

Dóchas and the Beyond2015 Task Force Ireland
recommendations to the UN Session on the Post2015
Political Declaration

17th to 20th February New York

We – elected representatives, academics and practitioners in the field – must start by revising our traditional definitions of development, with their undertones of enduring divisions between the North and the South. We are invited, instead, to piece together a new narrative telling us of humanity’s shared future on this fragile planet.

President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins speaking at the launch of the European Year for Development 2015

The Dóchas Beyond 2015 Task Group fully endorses [Beyond 2015's position](#) with regard to the Declaration. The Political Declaration is a crucial element for the new framework and in setting the tone for the future we must both celebrate the development achievements that have been made to date and re-commit to areas we have failed to deliver upon. Dóchas is clear that the Declaration must include a clear call to arms between people, civil society organisations, the private sector, and governments. in a multi-layered approach. We agree that to be transformative all Member States must commit to and demonstrate in their delivery, a strong commitment to solidarity and cooperation between nations.

As Irish civil society organisations we wish to highlight the following recommendations:

✓ **The emphasis on universality as a critical element**

Dóchas recommends that the declaration states that the new global goals should be universal for all nations, be structural and meaningful in their ambition, establish equality as the precondition for progress, and enable popular engagement in their implementation.

✓ **Political re-commitment to eradicating hunger and poverty**

As stated in the Beyond2015 paper we wish to strongly recommend that poverty must be recognised as multi dimensional, encompassing a complex mix of dependencies between lack of access to resources, capabilities, choices, security and power. In addition, poverty is the main cause of chronic hunger - with the inverse also being true that hunger traps people in poverty.

Ireland's history of development assistance and its experience with population-devastating famine some 150 years ago continues to motivate our country to take a leadership role in the area of hunger eradication and poverty.

- ✓ **Stronger articulation of gender as a theme which must continue to be embedded and strengthened**

Dóchas recommends that the declaration takes a holistic approach to addressing gender inequality, including the tackling of discriminatory social norms and practices that impede progress towards gender equality. Securing a strong goal on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies is also important as conflict, insecurity and weak or oppressive institutions hold back progress on gender equality.

- ✓ **Recognition of the imperative to pursue development equitably within safe planetary thresholds**

Eradicating poverty globally and securing a viable future for the next generations demands that social, economic and social development are decoupled from environmental degradation. Post-2015 commitments will be agreed at a time when the window for action remains open, but only just. The post-2015 framework must deliver action commensurate with moving back within safe planetary thresholds to remain below a further 2 degree Celsius rise in earth surface temperature.

Regarding **Means of Implementation**, Dóchas members know that unequivocal clarity is required at Member State level to ensure that there is both a visible pathway for all member states to operate within, and the availability of proven and appropriate tools through which to measure and capture all relevant data on both targets and indicators to ensure effective delivery. We agree fundamentally with the European Commission's view that the monitoring, accountability and review framework should be an integral part of the agenda and be underpinned by the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and responsiveness. We believe a multi layered approach is needed wherein all stakeholders are encouraged to participate. Our priorities are:

- ✓ **A clear focus on resourcing as a discrete and clearly identifiable element**

Dóchas wishes to specifically recommend that the declaration outlines credible and meaningful resource commitments including adequate public financing. This should include more tangible mechanisms and pathways at Member State level to explicitly demonstrate how they will deliver on their commitments.

- ✓ **Accountability as a critical component of delivery without which outcomes will not be achieved and the role of participation in achieving this**

Dóchas recommends an emphasis on awareness raising which will provide citizens with accessible knowledge and understanding of the goals and framework so that they can call on Governments to explicitly demonstrate what resources are being deployed to achieve the goals. the participation of civil society and also of people targeted and affected by the framework, in particular of women, in the planning and review element, is critical for meaningful accountability. We wish to see a clearly visible accountability framework linking Member State Governments directly to their commitments in all aspects of the framework. A clear road map - a national action plan - will be required at

Member State level, which clearly shows what Governments are committing themselves to achieving, what resources are needed to deliver, what outcomes will be achieved and how these outcomes will be measured.

Based on the experience of civil society the group recommends that the declaration must highlight the potential and the responsibility of rapidly emerging technologies to achieve a variety of outcomes:

- Facilitate CSOs/communities to tell their stories
- Hold Members States to account through their real time data, information and intelligence
- Deliver awareness raising through public information strategies and campaigns
- Measure the right things the right way and report on performance and non performance in varied and value adding ways

✓ **Investment in real time, disaggregated quality data**

Dóchas recommends a clear commitment to ensure that the measurement tools employed will be capable of disaggregating indicators by socio economic group which will provide accurate information on what groups are being reached and which are being excluded. The group acknowledges the empowering nature of accurate data to help communities exercise their rights. We are supportive of the Secretary General's call for a broader approach to measuring well-being, including the development of new approaches such as the use of self-reported measures.