





## What are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?

In September 2015, 193 countries met in New York and signed the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda has become the guide to the world's social, economic, and environmental actions to achieve a sustainable future by 2030.

The framework consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs). Each of these goals has a number of targets associated with it (169 in total). Indicators identify the data that will be used to measure progress towards these targets and to determine if it has been achieved successfully by 2030.

The global progress is monitored by the UN. Individual countries must provide voluntary national reviews including stakeholder involvement. In Ireland, the overall responsibility for implementing the UN SDGs lies with the Department of Communications, Climate Action, and Environment (DCCAE).

Inclusion is at the core of the UN SDGs, and as a result, governments, the corporate sector, and citizens are called upon to make the SDG agenda a reality.

 [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

## SDG Champions Programme

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Champions Programme is an initiative established by the SDG Unit in the Department of Communication, Climate Action, and Environment. The Minister and the Department believe that the SDG Champions Programme has the potential to achieve nationwide prominence and raise public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The purpose of the SDG Champions Programme is primarily to raise public awareness of the SDGs, and secondarily to illustrate practical ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs, using Champion organisations' practices as examples.

Each Champion organisation is focusing primarily on a select number of SDGs each. As individual Champions will promote specific SDGs, each of the twelve campaigns will be distinct in terms of the goals they are championing.

However, all twelve campaigns will be built around the core message that the Sustainable Development Goals are for everyone in society and that everyone can make a contribution, large or small, to their success.



Trade unions were instrumental in shaping the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, to include priorities such as decent work, the fight against inequalities, just transition, and civil society participation.

Congress is affiliated internationally to the ETUC and the ITUC who play an active role internationally on the goals, co-ordinating trade union input to the HLPF and at EU level with the European Commission.

We have also played an active role nationally in seeking to raise awareness about the goals amongst our membership and in engagements with Government in terms of their implementation of the agenda, through making submissions and actively participating in national stakeholder fora. We are also a founding member of the civil society grouping here in Ireland Coalition 2030.

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