



The Irish Association of Non-Governmental  
Development Organisations

## **Dóchas – The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations**

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**\*\*\*\*IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*\***

### **DÓCHAS WELCOMES STRONG POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO INCREASING OVERSEAS AID**

Dóchas – The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations has welcomed the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence, following its review of the Irish Aid Programme. The Committee outlined its recommendations in a report launched today.

Suzanne Keatinge, Dóchas CEO, said “This report comes at a critical juncture for the world’s poorest and most marginalised people. It highlights the strong political support in Ireland for a quality poverty-focused Overseas Aid programme. Ireland has long been regarded as a champion of the world’s poorest and, in the face of isolationist global politics, this report demonstrates overwhelming support for Ireland to continue looking outward.”

Dóchas and its member organisations were invited in front of the Committee in October and many of their recommendations are reflected in the report.

Keatinge continued, “We welcome the strong recommendations and in particular we would highlight the unequivocal cross-party commitment to a pathway to spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), based on a multiannual plan, which should be submitted to the Budget Oversight Committee. While the Committee is proposing 2030 as the target to reach 0.7%, we believe that to really make inroads in eradicating poverty, we must reach this target much earlier. Dóchas looks forward to working with the Government toward the development of this multiannual plan.

“If we are to achieve the ambitious agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we need to work together across Government to ensure coherent policies. In that respect, we very much welcome the Committee’s calls on the Government to develop a cross-Government plan of action and to immediately establish a cross-Departmental body to ensure better coordination and coherence of development policy across Government and in line with the SDGs.

We look forward to working with Committee members and Government to implement these powerful recommendations, which strengthen Ireland’s role in supporting the world’s most vulnerable communities.”

**ENDS**

For more information, please contact Lía Flattery, Dóchas Communications and Events Officer, on 085-1198415, 01-4053801 or [lia@dochas.ie](mailto:lia@dochas.ie).

**Notes for the editor:**

- Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and a platform for them to speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: [www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie).
- Dóchas currently has 59 member organisations, who are working in Ireland on issues related to international development. A list of Dóchas members can be found here: <http://dochas.ie/membership/our-members>.
- Dóchas welcomed the Committee's support of combining a strong focus on addressing the needs of the world's most vulnerable people with enhanced work on human rights, sustainable development, peace and stability, private sector development, climate action and other key issues.
- The submissions of Dóchas and its member organisations to the Committee can be read here: <http://www.dochas.ie/news/submissions-joint-committee-foreign-affairs-trade-and-defence-irish-aid>.
- For the Dóchas Pre-Budget Submission 2018, which calls for the achievement of 0.7% by 2025, please see here: <http://dochas.ie/sites/default/files/Dochas%20Pre%20Budget%20Submission%202018%20FINAL.pdf>.