

Title: Promising the World

Aim: To highlight promises that have been made to tackle global poverty and to explore our role in achieving them

Age: 10+

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: 'Agree' and 'Disagree' sign, blu-tac, markers, paper, copies of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) below and copy of the statements




WHAT TO DO

Part 1: In the large group, ask participants to think about a recent promise they made. How do we feel when we keep a promise or someone keeps a promise they made to us? What about when someone breaks a promise? Why do people make promises? Is it fair to make a promise and not to keep it?

Part 2: Brainstorm with the group what the initials MDG might stand for. Explain that they are the Millennium Development Goals, a promise made by governments all over the world in the year 2000 to try end extreme hunger and poverty by the year 2015.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

 End Poverty and Hunger	Maternal Health
Universal Education	Combat HIV/AIDS
Gender Equality	Environmental Sustainability
Child Health	Global Partnership

Display 'Agree' and 'Disagree' signs at opposite ends of the room, as well as the MDGs where the participants can see them. Explain that you will read out a series of statements. Based on whether they agree or disagree, the participants should move towards that end of the room. If they are undecided or don't know, they can stay in the middle of the room. The following are only suggestions – use more or fewer, or create your own. After reading out each statement, discuss with the group why some of them are standing where they are standing.

Statements

- The Millennium Development Goals need to be renewed for 15 more years
- The best way to make politicians listen to us is to let us vote
- Development is about everyone having access to mobile telephones, internet and social media
- We should give more money to overseas aid
- I am willing to change my habits so others can live a better life



FACT BOX: In the year 2000, the world agreed to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. With the deadline fast approaching, what comes next? The world needs to agree a new 'recipe' for international development that will replace the MDGs. Some think that new targets should be 'Sustainable Development Goals'. Sustainable development is defined as *"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"* (Source: Brundtland Commission report, 1987)

Part 3: Read out the statement: 'Sustainable Development means enough for us all, forever.' What does that mean? In pairs, think about what is missing from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and what they would like to see included in the future 'recipe' for development in Ireland and in the Global South. What would help communities everywhere to be more resilient? Think about the issues explored in this resource pack like water, land use, conflict, drugs and so on. List all of their ideas on a page. Next to it list what actions would have to be taken – by governments but also by people like them and their communities to create a better life for everyone. Finally, ask everyone to think of one thing that they personally will do to create a better future and complete the sentence 'I promise...'. Ask them to draw a foot-print and write their personal 'I promise..' statement inside it. Display the footprints in your organisation or community.



On the first of January, 2013, Ireland takes over the presidency of the European Union (EU). For six months, Ireland will be in charge of the EU's highest decision-making body: the Council of Ministers. This gives us a unique chance to have a real say in world politics.

During these six months, there are many issues already to deal with, including the Euro-zone crisis, unemployment, conflicts in the Middle East, and even agreeing the EU budget for the next 7 years.

Dóchas, the Irish association of development NGOs, want the Irish Government to prioritise one key issue - to help create a better, fairer world for people and communities in Ireland and worldwide.

The new 'recipe' for development will be agreed at an international meeting called 'Beyond 2015' in September 2013. The EU is a powerful voice on the international stage and will be negotiating this new 'recipe' on our behalf. Dóchas wants Ireland to use the EU Presidency to create a new, ambitious and universal vision for a better world and sustainable development. We want to make sure that people in Ireland have a say on what the world looks like. It's our planet, and we deserve to be heard.

ACTION IDEA: Visit www.actnow2015.ie and contact your local TD to encourage Ireland to keep its overseas aid promise. Watch the video of the public survey carried out 'Street Interview – Ireland and Overseas Aid' on YouTube. Call on the Irish Government to use the EU Presidency to make real progress on creating a sustainable future for everyone – in Ireland and in the rest of the World

Have your say and communicate your ideas to the Irish Government. Here's how:

1. Join the conversation on the world we want, log on to www.worldwewant.ie
2. Join the search for ideas for an Equal, Sustainable and Thriving Ireland on www.claimingourfuture.ie

DID YOU KNOW? Ireland's EU presidency falls exactly 40 years since we joined the EU, and 40 years since the creation of the Irish Aid programme. In Tanzania, 96% of all children now go to school compared with only 50% in 1990. In Vietnam the number of poor people has fallen from 58% in 1990 to 15 % in 2008. Both Tanzania and Vietnam are 2 of 9 programme countries of Irish Aid, where Irish Aid has a commitment to provide long-term strategic assistance. (Source: Act Now on 2015 campaign)