

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 17 May 2021 13:30 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Aligning Domestic and Foreign Policy towards Sustainable Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Sinéad McPhillips, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) with Responsibility for Agri-food Strategy and Sectoral Development, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9829/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Ireland

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

999

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

Ireland strongly supports the call for a 'people's summit' and a 'solutions summit'. Ireland has prioritised the seven principles of engagement as the overarching framework for the planning and preparation of its four National Dialogues. This will ensure a people and solutions focus throughout the national level engagement in the Summit process. The National Dialogues coincide with the launch for public consultation of Ireland's draft Agri-food Strategy to 2030. This new 10-year Strategy has been developed using a food systems approach, making Ireland one of the first countries in the world to implement this approach in national level agriculture and food planning. Ireland is committed to maximising the contribution of the four National Dialogues to the future sustainability of Ireland's food system. The Dialogues will provide an opportunity for all food system actors and stakeholders, from farmers and fishers to consumers, to learn more about Ireland's food system, build a shared understanding of the challenges and the opportunities we face, and enable us to work together to address them. The outcomes of the National Dialogues will be considered in finalising the draft 2030 Agri-food Strategy.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The following are some examples of how Ireland's National Dialogues reflect specific aspects of the seven principles of engagement: 1. Act with urgency Ireland has responded to the call for urgent action by launching a series of four National Dialogues. These coincide with a public consultation on the draft 2030 Agri-food Strategy. This coherence allows for a comprehensive consultation on the future of Ireland's food system in the shortest possible time. 2. Commit to the Summit Ireland has identified the National Dialogues as a central part of its strategic engagement with the Summit. Ireland has demonstrated its commitment to the Summit by aligning the National Dialogues with the national agriculture and food planning process to develop its Agri-food Strategy to 2030. 3. Be respectful Through the involvement of a wide and diverse range of food systems actors and stakeholders in the National Dialogues, Ireland is ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the future sustainability of Ireland's food system. We are all part of Ireland's food system, and so we must respect and listen to all participants. 4. Recognise complexity To reflect the public consultation on its draft Agri-food Strategy to 2030, Ireland has created a series of National Dialogues to discuss the complex and interlinked social, environmental and economic challenges and opportunities we face. 5. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity Ireland's Food Systems Summit Steering Committee, an inter-departmental group tasked with coordinating Ireland's involvement in the Summit, has proactively engaged multiple food systems stakeholder groups and provided regular briefings on Ireland's participation in the Summit Action Tracks and the National Dialogues. In selecting participants to be involved in the various panel discussions, the Steering Committee actively sought experts from across the entire food system, from civil society, private and public sectors, primary producer organisations, research and academia, youth etc.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Contd. Ireland created a dedicated webpage for the National Dialogues, and advertised the Dialogues widely through multiple media platforms and partner organisations. To facilitate the broadest possible engagement during the Dialogues, Ireland live-streamed each event on multiple platforms, including YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. Participation was further encouraged through questions and answer, which could be submitted before the event to a dedicated email address, or submitted during the event in real-time using Sli.do. 6. Complement the work of others The Steering Committee has actively consulted with, supported and participated in the many Independent Dialogues that have been held in Ireland since the start of the Summit's Dialogue process. In addition, Ireland will incorporate the official feedback from all Independent Dialogues held in Ireland into its final synthesis report, to ensure the views and opinions of all food systems actors and stakeholders are recorded and reflected in the final outcomes of the National Dialogues. 7. Build trust By ensuring the widest possible engagement, and respectfully listening to and answering questions on the most important and challenging areas of our food system, Ireland will look to recognise and respond to the concerns raised during our discussions. We will focus on solutions that can play a role in the continued enhancement of the sustainability of our food system, to reassure all stakeholders of our shared commitment to future sustainability. We will look to build trust, and foster ever greater cooperation and collaboration among food systems stakeholder by reflecting the discussion accurately and honestly in the Official Feedback Forms and to use this feedback in finalising Ireland's draft 2030 Agri-food Strategy.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Ireland's Fourth National Dialogue focused on 'Aligning Domestic and Foreign Policy towards Sustainable Food Systems'. The opening remarks from Mr. Ruairí de Burca, Director General, Development Cooperation and Africa Division, in the Department of Foreign Affairs, outlined how food systems touch every aspect of human existence; and that our central focus on those living with hunger will require sustained action. Ireland was one of the first countries to support the call for a Food Systems Summit and Ireland will work to ensure there is strong engagement across the world especially from those who are often furthest away.

The first key note address was delivered by Dr. Susanna Moorehead, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Dr. Moorehead illustrated the challenges facing food systems globally in the lead up to the Summit and spoke about the important role of Ireland's voice internationally as a champion in the fight against hunger, rooted in a historical experience of famine.

Dr. Moorehead outlined the key positive findings of the DAC Peer Review of Ireland, specifically in areas focussing on LDCs, women's empowerment and gender equality, and support for civil society organisations. The key area of improvement identified in the DAC Peer Review was policy coherence across domestic, development and foreign policy to achieve the SDGs. Dr. Moorehead highlighted the importance of policy coherence across generations, where choices made today will affect future generations. She complimented Ireland on the excellent progress made so far in implementing the Peer Review recommendations, and proposed key areas to consider going forward, including: investing in research and development in developing countries; sharing lessons of what works and what does not; sharing the experiences of tackling difficult policy issues through citizen assemblies; and exploring ways for Ireland to reach 'net zero'.

Dr. Jamie Morrison, Director at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) gave the second keynote address. Dr. Morrison provided context to rising food insecurity globally, driven by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the challenge of achieving the target of eliminating hunger by 2030 now evident. He spoke to the challenge of eliminating hunger alongside the prevalence of overweight and obesity, with the underlying reality that 3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. This challenge around the affordability of food and the trade-offs that will be necessary will be pivotal in terms of identifying solutions through the National Dialogues process. Dr. Morrison also spoke to the unique integrated approach taken by Ireland in linking research, learning, education and innovation in agriculture. Many of the lessons learned by Ireland are inspirational for others and examples such as supporting learning exchanges with countries in Africa are incredibly impactful.

The keynote addresses were followed by two panel discussions. The first panel focussed on 'Ireland's Role in Promoting Change Internationally' and discussed the policy framework and emerging initiatives to leverage domestic capacities within Ireland's international development policy, A Better World. Key aspects of the discussion were a focus on technology, science and research, mutual partnership-based approaches between Ireland and Africa, and bringing together domestic and foreign policy in a coherent way.

The second panel focussed on 'Policy to Practice: Understanding the Challenges and Opportunities' where panellists provided a range of perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing developing countries, with a particular focus on the impact of those living in poverty. The panel focused on the political dimensions of food as well as technical aspects in outlining some options for reaching those furthest behind, and the potential for Ireland to support African farmers in increasing sustainable productivity.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

- Partnership-based approaches, infused with mutual respect, open sharing, cooperation and sound planning is the clear way forward in the relationship between Ireland and Africa.
- Policy choices to ensure coherence across domestic, foreign and development policies with an awareness of the trade-offs in maximising Ireland's contribution to achieving the SDGs are necessary.
- Ireland's credibility and voice as a champion in the fight against hunger is a key contribution leading up to the Summit and beyond.
- Key investments in research, science and technology will be necessary to support developing countries to develop their food systems.
- Focusing on the impact of those living in poverty and the intersection of Conflict, Gender Inequality and Climate Change will be key.
- There is a real need to achieve sustainable intensification in Africa given the projections around population growth and the need for Africa to feed its growing population.
- A rights-based approach to food systems that emphasises the underlying ownership and access issues is as important as the focus on technical solutions.
- Healthy communities with access to social, economic and agricultural services are the foundation of a thriving rural society.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

See attached for full report.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

See attached for full report.

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- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Instrumental changes versus transformational changes in terms of an approach to food systems.
- The balance between private sector investment and development aid in achieving sustainable intensification.
- The impact of conflict alongside climate as a driving factor in hunger where there was a divergence between panel members and audience votes.
- Differentiation between food supply and access: an overconcentration of control and ownership even with an increase in supply versus the underlying rights around control and access for primary producers.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/OFFICIAL-FEEDBACK-Aligning-Domestic-and-Foreign-Policy-towards-Sustainable-Food-Systems-FINAL.pdf>