associated with this prioritisation.
- Development Education requires greater commitment and integration across relevant Government Departments as envisaged in the National Youth Strategy including the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and the Department of Education and Skills as well as other relevant government departments, state agencies and community development structures. This was envisaged in the National Youth Strategy (2015: 33):

  5.9 Create a forum of interests to support, through cross sectoral collaboration, the implementation in the youth sector of the new Sustainable Development Goals (2015), the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (2014) and the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy (forthcoming)  

- A whole of government approach to Irish Aid is required for policy coherence and for public engagement.
- NYCI is calling on Irish Aid to formally recognise the youth sector as a strategic partner of Irish Aid in its new White Paper and that strategic partnerships for the youth sector be put in place to maximise the opportunities laid out in the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy.
- The engagement by and inclusion of young people and the youth sector should also be expanded. Irish Aid should consider a new ‘Youth and Future Generations Unit’ within Irish Aid and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, supporting important work that will be required to meet the needs of current and future generations of young people. A Youth Focal Point within Irish Aid is a minimal requirement to meet that need.
- Irish Aid, together with NYCI and other civil society/development partners, should work with young people to introduce a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security.
- The scope and understanding of DE should be utilised as a tool for active participation in Ireland and beyond in partner countries.
- Funding for DE should be linked to ODA and at a rate of 3% by 2023.
• Development Education should be sustainably supported through strategic multiannual funding modalities and strategic partnerships, as well as the current Annual Grant system which should continue for newer applicants, ‘seed funding’ and innovative approaches to DE reaching new audiences and key stakeholders.

• Government should find ways to strengthen support and funding for innovative ways of engaging with the public, particularly young people, to communicate the achievements of the Irish Aid programme, and encourage ongoing participation in initiatives focused on Development Education and Volunteering (JCFATD, 2018: 30)


• SDG target 4.7 is recognised and monitored in achieving the SDGs with a specific target for non-formal and youth work sector. Irish Aid can be a global leader in this regard where currently no country has adopted an indicator to collect information on what the non-formal education sectors are doing in relation to the Development Education and Global Citizenship Education.

• The distinction between Development Education and Public Engagement in the Irish Aid Programme Grants should be removed, and the requirement to include Development Education should be reinstated. NYCI would welcome an opportunity to contribute to this discussion.

• Young people and youth sector (organisations, volunteers, academia, policymakers, etc) must be supported and resourced to ensure they fulfil their role as leaders in delivering on Irish Aid commitments and on the SDGs. The non-formal youth sector is well placed, using their unique knowledge, skills, interactive and action-based approaches to engage the wider public on Development Education and SDGs.

• A Development Education Reference Group should be established by Irish Aid comprising representatives of key sectors in DE to advise and inform the delivery of the Irish Aid Development Education Strategy 2017-2023.

• The scope and understanding of DE should be utilised as a tool for active participation in Ireland and beyond in partner countries.
References


WE ALL KNOW HOW EASY IT IS TO GET CAUGHT UP IN WHAT WE DO FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT AND LOSE SIGHT OF THE BIGGER PICTURE. BUT WHILE CHANGING THE WORLD MIGHT NOT BE EASY, IT’S ALSO NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#YouthUP #SDGs

Your people are much more likely to champion causes that impact on their lives and the lives of those around them – but that’s difficult to do if you are facing poverty and social exclusion.

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#YouthUP #SDGs
The SDGs represent an UNPRECEDENTED COLLECTIVE VISION of the future that has been agreed by almost all the countries in the world. The goals lay out an integrated vision of what it means to develop. WHAT’S IMPORTANT NOW IS TO IMPLEMENT THEM

Leaving No One Behind

Meaningful Participation

Key Values of the SDGs

Niamh Garvey
Head of Policy and Advocacy
Traidcraft

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#YouthUP #SDGs

Only 25% of the largest 250 companies in the world have carbon reduction programmes in line with what science recommends. If we could get the other 75% of companies to sign up to climate change agreements, it would make a significant difference.

We need to get companies to lobby to get better at regulation and compliance on climate change rather than lobbying to get around it.

Charles Seaford
Chair of the International Union of Sustainable Development

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#YouthUP #SDGs

There are no non radical solutions. RADICAL is about looking at the real root causes of what’s wrong in the world and making real alignments for change.

Laura Sullivan
Director of Policy
CONCORD

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
#YouthUP #SDGs