



The Irish Association  
of Non-Governmental  
Development Organisations

## **OPENING STATEMENT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE**

**Tuesday 2 November**

### **Introduction**

#### **Louise Finan, Head of Policy, Dóchas**

Chairman Flanagan, Deputies and Senators, on behalf of Dóchas and our members I welcome this opportunity to engage with you at the beginning of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which is currently taking place in Glasgow.

Firstly however, I would like to thank all members of this committee for their engagement and support during our last meeting with you in July. At that point, we were seeking your support for the 5 key asks in our pre-budget submission, in particular the need for the Government to increase its spending on Official Development Assistance if it is to deliver on its “Global Ireland” strategy and Irish Aid’s international development policy, “A Better World” to leave no-one behind and to offer a clear pathway to achieving 0.5% by 2025 and onwards to 0.7% by 2030.

To that end, we very much welcome the Government’s announcement of an additional allocation of €140million to ODA in 2022 and we see this as an important step towards meeting our international commitments and ensuring no-one is left behind. We were also encouraged to hear of Minister Brophy’s intention to work with his own department and other government departments including the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to put in place systems to grow our ODA in line with the commitment of spending 0.7% by 2030. Determined progress will ensure that we meet our pledge and commit to supporting lives which have been upended by Covid-19, Conflict and the ever-devastating impact of Climate Change.

Today, Dóchas members are here to discuss with you why COP26 is a critical moment for multilateral climate action and give you a sense of what meaningful action would mean for some of the world’s most impacted communities. We ask for your support today to ensure that Ireland addresses the climate change challenge by focusing on the actions it needs to take both domestically and internationally to ensure sustainable development is delivered for all future generations.

You will have read many reports about the effects climate change is having on the poorest people in the world, how it is increasing poverty and inequality, preventable diseases, food insecurity and water stress, as well as conflict over scarce natural resources. My colleagues today Yousaf Jogeza, Country Director with Concern Worldwide in Malawi, Maurice Sadlier, Programmes & Policy Director, World Vision Ireland and Nafkote Dabi, Climate Change Policy Lead, Oxfam International will set the scene for you of the reality of these effects on the

communities they work with and the actions they hope will be taken during COP26, and indeed actions you as Irish parliamentarians can take.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing support to Dóchas and its members.