

5 Key areas for action

Trócaire calls on members of the 32nd Dáil to:

1. Take Action on Climate Justice

- Under the new Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, make the finalisation and implementation of the first Low Carbon Transition & Mitigation Plan⁹ a priority initiative. The Mitigation Plan must be based on the principle of climate justice and be based on published advice of the newly-established Climate Change Advisory Council.
- Ensure that the Low Carbon Transition & Mitigation Plan drives effective and equitable emission reductions across all sectors based on binding EU and international commitments. This must involve the immediate implementation of progressive low-carbon initiatives in line with commitments in the recently finalised White Paper on Energy. It also requires an immediate revision of existing policies across Ireland's highest-emitting sectors, principally transport and agriculture, in order to ensure concrete overall emission reductions.
- Ensure an equitable effort-sharing approach in the implementation of the new Paris Agreement on climate action such that all countries act according to their responsibility and capacity. In terms of EU climate and energy policies, Ireland must adopt a constructive negotiating position and join other EU Member States in supporting increasing emission reduction commitments in line with the Paris Agreement and the best available science.
- Bring existing and future State investments into line with Ireland's climate mitigation and decarbonisation objectives and obligations in accordance with the Climate Act and the Paris Agreement, starting with mandating the Irish Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) to divest itself of all current oil, coal and gas investments, prohibiting future ISIF investment in fossil fuel extraction or burning, and adopting a 100% renewables energy investment policy
- Make a significantly increased public financing pledge to the UN's Green Climate Fund that is in line with pledges made by comparable European states. Establish a new national mechanism, such as the creation of a new Climate Justice Fund, to provide secure and additional financing for adaptation in developing countries into the future.

2. Commit to Public Financing for Development

- Make Ireland's commitment to 0.7% GNI target for Overseas Development Aid (ODA) real by setting out a clear roadmap for fulfilling this promise.
- Affirm Ireland's ODA remains fully grant based, untied and focussed on Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Commit to mobilising additional resources from innovative sources of public finance in recognition of the additional financing needs required to support the fulfilment of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate goals. To this end Ireland should join the ten EU member states co-operating on the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT).
- Support the establishment of an inclusive intergovernmental body on tax matters under UN auspices in order to curb international tax evasion and tax avoidance and enable developing countries mobilise greater domestic resources for development.

3. Regulate the Increasing Influence of Multinational Corporations

- Develop and implement an effective Irish National Action Plan for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Introduce mandatory Human Rights due diligence for Irish state-owned companies, and also ensure Ireland includes progress of integrating human rights due diligence in an annual report on its participation and support to any Development Finance Institutions including the World Bank and the IMF.
- Review how best to ensure remedy for potential victims overseas of human rights abuses by Irish companies, ensuring that victims of human rights violations are not faced with undue barriers to justice, including legal, procedural or financial barriers. The French Bill on the duty of care in relation to subsidiaries and sub-contractors of French companies provides an example of Human Rights Due Diligence regulation whereby companies may be held liable in French courts if they have failed to exercise adequate due diligence in their supply chains.¹⁰
- Commit that Ireland will vote against the inclusion of special rights for foreign investors, which privilege corporate rights over citizens' rights - specifically the Investor to State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms or the Investment Court System - in all current and future EU trade and investment agreements.
- Ensure Irish and EU support for an independent international investigation of Berta Cáceres murder led by the Inter American Commission on Human Rights, and urge the Honduran government to invite and fully cooperate with such an investigation.

4. Strengthen Ireland's Commitments to Responding to Humanitarian Crises

- Support the European Commission to develop and implement a new action plan on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.
- Promote a responsible and fair response to the migration crisis at EU level by increasing Ireland's commitments to accepting refugees, and leading discussions on how the EU must uphold its international legal obligations regarding migration.
- Advocate for Security Council reform/reconfiguration to allow the United Nations to adequately address human rights violations and impunity in humanitarian crises.
- Promote the content of Ireland's Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security agenda internationally. Recognising the adverse effects of conflict on women and girls, ensure a particular focus on their critical role in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacebuilding and governance.

5. End impunity for Human Rights Violations in occupied Palestinian territory

- Seek an EU ban on trade and investment with Israeli settlements.
- Actively discourage Irish companies and funds from having investments and commercial links with Israeli settlements.
- Seek to suspend military export licenses to Israel and suspend Department of Defence public procurement from Israeli arms companies.
- Support accountability efforts into violations of international law during armed conflict in Gaza by all sides.
- Formally recognise the State of Palestine.