



The Irish Association of Non-Governmental
Development Organisations

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******IMMEDIATE RELEASE******

DÓCHAS WELCOMES DÁIL DEBATE ON OVERSEAS AID

Dóchas – The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations welcomes today’s Dáil debate on Official Development Assistance (ODA). The debate focused on the report on the review of the Irish Aid programme completed by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence in February.

Suzanne Keatinge, Dóchas CEO, said “Ireland has a long and proud history of standing in solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable people across the globe, and taking action to alleviate grinding poverty and relieve suffering. Today’s debate comes at a critical juncture for Ireland’s overseas aid programme. The Government has promised to introduce a roadmap this year to reach its international commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on ODA by 2030. Irish Aid is also due to develop a new White Paper to manage that progression. These processes will be vital in shaping Ireland’s overseas aid programme for years to come.

“We are very pleased by the support and political will shown by all parties in the Dáil debate today. Words and plans must now be met with action, including a published roadmap to meet the ODA target. We are also looking forward to a strong consultative process to ensure the White Paper recognises and builds on the important work of Irish NGOs and missionaries.

“Brendan Smith TD, the Committee’s chair, highlighted the importance of Agenda 2030 and the need for coherent government policy if we are to achieve impact, but there is still no detail on how the Government intends to involve all stakeholders in its meaningful implementation.”

‘The Sustainable Development Goals: National Implementation Plan 2018-2020’ was launched by Minister Denis Naughten earlier today.

“The Irish public urgently deserve to see government promises translate into action to ensure that the poorest in our societies, both at home and abroad, don’t get left behind,” says Keatinge.

ENDS

For more information, please contact Lía Flattery, Dóchas Communications and Events Officer, on 085-1198415, 01-4053801 or 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.
- 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>.
- The full report on the review of the Irish Aid programme launched by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence can be read here: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/32/joint_committee_on_foreign_affairs_and_trade_and_defence/reports/2018/2018-02-22_report-review-of-the-irish-aid-programme_en.pdf
- 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>.