

## **Dóchas – The Association of Development NGOs**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Irish NGOs call on Irish EU Presidency to address root causes of global poverty and climate change**

## **EU Commissioner Georgieva and Minister Joe Costello TD respond NGO position paper**

*11th February, 2013*

In the wake of the EU budget deal, Irish development NGOs are calling on European leaders to ensure the Irish EU Presidency is the moment when Europe kept its promise to the world's poor people and the planet.

Dóchas – the Irish Association of Development NGOs – will, today (Monday, 11 February), hold a press conference to launch their position paper, 'The World We Want: the Opportunity of the Irish EU Presidency'. The paper sets out key areas of action for the EU to address the root causes of global poverty and climate change.

Speaking ahead of the event, Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas said,

“Last Friday, European leaders announced that they had made a deal on the EU budget. Herman van Rompuy called this ‘a budget for the future’. We, as development NGOs, are saying that now is the time for the EU to bring about a better future for all of us, in Ireland, Europe and the world.”

“While the EU budget deal protected existing aid spending, the global challenges of poverty, climate change and conflict needs a better funded, multi-dimensional response that goes beyond aid. Tonight, EU development ministers will attend a meeting in Dublin Castle, hosted by the Irish Government, to discuss this challenge. We hope that they listen to our proposals for such a response,” Zomer continued.

Dóchas Chairperson and CEO of Oxfam Ireland, Jim Clarken, pointed out that Europe and the world are at a crossroads in the fight against poverty, conflict and climate change. 2015 is the deadline for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Some, such as the halving of extreme poverty, will be achieved, and world leaders will be meeting at the UN in September to begin the work of setting out a new global framework for development beyond 2015. Tonight sees the Irish Government, as EU president, host a meeting in Dublin Castle which prioritises this issue.

“The EU is the largest economic bloc and aid donor in the world. With this influence comes responsibility. Four of the goals have already been achieved, but efforts must be accelerated before the 2015 deadline, particularly in areas of hunger and malnutrition. ‘The World We Want’ clearly sets out a wider vision beyond 2015 which we believe the EU can bring to the negotiating table at the UN Summit in September when efforts begin in earnest,” said Jim Clarken.

“It is crucial for world leaders to agree a new framework that guarantees human rights for all, economic and social equality and environmental sustainability. These must be

at the heart of the successor to the Millennium Development Goals. Tonight's meeting of European development ministers is a welcome and tangible sign of the priority given to these issues by the Irish EU Presidency," Clarken continued.

European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva and Minister of State for Trade and Development Joe Costello will attend the Dóchas press conference as special guests and offer their responses to the Dóchas position prior to attending the informal Ministerial meeting in Dublin Castle.

### **Contacts**

- Hans Zomer, Dóchas Director, tel. 085 728 3258 / 01 405 3801
- Jim Clarken (via Jody Clarke, Press Officer, Oxfam Ireland), tel. 087 241 2265

### **Notes to editors**

- The press conference launching 'The World We Want' position paper takes place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 5:00pm in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle. Entrance is via the Ship Street gate, following the signs to the Chester Beatty Library main entrance.
- The World We Want campaign, led by Dóchas, will mobilise wider Irish civil society organisations to develop a vision for a better Ireland in a fairer world. For more information, see [www.worldwewant.ie](http://www.worldwewant.ie).
- Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations and a member of CONCORD Europe. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its 49 member organisations, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: [www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie).

### **DÓCHAS MEMBERS**

ActionAid Ireland – Afri – Africa Centre – Aidlink – AIDS Partnership with Africa – Alan Kerins Projects – Amnesty International Ireland – Camara Education – Centre for Global Education – Child Aid Ireland – India – ChildFund Ireland – Children in Crossfire – Christian Aid Ireland – CBM Ireland – Comhlámh – Concern Worldwide – Development Perspectives – Foundation Nepal – Friends of Londiani (Ireland) – Galway One World Centre – Gorta – Habitat for Humanity Ireland – Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) – Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) – Irish League of Credit Unions International Development Foundation (ILCU/IDF) – Irish Missionary Union (IMU) – Irish Red Cross (IRC) – Kerry Action for Development Education (KADE) – National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) – Nurture Africa – Oxfam – Ireland – Plan Ireland – Progressio Ireland – Self Help Africa – SERVE in Solidarity Ireland – Sightsavers – Skillshare International Ireland – Suas Educational Development – Tearfund Ireland – The Haven Community Foundation – The Hope Foundation – The National Council of Ireland YMCA Trust – Trócaire – Vita – Voluntary Service International (VSI) – Voluntary Service Overseas (Ireland) – Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM) – War on Want Northern Ireland – World Vision Ireland.