

# Stand for Global Justice

International Development Priorities for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil Eireann



Berta Cáceres, the Honduran indigenous rights and environmental rights campaigner, was murdered on March 3rd 2016, barely a week after she was threatened for opposing a hydroelectric project.



# Introduction: A Key Role for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil in International Development

Ireland's relationship with the developing world is multi-dimensional. Development aid is a critical component of this, but broader Irish and EU policies relating to environment, energy, agriculture, trade, taxation, investment and migration are equally important. In an increasingly interdependent world, relationships with developing countries involve a growing number of government policies and departments.

For example, one of the most critical issues facing vulnerable men, women and children in the poorest countries in the world is climate change. In a particularly unjust situation, even though they have done the least to contribute to the climate crisis, people living in poverty in developing countries are suffering the most severely because of overconsumption of resources and political inaction on a range of policy areas in the global north. One prominent example is the inadequate political leadership on the urgent need for a move away from reliance on fossil fuels and make a transition towards sustainable and accessible energy sources.

**“The richest 1% own as much wealth as the other 99% of the world's population combined, with 62 billionaires owning as much wealth as the poorer 50% of the world population.”<sup>1</sup>**

Since its Presidency of the EU in 2013, and given its strong international reputation, Ireland has been at the forefront of global negotiations on a new international framework outlining global policy goals and targets.

This has culminated in an “agenda of unprecedented scope and significance” comprising 17 universally applicable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015.<sup>2</sup>

These SDGS (see image on page 2)<sup>3</sup> will stimulate action across all domestic and international policy areas over the next 15 years with the objective of eradicating poverty, achieving gender equality and empowering women, reducing inequality within and between countries, promoting peace and good governance, and protecting our planet from environmental degradation. In December 2015 a legally binding and universal agreement to tackle climate change was signed at the Paris Climate Conference.

**“Ireland's carbon emissions are equal to that of 400 million of the world's poor.”<sup>4</sup>**

It is essential that developing countries are not adversely impacted by Irish policy making. The summary section of this briefing paper outlines specific actions in 5 key policy areas which should be prioritised by members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil to bring Irish policy into coherence with its development and human rights commitments including:

- 1) take action on climate justice,**
- 2) commit to public financing for development,**
- 3) robust regulation of multinational corporations,**
- 4) strengthening response to humanitarian crises, and**
- 5) ending impunity for human rights violations in occupied Palestinian territories.**



Beyond these, overarching mechanisms are also needed to provide for consistent policy processes for adhering to Ireland's Policy Coherence for Development obligations.

### Policy Coherence for Development

**Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is a legal obligation for all EU member states under Article 208 of the Lisbon Treaty.**<sup>5</sup> PCD is an objective and a process which seeks to ensure that investments in overseas aid are supported, or at the very least, not undermined by non-aid policies implemented by national governments, such as Ireland, and blocs like the European Union (EU).<sup>6</sup> Renewed commitment to advancing PCD is evidenced in Ireland's new policy for international development One World, One Future<sup>7</sup>, and also reflected in the recently published, Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World: The Global Island 2014.<sup>8</sup>

There is a significant role for the Irish government, Irish political parties and Irish elected representatives in shaping and monitoring Ireland's policies in view of PCD commitments, both in the implementation of equitable emission reductions in line with the Paris Climate agreement, and in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs).

**Trócaire urges all Irish Political Parties, Ministers, TDs, Senators to grasp the opportunity of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil to advance PCD. Human rights, as universal, normative, people centred principles and standards for policy making, should be placed at the centre, ensuring domestic and international policies support equality, sustainability and justice both at home and abroad.** Particular emphasis must be placed on the rights of women and girls, who continue to be the most vulnerable to human rights violations globally.

It is essential that developing countries are not adversely impacted by Irish policy making. Beyond the 5 specific policy areas which are the focus of this briefing paper, overarching mechanisms are also needed to provide for a consistent policy process for adhering to Ireland's Policy Coherence for Development obligations. These include Human Rights and Environmental Sustainability Impact Assessments.

- Ireland should commit to undertake ex ante and periodic impact assessments to analyse the impact of national tax, trade, debt, financial regulation and investment policies on sustainable development and human rights at home and abroad. Such assessments are a practical necessity for States to be able to advance policy coherence.
- Ireland should specifically work within the EU to review EU trade and trade-related policy with regard to their impacts on human rights in Europe, in trade-partner countries and globally.
- Human rights impact assessments should be systematically carried out prior to concluding trade and investment agreements, and agreement reached on the revision of human rights clauses included in such agreements to explicitly stipulate the suspension or amendment of contractual provisions where these have proved a risk to human rights.
- Clearly defined monitoring mechanisms need to be put in place to support these human rights clauses, and legal and procedural mechanisms must be established to enable suspension of trade where human rights violations occur.
- Human rights, environmental and development concerns must be at the fore when conducting all bilateral and multilateral negotiations: this is particularly urgent in light of the negotiation of a number of 'new generation trade and investment treaties' which pose risks to sovereign states' right to regulate, including the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the EU-USA Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

“  
**Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.**  
 (Laudato Sí, 25).  
 ”



# 5 Key areas for action

## Trócaire calls on members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 Plan<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup>
- 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.

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# 1. Take action on climate justice

## Why is climate change a human rights and anti-poverty issue?

Climate change is the greatest injustice of our time; those who are doing least to cause it are suffering the most from its impacts. It is not possible to tackle poverty and inequality in the world without tackling climate change.<sup>11</sup>

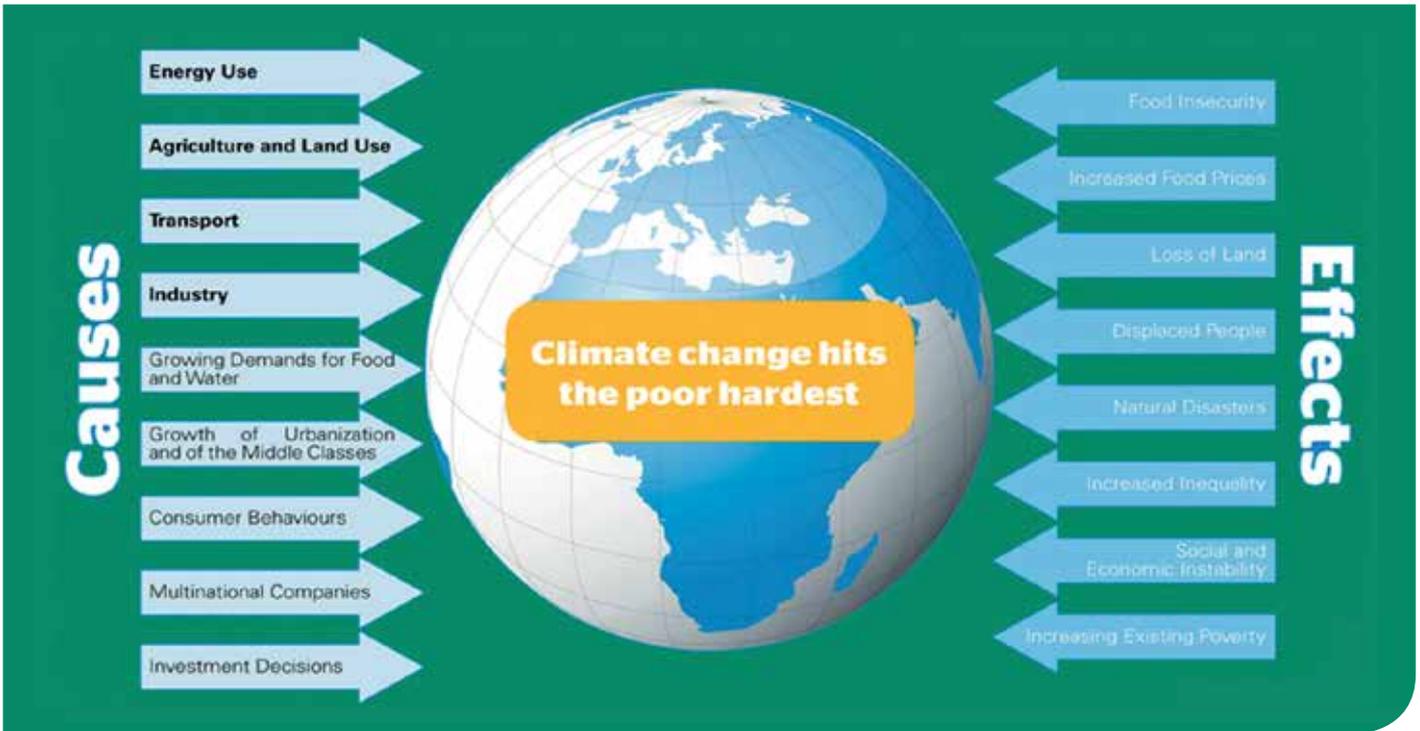
Trócaire works with some of the world's poorest communities who are already dealing with the consequences of climate change on a daily basis. Climate change (also known as global warming) is caused by excessive emissions of carbon dioxide and other 'greenhouse gases' getting trapped in the earth's atmosphere - changing our climate and weather patterns. Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change.

Drought, flooding, storms and forced migration are all on the rise. Unpredictable rainfall and drought patterns are leading to reduced yields for poor farmers who depend on agriculture to feed their families and provide an income. It is estimated that by 2025, almost two thirds of the world's population (5.4 billion people) are likely to experience some kind of water stress, and for one billion of them the shortage will be severe.

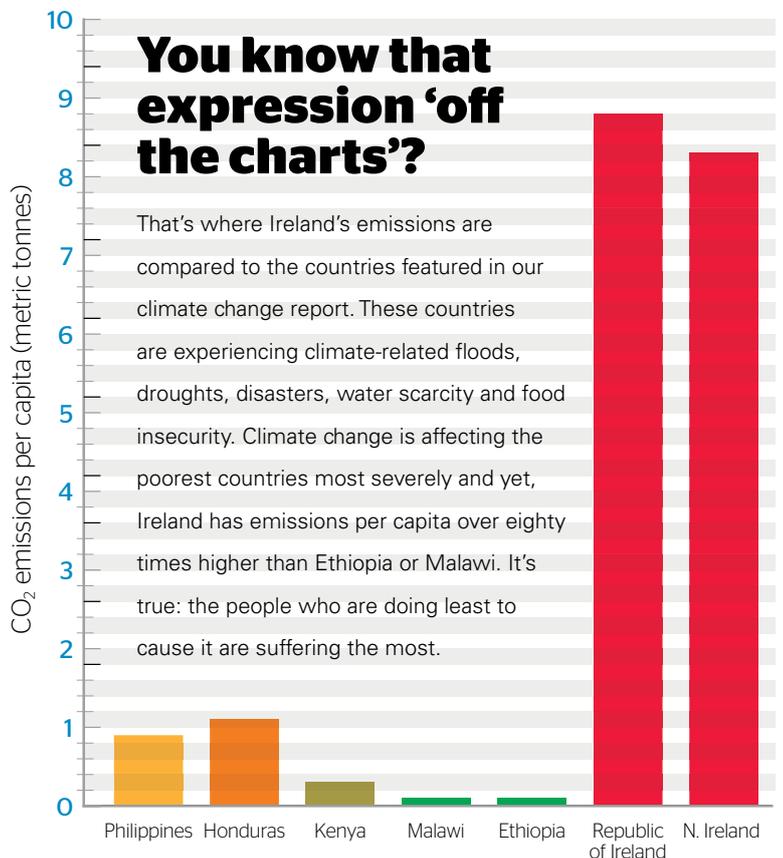
It is vital that strategies identified to respond to the environmental and humanitarian crises caused by climate change are gender-sensitive.<sup>12</sup>

Left to right, Anthony (6) and Patrick (8), water the kitchen garden plants at their home in Meru, Kenya. The kitchen garden is looked after by the children and provides the family with extra nutrition. The children collect water for the plants at the closest water pipe and carry the water back to the household in jerry cans. The dry farm land can be seen behind the kitchen garden. There are no plants growing on this dry rain fed land. Photo: Clare McEvoy/Trocaire.





In a particularly unjust situation, it is most often marginalized groups in the poorest countries, who contributed least to the drivers of climate change, and who have the least resources to adapt to it, that are most vulnerable to these climatic shocks and changes. For example, in Malawi food security has been further undermined by the increased incidence and intensity of droughts and floods over recent decades. 90% of the population of Malawi are at risk of hunger due to drought. Yet Malawi’s contribution to climate change, in terms of its per capita carbon emissions is 80 times lower than Irish per capita emissions.<sup>13</sup> Action on climate change mitigation and adaptation is more urgent than ever before and must be tackled in an equitable way.



## The Necessity for Urgent Political Action

The Stern Report on the economics of climate change estimated in 2006 that it would be up to 20 times cheaper to prevent further climate change as opposed to dealing with the economic costs of inaction.<sup>14</sup> According to a London School of Economics Study from July 2015, the economic benefits for a country from tackling climate change continue to easily outweigh the costs with countries standing to gain more than they would lose in economic terms from almost all of the actions needed to meet an agreed global warming limit of no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels (adopted by the international community as the threshold necessary to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change).<sup>15</sup> The 5th Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 2014 also shows that limiting global warming to below 2°C is both technically and economically possible provided there is an immediate step-change in ambition and approach by governments and policy-makers.<sup>16</sup>

In June 2015 Pope Francis aligned the Catholic Church with calls for urgent political action to tackle this challenge with the launch of his *Laudato Si'* encyclical. It calls for action at local, national and international levels to combat ecological destruction, and in particular the future threat and current reality of climate change.

**“Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world.”**

**“We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”**

Excerpts from *Laudato Si* Encyclical by Pope Francis  
June 2015

In recent months, the landscape has changed markedly with a series of major developments at international and national level related to the urgent need for climate action. Worryingly, Irish policy-making, notwithstanding the recently finalised Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, remains firmly out of step with these developments. Without urgent remedial action, inaction and counterproductive policies will continue to damage Ireland’s reputation as a leader in international development and result in significant environmental and economic costs.



Trócaire campaigners at Climate Change Negotiations in Copenhagen 2009

In October 2015, the results of an in-depth independent research on countries' commitments to reduce emissions under the UNFCCC were published. This research was undertaken on behalf of a range of civil society organisations and based on an analysis of both countries' historical responsibility for harmful emissions, and current capacity, in light of various indicators including national income. The results indicate that the current pledges represent substantially less than half of the reduction in global emissions required by 2030 and that the EU's pledge represents just over a fifth of its necessary contribution.<sup>17</sup> Later that month UN analysis confirmed that current pledges were insufficient and noted that, unless substantially greater efforts are undertaken immediately, this response would result in hugely damaging levels of global warming.<sup>18</sup>

In the October 2015 Budget, the Government made a pledge of just €2 million to the Green Climate Fund, the principal delivery mechanism under the UN to provide funding for climate action in developing countries. This pledge amounts to \$0.57 per capita. Pledges from comparable European Member States currently are at least 10 times Ireland's pledge with the EU average at around \$12 per capita.<sup>19</sup>

In November 2015 research by the World Bank highlighted that without greater emissions-reductions efforts that protect the poor, 100 million additional people may be in poverty in 15 years due to major losses in crop yields together with higher incidence of malaria, diarrhoea and stunting.<sup>20</sup>

In December 2015 a legally binding and universal agreement to tackle climate change was signed at the Paris Climate Conference. The implications of the Paris Agreement for Irish and EU policy-making are far-reaching. The Agreement's commitments are framed in the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development and these new obligations require all states to *immediately* institute substantially stronger policies to decrease harmful emissions and ensure better resilience to climate impacts. It also includes requirements to provide greater financing to developing countries to implement these measures. Significantly, the Agreement institutes a new cyclical approach in which governments must review and make more ambitious emission reduction commitments every 5 years.<sup>21</sup>

In January 2016 an international assessment and survey by the Davos World Economic Forum placed a failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation as the number one global risk in terms of impact.<sup>22</sup>

In February 2016, the European Commission produced its latest analysis of the Irish economy. In its Country Report it emphasised that, based on existing policies, Ireland is expected to miss its current national emission reduction commitments by 10% and noted other serious environmental concerns due to a lack of appropriate infrastructure investment across a range of sectors.<sup>23</sup>

In March 2016 the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produced yet another stark warning mirroring the Commission's findings. The EPA indicated that Ireland is unlikely to meet its 2020 EU emission reduction commitments and casts doubts over the State's current efforts to transition to a low carbon economy in the long term.<sup>24</sup>

At the EU Environment Council of the 3rd of March 2016, Ireland failed to voice any support for greater ambition in EU energy and climate policies in line with the Paris Agreement signed last year. Ireland's position stands in direct contrast with the leadership shown by Germany, France, the UK, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden who all called for enhanced commitments at the Council.<sup>25</sup>

However, there are significant opportunities for Members of the 32nd Dáil to help Ireland and Europe move forward with adequate climate and energy policies that set the world on the pathway to a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

## Trócaire calls on members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil to:

### Implement Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act

- Under the new Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, make the finalisation and implementation of the first Low Carbon Transition & Mitigation Plan 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 immediate and absolute 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.
- 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 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.
- Embed the 'polluter pays' principle across all relevant sectoral policies. As noted in the Papal Encyclical, it is necessary that 'the economic and social costs of using up shared environmental resources are recognized with transparency and fully borne by those who incur them, not by other peoples or future generations.'
- Demand-side measures such as actions to tackle or shift consumption and usage to low-carbon pathways should be prioritised. These measures, for example reductions in food waste, can offer significant co-benefits both in terms of health and environmental protection.
- Prioritise initiatives to enhance access to renewables at community level and to increase the energy efficiency of Irish homes.

### International Climate Obligations

- 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 stance - and join other EU Member States in supporting increasing emission reduction commitments in line with the Paris Agreement and the best available science.
- Make a significantly increased pledge to the Green Climate Fund (in addition to the current commitment of just 2 million euros) that is in line with pledges made by comparable European states. Where private sector financing or public-private partnerships are utilised to scale up climate finance, these must not replace public finance contributions, especially for adaptation.
- Establish a new Climate Justice Fund in order to provide secure and additional financing for adaptation among vulnerable people in developing countries as recommended in the 2013 report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the draft Climate Bill.<sup>26</sup> As per the Climate Justice Fund established in Scotland, it is noted that a fund ring-fenced within, or separate to the Environment Fund should be developed in order to ensure secure and additional financing for adaptation among vulnerable people in developing countries. The Fund could be based on ETS and carbon tax revenues streams and managed under the Department for the Environment, Community and Local Government.



## 2. Commit to Public Financing for Development

The international community's commitment to eradicating poverty, fulfilling human rights, supporting adaptation to climate change impacts and advancing sustainable development is reflected in concrete terms in increased public financing flows.

Despite the broad based political support for honouring the 0.7% ODA commitment, Ireland's preliminary allocation of 0.36% in 2015 is below the EU average of 0.47%.<sup>27</sup> When figures for 2015 are published the gap between allocation and commitment will have widened further. This widening gap is at odds with the lead role Ireland took in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the agreement reached in Paris on tackling climate change. The order of magnitude of investment needs to meet the ambition of these agreements requires rich countries, including Ireland, fulfilling their ODA promises in the first instance while also identifying innovative additional sources of finance.

As welcome as the broad based political support for 0.7% is, the decline in Ireland's ODA underlines that it is not enough. Ireland's progress towards the target is often being made conditional on economic performance. Apart from the contradiction in this position highlighted by the continuing slide in percentage allocation despite growing GNP, this condition reflects a total misinterpretation of the target which serves as an indicator of relative commitment delinked from economic growth. The incoherence of this position is illustrated by the UK's ability to fulfil the 0.7% commitment despite challenging domestic economic circumstances.

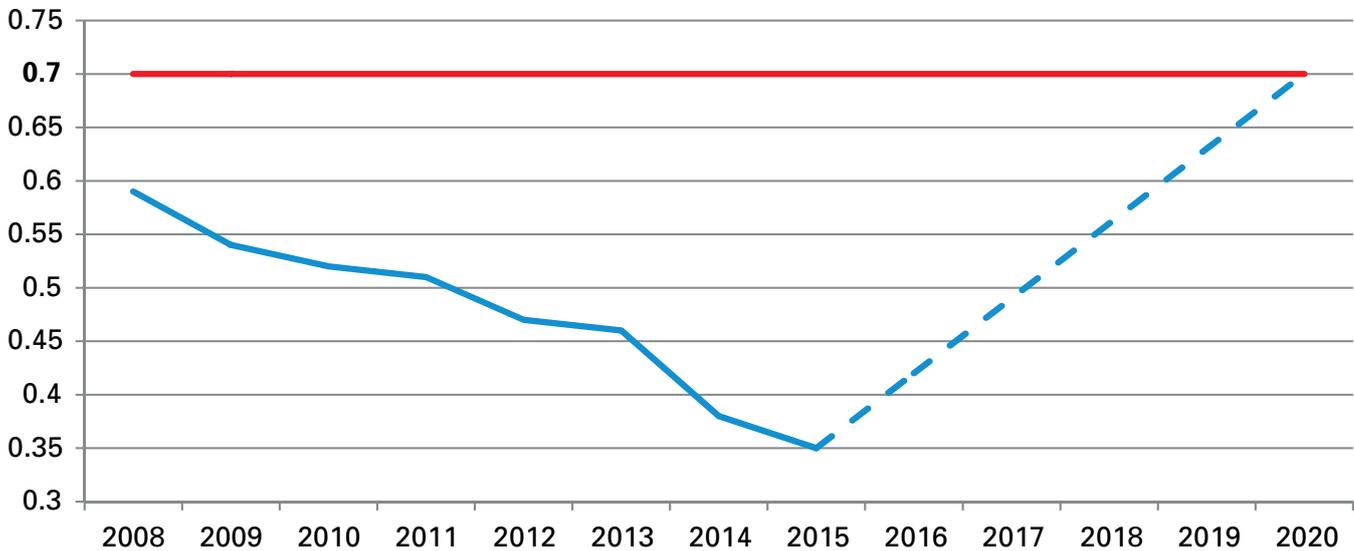
Below: Campaigners outside the Embassy of Luxembourg in Copenhagen in May 2015 following the "Lux Leaks" scandal protesting about how corporate secrecy undermines global tax collection across the world including in the poorest countries. Source: [www.eurodad.org](http://www.eurodad.org)



### Trócaire calls on members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil to:

- 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).<sup>28</sup>
- 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).<sup>29</sup>
- 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.

**Chart : ODA as % GNP, Ireland 2008-2015 (2015-2020 an indicative pathway) from *Budget Choices 2016* a June 2015 Report by Social Justice Ireland**



2008-2014		Projected	
2008	0.59	2015	0.35
2009	0.54	2016	0.42
2010	0.52	2017	0.49
2011	0.51	2018	0.56
2012	0.47	2019	0.63
2013	0.46	2020	0.7
2014	0.38		



## 3. Business and Human Rights - Regulating the Increasing Influence of Multinational Corporations

States have the legal duty to protect all those within their territory from violations of their human rights by third parties, which includes business entities. This duty to protect also extends extra-territorially.

States have an obligation under international law to protect the human rights of women, men, boys and girls beyond their borders, which includes guaranteeing that all business entities they are in a position to regulate – for example, businesses headquartered in their territory – respect human rights throughout their global operations abroad.

The unregulated power and influence of multinational corporations (MNCs) in developing countries needs to be curtailed. There are significant power imbalances between the capacities of states to meet their duty to protect citizens from human rights abuses by third parties, and the resources of transnational corporations and the scope and impacts of their operations. Governments may be unable or unwilling to enforce human rights with respect to these corporations, or in some cases, may commit human rights violations themselves in order to attract inward investment and to facilitate commercial activity of MNCs.<sup>30</sup>

Access to justice and remedy is often denied to communities in countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, the Philippines, India and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), when their rights to land and livelihood have been violated by the operations of MNCs. In Honduras, Peru and Colombia, human rights defenders exercising their legitimate right to peaceful protest related to business investments now face criminalisation and even death.<sup>31</sup>

Right: Images from making of RTE documentary “Palm Oil Republic” on Honduras.



**Above:** Tim Desmond, RTE Jennifer Cornally, Trócaire and Shooting victim Jose Sanchez, La Panama community Honduras

**Below:** Palm oil plantation Aguan valley Honduras



## Human Rights Defenders and Environmentalists Murdered

Trócaire in Honduras supports several indigenous organisations defending their rights to natural resources and organisations supporting Human Rights Defenders.

A report called “How Many More?” from Global Witness states that 101 human rights defenders opposing multinational companies have been killed in Honduras between 2010 and 2014.<sup>32</sup>

Berta Cáceres, an internationally recognised human rights defender pictured below, was brutally murdered in Honduras on 3 March 2016. Berta was the General Coordinator of the Indigenous Lenca organization COPINH - the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organisations. Less than two weeks later, Nelson García, 38, another member of COPINH was murdered.

COPINH had been leading opposition to the Agua Zarca dam in the Gualcarque River, in an area where the indigenous Lenca people live. Construction of the dam was pushed through without consulting the indigenous Lenca people—a violation of international treaties governing indigenous peoples’ rights.

Since the coup d’état in 2009 in which a democratically elected President was forced from power, Honduras has witnessed an explosive growth in environmentally destructive megaprojects. Almost 30 percent of the country’s land has been earmarked for mining concessions, creating a demand for cheap energy to power future mining operations. To meet this need, the government approved hundreds of dam projects around the country, without consulting affected communities.

The Agua Zarca Dam is a joint project of Honduran company Desarrollos Energéticos SA (DESA) and Chinese state-owned Sinohydro, the world’s largest dam developer. The dam would cut off the supply of water, food and medicine for hundreds of Lenca people and violate their right to sustainably manage and live off their land. The Dutch development bank FMO and FinnFund finance the dam but suspended their involvement in the Agua Zarca project following the killings of Berta Cáceres and Nelson Garcia.<sup>33</sup>



There is also deep concern regarding inadequate assessment or mitigation of human rights impact by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector investment arm of the World Bank which was forced into a U-turn over its relationship with a Honduran company for palm plantations which was accused of assassinations and forced evictions of peasant farmers. Following a damning report by its internal watchdog the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) in 2014, the IFC admitted failures in the implementation of its own social and environmental policies when approving this \$30million loan to the agribusiness Corporation Dinant.<sup>34</sup>

The reluctance by EU Member States and the US to meaningfully engage in the ongoing UN HR Council process to develop an international treaty which could help to end ongoing, documented abuses of human rights by businesses contrasts markedly with the political momentum behind the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). TTIP seeks to secure privileged treatment for corporations through the inclusion of a mechanism known as the Investor to State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), or an Investment Court System (ICS) which would enable MNCs to circumvent domestic courts system and sue sovereign states if host countries enact laws or regulations – even ones that protect public health, environmental or labour standards - that reduce the value of corporate investment, including missed future profits. These lawsuits bypass domestic courts and take place before an international tribunal of arbitrators, three private lawyers who decide whether private profits or public interests are more important undermining the state right to regulate.<sup>35</sup> State capacity and policy space to deal with urgent concerns such as climate mitigation, which have an impact on everyone, but particularly the poorest, would be undermined.

3.45 million EU citizens, who have signed a self-organised European Citizens Initiative against CETA and TTIP, recognise these risks.<sup>37</sup> Trócaire's shares the concerns of a wide range of domestic and international civil society organisations regarding the potential negative impacts of TTIP. Specifically in terms of lack of transparency of the negotiations; provisions in the agreement which undermine the EU commitment to policy coherence for development and place restrictions on policy space and the state right to regulate; and the significant risks it poses to efforts to tackle climate change and environmental degradation.

Given the increasing globalisation of business, it has become clear that respect for human rights by business must be tackled at both national and international levels. The UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights are part of that process and Ireland has committed to developing a National Action Plan to implement these.

### Corporations versus action on climate change

**TransCanada v. the US:** In January 2016, Canadian pipeline developer TransCanada announced its intend to sue the US on the basis of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for President Obama's rejection of the contested Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada's tar sand fields to refineries in the US. The project, which, according to environmentalists would increase CO2 emissions by up to 110 million tons per year, had faced massive citizen opposition. TransCanada wants a US\$15 billion in damages.<sup>36</sup>

## Trócaire calls on members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil to:

- Conclude 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,<sup>38</sup> and also ensure Ireland includes progress on 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.<sup>39</sup>
- 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 can be held liable in French courts if they have failed to exercise adequate due diligence in their supply chains.<sup>40</sup>
- 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 – most urgently in relation to CETA and TTIP.
- 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.



A factory in Kigali, Rwanda, where Trócaire partner Sosoma processes crops into porridge products for Rwandan and regional markets. Photo Gary Moore

## 4

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

Humanitarian need continues to increase in 2015. The world is experiencing greater disaster risks and a growing number of conflicts due to climate change, rapid urbanisation, poverty and inequality.

Worldwide displacement from wars, conflict, and persecution is at the highest levels recorded. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Annual Global Trends Report released in 2015 highlights a sharp escalation in the number of people forced to flee their homes. 1 in 122 people worldwide have been displaced as a result of war, violence or persecution.<sup>41</sup> Sexual and gender-based violence is pervasive in humanitarian crises with needs far outweighing efforts to provide appropriate assistance and protection to those affected. While Syria, Iraq and Libya are news fixtures, many crises do not make the headlines, yet people live in poverty and in fear of violence and abuse.

Yemen for example is one of many forgotten conflicts where 21 million people (80% of the population) need urgent humanitarian assistance.<sup>42</sup> Increasing need, coupled with complex political contexts places enormous pressure on governments, donors, nongovernmental organisation and especially on civilians, caught up in conflicts, often protracted, lasting decades. The engagement of Permanent Members of the Security Council in largescale conflicts is increasingly problematic as crises become entrenched and protracted, resulting in growing levels of humanitarian need around the world.

Trócaire works in many contexts where political will has failed, where the rights of civilians are abused and denied. In countries like Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the attention of the European Union Member States is vital to provide adequate, appropriate, consistent humanitarian aid to millions in need. Ireland is a highly respected humanitarian donor. In July 2015, the Irish Government with the Irish Humanitarian Community outlined a series of recommendations to the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. President Michael D. Higgins pledged Ireland's commitment to finding better ways to alleviate the suffering and recognise and restore the dignity of disaster-affected women and men globally. This commitment applies equally to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, requiring shelter, assistance and protection in the European Union.

The situation for refugees and asylum seekers wishing to enter Europe has been radically altered since the EU-Turkey Deal of March 18th 2016 was agreed by EU Member States. The deal reduces Syrian asylum seekers and refugees to commodities of trade rather than desperate and exhausted human beings, under a "one-in, a different one-out" plan that fails to take appropriate account of individual circumstances or the fundamental right to seek asylum. As it stands, implementation of the deal within the boundaries of international law seems unlikely. The deal is not designed in the best interests of refugees and asylum seekers, including Syrian civilians, but rather to contain the flow of displaced people trying to reach European countries. In addition, the deal ignores the systems and structures required to assess claims in a fair and legal way, the time required to investigate claims, and the right to appeal a rejected claim.



Debris lines the streets of Tacloban, Leyte island. This region was the worst affected by the typhoon, causing widespread damage and loss of life. Trocaire responded through the Caritas network by distributing food, shelter, hygiene kits and cooking utensils. Photo: Eoghan Rice – Trócaire/Caritas.

## Trócaire calls on members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil to:

- Reassert Ireland's commitment to International Refugee Law and International Human Rights Law and lead discussions with like-minded Member States to revise the EU-Turkey Deal and ensure EU member states provide appropriate and legal support to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.
- Use Ireland's good authority to influence and argue strongly that a sustained cessation of hostilities is given top priority at the Geneva peace talks in order to guarantee full access to populations within Syria that are in need of humanitarian assistance and play a greater role at EU, OSCE and UN level in seeking a diplomatic resolution to the Syria crisis.
- 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.
- Implement the new action plan on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, as agreed by EU member States in November 2015.



Trócaire midwife and nurse Amran Khalif registers new mom Bishara Ali Kitnige in the beneficiary list at the Khalil hospital in Belet Xawa district, southern Somalia. Bishara has just received a baby kit containing a baby shawl and a feeding cup as well as a treated mosquito net, as part of Trócaire's safe motherhood program in the hospital. Photo: Trócaire/A.Gichigi



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

Trócaire seeks to build a lasting and just peace in Israel and occupied Palestinian territory based on respect for human rights and adherence to international law.

Trócaire and its Israeli and Palestinian partners provide protection and support to people affected by conflict and human rights violations. Israel continues to displace Palestinian communities by force and confiscate their land, a practice which has been ongoing for over six decades. Israeli settlements, which are illegal under international law, have been established on Palestinian land. Palestinians remain without a state, and human rights violations such as house demolitions, land confiscation, forced displacement, restrictions of movement and violence against civilians occur on an almost daily basis. In 2014, entire neighbourhoods in Gaza were destroyed in the third Israeli military operation in six years. Almost 1,500 Palestinian civilians and four Israeli civilians were killed. Trócaire urges the international community, including Ireland and the EU, to use its leverage to bring an end to impunity for human rights violations in the region.



El Wafa hospital, Gaza. This hospital was destroyed by bombing in July 2014.



Israeli soldier searches boy's school bag in Hebron. The boy is a member of one of the few remaining Palestinian families to live in the old centre of Hebron. Palestinians who do not live in the old city are not allowed enter. Photo: Alan Whelan.

## Trócaire calls on members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil to:

- 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.



**Above:** Illegal Israeli Settlement

**Below:** A woman walks through a Palestinian area in east Jerusalem. Despite paying taxes to the local government, Palestinian communities receive very little investment and lack footpaths, street lights and rubbish collections. Photo: Eoghan Rice



# Endnotes

- 1 <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jan/18/richest-62-billionaires-wealthy-half-world-population-combined>
- 2 See [http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815\\_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf](http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf)
- 3 A summary of The Sustainable Development Goals adopted as part of the “Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030” for more information see <http://www.globalgoals.org/>
- 4 <http://www.trocaire.org/blogs/irelands-carbon-emissions-equal-400-millionworlds-poo>
- 5 See <http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-the-functioning-of-the-european-union-and-comments/part-5-external-action-by-the-union/title-3-cooperation-with-third-countries-and-humanitarian-aid/chapter-1-development-cooperation/496-article-208.html>
- 6 <http://www.trocaire.org/sites/trocaire/files/resources/policy/achieving-policycoherence-for-development.pdf>
- 7 See page 28 <https://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/allwebsitemedia/20newsandpublications/publicationpdfsenglish/one-worldone-future-irelands-new-policy.pdf>
- 8 See <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebitemedia/ourrolesandpolicies/ourwork/global-island/the-global-island-irelands-foreign-policy.pdf>
- 9 <http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2015/215/b215d.pdf>
- 10 In March 2016 the French National Assembly adopted, on second reading, a bill imposing environmental and human rights due diligence obligations on large French companies with regard to the activities of their subsidiaries and subcontractors. Once the law is in effect, judges will be able to require these companies to publish their due diligence plans and to report on how they have implemented them, and impose fines for non-compliance. Victims of serious human rights violations in the value chain will also be able to bring civil claims against French parent companies in French courts, and obtain a remedy if they can prove that the injury they suffered is linked to the company's lack of vigilance. See <http://www.corporatejustice.org/French-Duty-of-Care-law-despite-business-pressure-an-important-step-towards.html?lang=en>
- 11 A climate justice approach entails placing human rights at the centre of policy development and implementation. In developed and developing countries alike, people living in poverty who are already vulnerable will be those most impacted both by climate change and, potentially, by the responses to it. A climate justice approach constitutes a safeguard to ensure that: A range of integrated actions are implemented as a matter of urgency based on immediate and transparent domestic emission reductions across all sectors in line with established international commitments and scientific evidence; The most vulnerable people, domestically as well as internationally, are not disproportionately burdened in the response; Those impacted by a problem they did not contribute to are adequately and reliably supported to cope with the impacts and are given an equitable share of the opportunities that climate action and sustainable development presents.
- 12 For more information see [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate\\_change/factsheet.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/factsheet.htm)
- 13 See Trócaire 2014 report “Feeling the Heat: How Climate Change is driving extreme weather in the developing world” at <http://www.trocaire.org/resources/policyandadvocacy/feeling-the-heat>
- 14 Stern, N. (2006) Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, HM Treasury, London.
- 15 See <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/nationally-selfinterested-climate-change-mitigation-a-unified-conceptual-framework-2/> Further building on this, the International Energy Agency has recently projected that for every year of delay, the costs of decarbonisation increase due to high carbon ‘lock-in’. It has stated that, for every \$1 of investment in cleaner technology that needs to be invested in the power sector before 2020, an additional \$4.30 would need to be spent after 2020 to compensate for the increased emissions. See [https://www.iea.org/media/ieajournal/IEA\\_Energy\\_Issue2.pdf](https://www.iea.org/media/ieajournal/IEA_Energy_Issue2.pdf)
- 16 For a presentation of the IPCC Report findings see [http://www.climate.be/users/vanyp/presentations/2015-6-23\\_jpvy\\_maynooth\\_trcaire\\_maynooth.pdf](http://www.climate.be/users/vanyp/presentations/2015-6-23_jpvy_maynooth_trcaire_maynooth.pdf)
- 17 [https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/ib-civil-society-review-climate-indcs-191015-en\\_2.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/ib-civil-society-review-climate-indcs-191015-en_2.pdf)
- 18 <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/07.pdf>
- 19 <http://www.greenclimate.fund/contributions/pledge-tracker#states> and <http://www.e3g.org/news/media-room/europe-tops-green-climate-fund-leaderboard>
- 20 <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/11/08/immediate-push-on-climate-smart-development-can-keep-more-than-100-million-people-out-of-poverty>
- 21 [https://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced\\_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008831](https://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008831)
- 22 <http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/what-are-the-top-global-risks-for-2016>
- 23 [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2016/cr2016\\_ireland\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2016/cr2016_ireland_en.pdf)
- 24 <http://www.epa.ie/newsandevents/news/name,59044,en.html#VuZ7s03cuP9>
- 25 <http://www.caneurope.org/can-and-press/947-envi-council-post-paris-discussion>
- 26 <http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/committees/environmenttransportcultureandthegaeltacht/Report-on-the-Outline-Heads-of-the-Climate-Action-and-Low-Carbon-Development-Bill-2013.pdf>
- 27 <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/ODA-2015-complete-data-tables.pdf>
- 28 According to the OECD definitions “Tied aid credits are official or officially supported Loans, credits or Associated Financing packages where procurement of the goods or services involved is limited to the donor country or to a group of countries which does not include substantially all developing countries. Untied aid is Official Development Assistance for which the associated goods and services may be fully and freely procured in substantially all countries.”
- 29 See <http://robinhoodtax.ie/> for more information
- 30 Private investment can be an important driver of development, but is also often associated, either directly or indirectly, with human rights abuses, corruption, conflict and environmental degradation. In Myanmar for example, 3.5 million acres of private large-scale agribusiness concessions have been awarded to Burmese and foreign private companies in recent years. These concessions are in areas which have the largest remaining forest cover in the country and on land where ethnic minorities (making up 30-40 percent of the total population) live and rely on for their livelihood - the vast majority of whom do not have legal land tenure. New land laws introduced in 2012 have strengthened the legal framework for further land acquisition by large private businesses forcing communities off their land.
- 31 <http://www.trocaire.ie/resources/policyandadvocacy/human-rights-duediligence-policy-measures-effective-implementation>
- 32 <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/how-many-more/>
- 33 [http://www.development-today.com/magazine/Frontpage/finnfund\\_suspends\\_disbursements\\_to\\_honduran\\_dam\\_project](http://www.development-today.com/magazine/Frontpage/finnfund_suspends_disbursements_to_honduran_dam_project)

- 34 <https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/cso-statement-cao-investigation-ifc-dinant-investment-20jan2014.pdf>
- 35 The process towards an international legally binding instrument at the UN HR Council, if thoughtfully developed, could provide an important additional tool to ensure that businesses respect human rights in the longer term. (See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/WGTransCorp/Pages/IGWGOntnc.aspx>) It is important that EU member states, including Ireland play a constructive role in discussions within the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IGWG) on the elaboration of such an instrument to ensure access to justice and to effectively stop the occurrence of human rights abuses by businesses. Ireland should engage in a constructive manner in all international fora with respect to business and human rights issues, including the IGWG. See [http://www.cidse.org/publications/business-and-human-rights/business-and-human-rights-frameworks/download/905\\_67c9473903cee13221fb8832bf471cf5.html](http://www.cidse.org/publications/business-and-human-rights/business-and-human-rights-frameworks/download/905_67c9473903cee13221fb8832bf471cf5.html).
- 36 [http://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/the\\_zombie\\_isds\\_0.pdf](http://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/the_zombie_isds_0.pdf)
- 37 See <https://stop-ttip.org/>  
An excerpt from the European Commission report on a public consultation on inclusion of ISDS in TTIP provides a summary of widespread public concerns as outlined below: "In these submissions, the ISDS mechanism is perceived as a threat to democracy and public finance or to public policies. It is also considered as unnecessary between the EU and the US, in view of the perceived strength of the respective judicial systems. Such views are largely echoed by most of the trade unions, a large majority of NGOs, Government institutions and many respondents in the "other organisations" category, including consumer organisations. Many among the collective submissions express specific concerns about governments being sued by corporations for high amounts of money which in their view create a "chilling effect" on the right to regulate. In addition, certain replies from trade unions express a generic mistrust with regard to the independence and impartiality of the arbitrators or are concerned that ISDS may create a possibility for investors to circumvent domestic courts, laws or regulations." See [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/january/tradoc\\_153044.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/january/tradoc_153044.pdf)
- 38 This involves requiring all state owned companies and agencies, in particular those with a significant overseas presence (e.g. Enterprise Ireland, BordBia, ESB International) to demonstrate the highest possible attention to human rights through their policy statements, and establishing human rights due diligence and remedial processes, thus providing a leading example to other Irish businesses
- 39 Due diligence is understood as a business process through which enterprises actively identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address and manage their potential and actual adverse human rights impacts on an ongoing basis. The process should include assessing actual and potential impacts throughout their business operations, integrating and acting upon the findings, tracking responses, and communicating how impacts are addressed. Due diligence implies more than just an assessment of risks for the company; the purpose is to understand and address risks and abuses that the company's activities pose to rights holders, including in its supply chain and through its other business relationships. See "How to use the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in company research and advocacy: A guide for civil society organisations" and also CIDSE Paper "Human Rights Due Diligence: Policy Measures for Effective Implementation." September 2013  
See [http://www.debtireland.org/download/pdf/ddci\\_worldbank\\_imf\\_annual\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.debtireland.org/download/pdf/ddci_worldbank_imf_annual_report_2014.pdf)
- 40 There are a number of innovative legislative initiatives underway with respect to mandatory HRDD which are worthy of consideration in the context of the development of an Irish NAP. Of particular note are The French Bill on duty of vigilance (devoir de vigilance) and the Swiss Responsible Business Initiative. For example, the bill currently before the French Parliament aims to create a requirement for French companies to demonstrate, if sued in civil, commercial, or penal court that they have put in place preventive systems to avoid causing or contributing to harm in the framework of their economic activity across subsidiaries and sub-contractors. Once the law is in effect, judges will be able to require these companies to publish their due diligence plans and to report on how they have implemented them, and impose fines for non-compliance. Victims of serious human rights violations in the value chain will also be able to bring civil claims against French parent companies in French courts, and obtain a remedy if they can prove that the injury they suffered is linked to the company's lack of vigilance. The Responsible Business Initiative is a popular initiative with the aim of introducing mandatory due diligence for all Swiss companies. The proposed text makes changes to the Swiss Federal Constitution establishing the companies' obligation to integrate human rights and environmental protection in all their business activities. See Loi relative au devoir de vigilance des sociétés mères et des entreprises donneuses d'ordre. Adopted by the French General Assembly in second reading in March 2016. Initiative pour des multinationals responsables and also Text prepared by the Swiss Coalition for Corporate Justice. Available at <http://konzern-initiative.ch/de-quoi-il-s-agit/texte-initiative/?lang=fr>.
- 41 See <http://unhcr.org/556725e69.html>
- 42 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/mar/21/life-amid-conflict-yemen-humanitarian-aid-everyone-has-forgotten-us>





# About Trócaire

Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Trócaire envisages a just and peaceful world where people's dignity is ensured and rights are respected; where basic needs are met and resources are shared equitably; where people have control over their own lives and those in power act for the common good.

Trócaire work's with communities in the developing world to deliver long-term positive change to people's lives.

Established in 1973, today Trócaire works in 17 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East\* on **issues including livelihoods, human rights, gender equality, HIV, climate change and emergency relief.**

In Ireland, we raise awareness about the causes of poverty through our outreach programmes in the education sector, through parish networks, and through our public campaigns and advocacy work.

In 2014/15, Trócaire spent almost €58 million helping to improve the lives of an estimated 2.4 million people directly in some of the poorest places in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.

Trócaire annual report 2014-2015 is available at:  
<https://www.trocaire.org/sites/trocaire/files/pdfs/whatwedo/trocaire-annual-report-2014-15-web.pdf>

## Trócaire Supporting Advocacy for Global Justice

As a faith-based organisation Trócaire is united with similar organisations across the world through CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity) and the wider church network Caritas Internationalis (a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations) in challenging global structures of injustice. Through CIDSE Trócaire links in to the European umbrella organisation for development NGOs, CONCORD, which represents 160 NGOs across Europe. In the Republic of Ireland, Trócaire works with the association of Irish non-governmental development organisations, Dóchas. Trócaire is also a member of CADA (Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies) in Northern Ireland.

For more detailed policy positions on any of the issues in this document please contact Selina Donnelly at: [SDonnelly@trocaire.ie](mailto:SDonnelly@trocaire.ie)

All of Trócaire's Policy and Advocacy resources can be accessed online at:  
[www.trocaire.org/resources/policyandadvocacy](http://www.trocaire.org/resources/policyandadvocacy)

\* Trócaire works in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, India, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, Myanmar and Pakistan. Trócaire also responds to humanitarian crises in countries where natural disaster or conflict has put people's lives at risk. Trócaire is currently responding to crises in a number of countries including Syria, Nepal, South Sudan and Gaza in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

**Working for  
a just world.**

**Trócaire**

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Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic church in Ireland and a member of CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis. Irish charity number: CHY 5883.

**[www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)**