



2023 Work Plan - Introduction

Below is the Steering Committee's proposal for how Coalition 2030's finances, staff member, energy and expertise should be deployed/allocated for maximum impact in 2023. The proposals are rooted in the [strategy for 2020-2023](#) and the agreed mission of Coalition 2030, which is:

to facilitate the members working collectively and individually in order to fulfil the objectives of the Coalition and to ensure as far as is possible, the achievement of the UN Sustainable Goals.

The first version of this work plan was edited to include suggestions made by Coalition 2030 members at the plenary on December 7th 2022, as well as input from the Steering Committee provided at their meeting on January 9th. It will be finalised following members' approval via email in January 2023¹.

Context

We are nearing the mid-way point of the SDGs, and there have been significant developments in Ireland in recent months. The second National Implementation Plan for the SDGs was launched in October 2022 by eleven Ministers including the three Government party leaders, there is a new and improved Policy Map naming lead departments for each SDG target, and the National Stakeholder Forum now has a dedicated stakeholder committee which our Coordinator sits on (as well as some of our members) ensuring that it is inclusive and fit for purpose. However, there is much room for improvement in the second SDG plan, many political representatives are still not sufficiently familiar with the SDGs, and **in no party are the SDGs being used consistently to inform policy choices and enable policy coherence.**

If we can imagine a 2030 where the SDGs are the **'DNA of Government' and the lexicon underpinning how Governments govern**, the question is, how do we get there? Working backwards from this endpoint highlights that we need an *ambitious* and *intentional* Oireachtas. This is because the shift to an SDG framing will not be a simple one for a system that is largely siloed. Therefore, it is clear that politicians must understand the value of the SDGs, and feel a renewed and consistent pressure from civil society to achieve the SDGs.

The next Government will be in power for the last five years of the SDGs. It makes sense therefore that Coalition 2030 would make a concerted effort to ensure that the next Programme for Government uses the SDGs as a tool for policy coherence, and crucially, that it delivers the SDGs. This requires engaging with political parties now, as some are already beginning to shape their manifestos for Government. It also requires an effort to gather data which genuinely reflects where Ireland is in its achievement of the SDGs, so that targeted approaches to reach the furthest behind first can not just be promoted in the coming years, but can be buttressed by high quality data.

Additionally, Ireland's 2023 Voluntary National Review is the last VNR where the trajectory towards the SDGs can meaningfully be changed by 2030. Hence, the focus on this moment in the 2023 Work Plan.

[Note] The work plan below would constitute the 'core' Coalition 2030 work. However, members are strongly encouraged to carry out activities that drive the achievement of this work plan, in particular local authority engagement, storytelling, awareness-raising activities and research. There is some seed funding for these activities via the Member Project Fund. Details and application form here

[Coalition 2030 Member SDG Project Fund - Application Form 2023](#)

¹ This work plan will replace the 2022 work plan developed and adopted by the Steering Committee in May 2022 and agreed by the Coalition 2030 membership at the May 2022 plenary.

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Context

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2020-2023 Strategic Outcomes:

Amendments based on consultation with membership via plenary and email, and discussion by Steering Committee on January 9th

'Alternative VNR' / Civil Society Review

Local Authorities

MEPs

Journalists / media literacy

Cross-cutting issues

Public event / photo stunt

Schools

Conferences, events and third level education

Work Plan

1.1 Develop an 'Alternative VNR' (Voluntary National Review) from a civil society perspective ('Civil Society Alternative VNR')

1.2 Brief Oireachtas Committees, in particular on VNR work and on reporting requirements

1.3 Progress Departmental Reporting

1.4 Oversee the development of an 'alternative budget analysis'

1.5 Attend Ard Fheis' / Political Party Conventions

1.6 Meet with influential political and staff representatives, and departmental officials

2020-2023 Strategic Objective 2: Promote engagement and informed action on the SDGs by building a coherent understanding of the issues that impact on the lives of people in Ireland and throughout the world.

2.1 Strengthen and improve the SDG National Stakeholder Forum (NSF)

2.2 Send Coalition 2030 delegates to the High Level Political Forum in July and provide an Oireachtas briefing in advance

2.3 Send Coalition 2030 delegates to the SDG Summit in September and provide an Oireachtas briefing in advance

2.4 Hold (or facilitate the holding of) at least one public awareness-raising event this year

2020-2023 Strategic Objective 2: Be an effective coalition that supports, amplifies and leverages the work of its members to promote our collective vision and achieve our goals

3.1 Increase member engagement in Coalition 2030

3.2 Increase staffing of Coalition 2030 (as necessary)

3.3 Widen Coalition 2030 membership

3.4 Hold two Coalition plenaries

3.5 Run Member Project Fund

3.6 Develop new website

3.7 Develop communications materials for use by membership, the media, local authorities and other stakeholders



2020-2023 Strategic Outcomes:

From 2020-2023 Strategy <https://www.ireland2030.org/s/C2030-Strategic-Plan-2020-2023.pdf>

Objective 1 To advocate and advance public policy that would achieve the targets in the SDGs by 2030, and to act as a watchdog on the Government's implementation of the SDGs.

- 1.1 Ireland has a fair and ambitious implementation plan for delivery of the SDGs in full and on time.
- 1.2 The Government fully resources the SDG implementation plan.
- 1.3 The Government meaningfully engages all sections of civil society – in particular those furthest behind – in developing, monitoring and assessing the delivery of the SDGs.
- 1.4 The Government makes ongoing significant progress and reports annually to the Oireachtas on its delivery of all of the 17 Goals.

Objective 2 To promote engagement and informed action on the SDGs by building a coherent understanding of the issues that impact on the lives of people in Ireland and throughout the world.

- 2.1 All Irish decision-makers (political representatives and officials) are fully aware of and motivated to take action to increase ambition and the delivery of the SDGs, and as a consequence [emphasis added]:
- 2.2 Civil Society and the Irish public are made aware of, and supported to take informed action, in support of the SDGs [note that public awareness raising is listed as a consequence of 2.1 and is not a separate outcome of the 2020-2023 strategy].

Objective 3 To be an effective coalition that supports, amplifies and leverages the work of its members to promote our collective vision and achieve our goals.

- 3.1 We are proactive in engaging groups representing those at risk of being 'left behind'.
- 3.2 We share learning and best practice on SDG implementation and activities to ensure that quality and excellence in practice, in the sectors represented by Coalition 2030, delivers better outcomes for everyone.
- 3.3 We build and share knowledge, skills and capacity of the members of Coalition 2030 through collaborative working.
- 3.4 We support actions which promote the implementation of the SDGs.
- 3.5 Members actively engage in working groups to ensure they contribute their relevant skills (communications, public engagement, policy and advocacy) so that Coalition 2030 can catalyse and initiate actions to deliver on our objectives.
- 3.6 The work of the members in policy and advocacy and in raising awareness is supported by Coalition 2030.
- 3.7 Adequate finance is secured to support the work of Coalition 2030.
- 3.8 We build our power as a network by seeking out and encouraging new members to join.
- 3.9 We regularly review our work, reflect on our impact and amend our work plans based on learning.



Work Plan

2020-2023 Strategic Objective 1: Advocate and advance public policy that would achieve the targets in the SDGs by 2030, and act as a watchdog on the Government's implementation of the SDGs.

1.1 Develop an 'Alternative VNR' (Voluntary National Review) from a civil society perspective ('Civil Society Alternative VNR')

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

A comprehensive and credible civil society alternative *[note: the language of 'shadow'² will not be used]* report which informs the official VNR, making the official VNR more representative of genuine progress by Ireland on the SDGs and providing a useful hook for pushing elected representatives to do more to close the gaps. This would be managed by the Coordinator and Steering Committee but delivered by an external consultant.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Terms of Reference for role - by January 2023 - and recruitment process carried out.
2. Chapter created for official VNR - key messages drafted by mid-February.
3. Civil Society alternative civil society VNR report utilising qualitative and quantitative data - finished by mid-April.
4. Follow-on advocacy activities to be organised; launch, media work (April to July)

Timeline: Produced by end of April 2023

Strategic outcomes progressed: 1.3; 1.4; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.2; 3.5.

1.2 Brief Oireachtas Committees, in particular on VNR work and on reporting requirements

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

That as many Joint Oireachtas Committees as possible have been briefed by Coalition 2030 regarding:

- The SDG landscape in 2023
- The civil society alternative VNR
- The responsibilities of their line Ministers and Departments in the area of the SDGs, and by extension, the responsibilities of the Committees.

Joint Oireachtas Committees now integrate those SDGs and sub-targets which are relevant to the Committees' remits into their Terms of References and Work Plans, and as a consequence, specifically discuss actions being taken by their line department to support SDG implementation. They report at least annually to their Committees' line departments outlining the strengths and weaknesses in SDG implementation which have emerged during deliberations in the preceding months/year. This would be led by the Coordinator with input from the Steering Committee. A bespoke working group will be formed for members that want to be involved in this area of work.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

² See [Convention on the Rights of the Child: Alternative Report | Child Rights Connect: CRC Reporting Cycle](#)

1. Coalition 2030 communicates with each Committee Chair and Clerk, requesting the opportunity to provide an informal briefing regarding what is on the horizon for the SDGs in 2023, and a formal briefing upon publication of the Civil Society VNR. These opportunities are used to push for increased integration and reporting of the SDGs.
2. Coalition 2030 members use their existing connections with Committee members and Chairs to advocate for a C2030 briefing.

Timeline: Ongoing

Strategic outcomes progressed: 1.2, 1.4, 2.1

1.3 Progress Departmental Reporting

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

That each Government department reports at least annually to the Oireachtas on its delivery of its SDG targets as listed in the [Policy Map 2022](#). This would be led by the Coordinator with input from the Steering Committee. A bespoke working group will be formed for members that want to be involved in this area of work.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Parliamentary Questions (PQs) are put to **all ministers** regarding their department's progress on the SDGs, asking them if they have provided a specific policy update annually on the SDG targets for the Department (by using the new SDG target reporting mechanism) including the work that is being undertaken to achieve the targets, any relevant action taken/planned, and progress to date (as in Section 3.3.3.2 of the NIP); and if they haven't, why not, and when do they plan on doing so?
2. Integrate topic of reporting into Committee briefings.

Timeline: Ongoing

Strategic outcomes progressed: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1

1.4 Oversee the development of an 'alternative budget analysis'

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

An SDG focus on the alternative budgets of the non-government parties and a clear approximation of how each non-Government party or grouping is doing on each SDG. This would allow for a more targeted approach to each party or grouping. Additionally, the data can be employed in our advocacy efforts with all parties as, even though this is largely government focused, we can use the information about non-government parties as examples of good practice in Budgeting for the SDGs (if they are indeed good examples). This piece of work will be delivered by Social Justice Ireland.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Coalition 2030 and Social Justice Ireland have co-produced a high-level analysis of the alternative budgets of particular parties and groupings.

Timeline: Flexible; but likely March 2023.

Strategic outcomes progressed: 2.1, 3.4

1.5 Attend Ard Fheis' / Political Party Conventions

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

That the next manifestos for Government for the parties are framed under the lens of the SDGs; that Ministers, TDs, Senators and Councillors are made more aware of their role as per the SDGs. The Coordinator will attend each Ard Fheis, but individual Coalition 2030 members will be facilitated to attend as desired.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Coalition 2030 attends the Ard Fheis' of Labour (Spring 2023), the Social Democrats (Summer 2023), Fianna Fáil, Sinn Féin, Fine Gael and the Green Party (all Autumn/Winter 2023)
2. Coalition 2030 meets elected officials in person to make a case for: framing of election manifestos under SDGs umbrella, more regular reporting, to request Committee briefings, and to promote the Alternative VNR.

Timing: 1 x Spring 1 x Summer 4 x Autumn/Winter

Strategic outcomes progressed: 1.4, 2.1, 3.6

1.6 Meet with influential political and staff representatives, and departmental officials

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

Improved relationships with parties and party members, increasing the salience of the SDGs in the minds of elected officials. Coalition 2030 is perceived as a **watchful ally** increasing the ambition and intention of elected officials to do more on the SDGs. The likelihood of parties framing the next election manifesto and therefore the next PfG is increased. Improved relationships with elected officials, increasing our credibility and the salience of the SDGs in the minds of civil servants. This directly affects reporting and resources for the SDG unit are increased.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Coalition 2030 meets with senior and influential political **and staff** representatives in Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, the Green Party, Sinn Féin, Labour, the Social Democrats and People before Profit.
2. Coalition 2030 members use their connections to create links to influential political **and staff** representatives and Coalition 2030.
3. Coalition 2030 meets with senior officials in as many departments as possible.
4. Coalition 2030 members use their existing relationships with civil servants to advocate for improved SDG governance.

Timeline: Ongoing

Strategic outcomes progressed: 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2

2020-2023 Strategic Objective 2: Promote engagement and informed action on the SDGs by building a coherent understanding of the issues that impact on the lives of people in Ireland and throughout the world.

2.1 Strengthen and improve the SDG National Stakeholder Forum (NSF)

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

The SDG NSF has been revived. There is a clear purpose to it, there are transparent and credible links from input to policy change, the format is engaging, participatory and inclusive, DECC is cognisant of the 'digital divide' but also is making strides towards including those who cannot attend in person, and will always include useful data on if and how the SDGs are being met as well as clear updates on the SOG and IDWG. The Forum includes the voices of those at risk of being left behind.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Coordinator sits on the National Stakeholder Forum Committee and feeds through recommendations from the wider coalition as appropriate regarding the purpose and agendas for each of the three NSFs in 2023.
2. Coalition 2030 members use their connections with marginalised and vulnerable populations to ensure that those perspectives are heard at the NSFs.

Timeline: Monthly meetings (approx) for 12 months
Strategic outcomes progressed: 2.2, 3.1, 3.2

2.2 Send Coalition 2030 delegates to the High Level Political Forum in July and provide an Oireachtas briefing in advance

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

The Alternative VNR is promoted and therefore it is less easy for the Government to provide a less-than-truthful account of where we are in our SDG progress.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Organise accommodation early so that delegates are in the same location.
2. Ensure at least four C2030 delegates attend the HLPF in July.
3. Connect with Grace O’Sullivan MEP and Barry Andrews MEP formally at or before the HLPF.

Timeline: Begin preparing in February 2023. It would be very useful to have Committee briefings in advance of the HLPF.

Strategic outcomes progressed: 2.2, 3.2, 3.3

2.3 Send Coalition 2030 delegates to the SDG Summit in September and provide an Oireachtas briefing in advance

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

The Government notes that we are a consistent ‘watchdog’ on their progress on the SDGs. It also provides an opportunity to engage the media on the SDGs.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. At least four C2030 delegates attend the SDG Summit in September.
2. We have a media plan in advance.

Timeline: Begin preparing in May. Secure Committee briefings in advance of the SDG Summit.

Strategic outcomes progressed: 2.2, 3.2, 3.3

2.4 Hold (or facilitate the holding of) at least one public awareness-raising event this year

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

Awareness is raised regarding a key moment in the 2023 calendar, perhaps the anniversary of the SDGs or the mid-way point.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Specific funding drive for member activities (potentially for activity to be held during SDG week) set up

Timeline: TBC

Strategic outcomes progressed: 2.2

2020-2023 Strategic Objective 2: Be an effective coalition that supports, amplifies and leverages the work of its members to promote our collective vision and achieve our goals

3.1 Increase member engagement in Coalition 2030

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

The members of Coalition 2030 are facilitated to **help drive** the work plan in the way(s) that best suits them, and to have **input** over how the work plan is implemented. The communication and flow between the pillars and the Steering Committee representatives is streamlined and improved.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Survey members on how they'd like to be involved in delivering the 2023 work plan. Be clear on how members can get engaged. Provide a 'menu'.
2. Have clear and transparent roles for organisations (perhaps using RACI charts).
3. Run a 'Wear the badge' campaign (could just be a graphic and a specific month).
4. Facilitate members to do workshops on issues, both broad and specific.
5. Create, as appropriate, pre-prepared material for sharing (unified message).
6. Have a calendar of events (see here https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVP0viX-s=?share_link_id=310564116991 and here <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=ZmZoNWtIOHF2Z2lwaWI4cTg5dmxmamtobG9AZ3JvdxAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>).
7. Ensure there is a webinar for each pillar once a year (between the plenaries) where the reps give feedback and share input [*note: don't focus overly on the separate pillars but also look for cross-cutting issues and opportunities*]. **This webinar must be hooked to clear areas of work**, and useful in terms of generating political awareness of the SDGs (for example, the webinars should be around the report publication or the HLPF).
8. Meaghan and relevant reps to look for a slot at a meeting of 'spinal networks' (e.g. Dóchas, Env Pillar, C & V Pillar).
9. Communiqué with members re expectations of them and priorities for the year.
10. Create one C2030 email address that forwards to the two reps e.f. domesticreps@coalition2030.ie - **complete**
11. Form and manage bespoke working groups formed as necessary.
12. Pillar reps to provide a news update to their pillars once a quarter.
 - a. Template for this to be created.
13. Provide clarity to members regarding the process of member project fund - **complete**
14. Introduce Slack and Loomio and organise training on each.

Timeline: Ongoing

Strategic outcomes progressed: 3.5, 3.6

3.2 Increase staffing of Coalition 2030 (as necessary)

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

We have the necessary resources to achieve our goals for 2023 and into 2024. In the second half of 2023, once the VNR work has been completed, we will explore the capacity needs in Coalition 2030.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. A clear case/rationale for increased staffing in due course
2. Up-to-date budget
3. Inform Coalition 2030's host organisation and ensure all necessary affairs in order

Timeline: To be discussed in the second half of 202, post consultation period for civil society review.

Strategic outcomes progressed: N/A

3.3 Widen Coalition 2030 membership

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

The expertise of Coalition 2030 is increased, increasing its credibility and power.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Develop a system for allowing associate membership.
2. Create a proper page on the website for membership <https://www.wheel.ie/membership>
3. Additional organisations will be approached for membership by the relevant pillar, in particular by determining who in existing 'spinal' networks (e.g. Dóchas, The Wheel, Stop Climate Chaos, the Community and Voluntary Pillar) is a good candidate for Coalition 2030 membership but is not yet a member³.
4. Members strategically encourage Coalition 2030 membership to certain of their connections.

Timeline: Ongoing

Strategic outcomes progressed: 3.1, 3.8

3.4 Hold two Coalition plenaries

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

Coalition 2030 members are facilitated to input to the Coalition work plan and to get involved in the various activities. These provide moments for convergence and networking, and aim to increase energy for the SDGs. Coalition 2030 gets an opportunity to review its work, reflect on its impact and amend its work plans based on learning.

Timeline: Next plenary in the first week of May 2023. Second 2023 plenary in December.

Strategic outcomes progressed: 3.9

3.5 Run Member Project Fund

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

That C2030 members deliver activities in line with the mission of Coalition 2030 in the areas of local authority engagement, research, storytelling and awareness-raising.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Application form to be disseminated

Timeline: Ongoing (rolling applications)

Strategic outcomes progressed: 3.6

3.6 Develop new website

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

A website that acts as a hub of information on Coalition 2030 and the progress of the Irish Government, for the public, parliamentarians and Coalition 2030 members.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

³ For example, Threshold, SVP, INOU, Community Platform, ILMI, The Irish Traveller Movement, The Migrant Rights Centre, USI, TUI.

1. Meet as necessary with developer
2. Test content
3. Members and coordinator to create content as necessary

Timeline: TBC

Strategic outcomes progressed: 3.3, 3.4

3.7 Develop communications materials for use by membership, the media, local authorities and other stakeholders

Outcome desired / what do we want to achieve?

Coalition 2030 members have constant access to a folder with:

- The Coalition 2030 logo
- A high quality SDG overview slide desk
- SDG videos
- Email banner
- Etc.

Outputs required to achieve outcome:

1. Development of slide deck.
2. Development of 1 hour training video, outsourced to a company. Note: This could be accompanied by a public launch and a live online session followed by Q&A.
3. Check in with the orgs that are already working with schools (and youth groups, adult groups...) about what would add value to their work (it might be a recorded webinar or it might be around March 17th or September 25th to shine a light on what Coalition members are doing) [note: this output overlaps with other areas of the work plan]

Timeline: TBC

Strategic outcomes progressed:
