

**Coalition 2030**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**EMBARGO: 7am 20 September 2022**

## **“Budget needs to reach the furthest behind first” says civil society coalition at start of first national Sustainable Development Goals Week**

Coalition 2030, a coalition of 70 civil society organisations across the international, environmental, anti-poverty and trade union sectors is today calling for the Government to reach the furthest behind first by prioritising the vulnerable and marginalised in the upcoming budget. The Coalition is calling on the Government to stand by the commitment made by Ireland in 2015 to leave no one behind when it agreed to work towards achieving the 17 United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). The Government produced a national plan for achieving the goals in 2018 which expired in 2020, and was due to publish the follow-up plan in 2021. However it has still not been published, meaning that Ireland has been without a national plan for almost two the fifteen years available to achieve the SDGs. The Coalition is arguing for what they say is a fair and long-term approach that supports those who need it most while also investing in a fossil fuel free economy that is resilient to energy price shocks.

**Michelle Murphy, Research and Policy Analyst at Social Justice Ireland, a member organisation of Coalition 2030 said,**

*“The most recent [UN Human Development Report](#) was clear: We need increased investment, innovation and social insurance (the 3 I’s) across societies if we are to lift everyone out of poverty while staying within planetary limits. The Government now has an opportunity to design fiscal policies that do just that, while also preventing even more inequality from being locked into our societies for decades to come. This budget needs to consider those on low and fixed incomes as they spend a greater proportion of their income on inelastic necessities (basics such as energy, housing costs and food) than higher-income households and so are more exposed to price volatility. The Government also needs to consider the particular needs of older people, those living alone, renters, people with disabilities, carers, forcibly displaced persons, inhabitants of rural Ireland, and Travellers and Roma people.”*

The Coalition cites ESRI [research](#) showing that higher energy prices affect low-income households more negatively than those on higher incomes as lower-income households spend more of their income on heating and electricity.

**According to Oisín Coghlan, CEO of Friends of the Earth and member of Coalition 2030 Steering Committee,**

*“We are seeing an unprecedented cost of living crisis compounded by spiking energy costs - and it’s the people who are already struggling that are now being impacted most severely. The Government must SDG-proof every budgetary policy and ask ‘who is this helping and who is this harming?’ The fact of the matter is, we likely all need some support, but what we want is for the Government to prioritise the support it gives to those who need it the most. But we also need to make sure that we don’t lock ourselves into even more fossil fuels as that will bring even more inequality and social injustice down the road. Budget 2023 has to reduce energy poverty while also reducing energy pollution.”*

The Coalition emphasises that the budget must also take into account the importance of directing some of our financial resources towards helping those who are suffering the impacts of climate chaos and food insecurity abroad. Budget 2023 takes place in the context of an unfolding crisis in the Horn of Africa where 23 million people (4.6 times the population of Ireland) face severe hunger as further delayed rains exacerbate what was already the worst drought in four decades.

**Louise Finan, Coalition 2030 Chair and Head of Policy at Dóchas, the Irish network of international NGOs said,**

*“Budget Day this year will mark almost seven years to the day since agreement on the SDGs was reached by 193 countries. Ireland co-led these historic negotiations and we should be rightly proud of this, but since then we haven’t seen the necessary political ambition or policy implementation to set us on the path to achieving the SDGs by 2030. We must stand up and act in the interest of those who are being left behind both in Ireland and across the globe if we are serious in fulfilling the commitments we have made.”*

**Aidan Kenny, member of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Global Solidarity Committee and Coalition 2030 steering committee member said,**

*“We are almost halfway through the period of time we have to achieve the SDGs. This means that the Government has a limited window of time to implement SDG policy measures that can move towards eliminating poverty, provide access to quality education and training for all,*

*reduce inequality of all kinds and create job opportunities that are climate and nature positive via a genuinely just transition. Budget 2023 is a key moment in the creation of a just transition pathway and so it must integrate the SDGs. It needs to contain realistic resources and actions to achieve fair and equitable sustainable development for all.”*

The call comes on the first day of Ireland's first SDG Week which is from the 20th to the 26th of September.

## **ENDS**

For further information, please contact Meaghan Carmody, Coalition 2030 Coordinator at 083-199-3941 and [meaghan@coalition2030.ie](mailto:meaghan@coalition2030.ie).

## **Notes to Editor**

1. Coalition 2030 is an alliance of 70 civil society organisations across the international, environmental, domestic anti-poverty, trade union and academic sectors working together to ensure Ireland keeps its promise to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both at home and abroad. For further information see <https://www.ireland2030.org/about-us-1>
2. The SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals intended to be achieved by 2030 and designed to be a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
3. [Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
4. [Human Development Report 2021-22: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World](#)
5. Energy poverty at highest recorded rate, ESRI <https://www.esri.ie/news/energy-poverty-at-highest-recorded-rate>
6. [Horn of Africa crisis – Irish charities come together to Sound the alarm as famine looms](#)
7. Coalition 2030 Members:

### Domestic anti-poverty and equality

- 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World
- Age Action
- Akidwa
- Alcohol Forum
- AONTAS the National Adult Learning Organisation
- ATD All Together in Dignity
- BFLGI Baby Feeding Law Group of Ireland
- Christian Aid
- Community Work Ireland

- Development Perspectives
- Disability Federation Ireland
- European Anti Poverty Network Ireland
- Global Citizenship School
- IFPA Irish Family Planning Association
- Irish Rural Link
- Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
- National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)
- National Women's Council of Ireland
- National Youth Council of Ireland
- Pavee Point
- Social Justice Ireland
- Spunout
- The Wheel
- VPSJ Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice <https://www.budgeting.ie/>
- Children's Rights Alliance

#### Environment

- Airfield
- An Taisce
- Carrig Conservation
- Cork Environmental Forum
- Cultivate
- ECO UNESCO
- Environmental Pillar
- Foodcloud
- Friends of the Earth
- Global Action Plan
- Good Energies Alliance Ireland
- Green Foundation Ireland
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Rediscovery Centre
- Roscommon Environmental Network
- Voice
- Zero Waste Alliance Ireland
- Foodture

#### International

- Action Aid
- Aidlink
- CBM Christian Blind Mission
- ChildFund Ireland

- Comhlámh
- Concern
- Dóchas
- Fairtrade Ireland
- Global Schoolroom
- GOAL
- IDEA Irish Development Education Association
- International Presentation Association
- Irish Forum for Global Education
- Irish Global Health Network
- Misean Cara
- Self Help Africa
- Sightsavers Ireland
- Trócaire
- UNICEF
- World Vision Ireland
- Voluntary Services Overseas
- The Ladder
- TASC

#### Trade Union

- ASTI
- Fórsa
- ICTU Irish Congress of Trade Unions
- SIPTU Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union

#### Academic

- TCD Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI)
- UNESCO-Chair MTU
- Centre for Youth Research and Development, Maynooth University.
- NUI Galway