

Facilitator's Report

National Stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Dublin Castle, 18th October 2019



Facilitators:
Kieran Murphy, Wholestory + Lorna McDowell, XENERGIE



Background

The Sustainable Development Goals National Stakeholder Forum has a threefold purpose

- Provide a mechanism for key stakeholders to engage on an ongoing basis in the national implementation of the Goals;
- Directly include voices from groups at risk of social exclusion and/or discrimination in the national implementation of the Goals;
- Inform further development of the SDG national implementation framework

The Forum meeting on the 18th October 2019 focused on SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals.

The Forum had two different, but related, parts:

- 1) A series of presentations exploring different aspects and examples of partnership at international, national and local levels followed by questions and answers from participants.
- 2) A discussion on Youth Engagement and the SDGs

The agenda has been included as Appendix 1.

The Forum was facilitated by Kieran Murphy, Wholestory and Lorna McDowell, XENERGIE.

Attendees at the Forum

A survey of participants, using Slido (see Appendix 2), identified that

- 42% of those who took part in the poll were attending their first event;
- 20% attending their second event;
- 15% attending their 3rd event
- 23% attending their 4th or 5th event

Modelling Partnership

Given that the focus of the forum was partnership, which at its heart is about engaging with new people and new perspectives, participants were invited to introduce themselves to the people sitting close to them and have a conversation on the question *'What is it that attracted you to being here today?'*

Participants were then asked to use Slido to respond to the question *Using ONE word – express what attracts you to being here today?* The key themes to emerge were:

- *Change* through the successful implementation of the SDG goals, and
- Connecting with other stakeholders expressed through the following words *networking, collaboration, partnership*

See Appendix 3 for details of the words chosen, captured in a Wordcloud.

1. Exploring different aspects and examples of partnership

Presentations were given by:

- David Donoghue, Former Ambassador of Ireland to the United Nations, who chaired the negotiations agreeing the Sustainable Development Goals back in 2015, spoke on *Partnership for the Goals*.
- Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Sean Canney T.D, spoke on *National Volunteering Strategy, Public Participation Networks (PPNs) and the Sustainable Development Goal Champions*.
- Columba O Dowd, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spoke on *Partnerships for International Development*.
- Valerie Duffy – National Youth Council of Ireland, David Joyce – Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Niamh Garvey – Trocaire and Micheal Ewing – Irish Environmental Network, representing Coalition 2030 spoke on *Partnership for the Goals*.

As part of the presentation by Coalition 2030 two questions were asked of participants:

- How do we maximise the potential of this forum and improve on the experience of it, given its terms of reference?
- In ONE word, what does "Partnership" look like to you?

During the presentations questions, comments and responses to the posed questions were collected from participants using Slido. Details of the responses are included in the Appendix 4, 5, 6.

Copies of the presentation are available on the Departments website (insert link)

2. Youth Engagement

Participants, working in small groups, had conversations about the following questions:

- What should the Department take into account when establishing the Youth Forum?
- How can the Department ensure that the Youth Forum is representative?
- In ONE word, how would you suggest we judge the success of the Youth Forum?

Participants gave their feedback to the questions using Slido – see Appendix 7, 8, 9.

3. Facilitators Reflections

The independent facilitators of the Forum offer the following feedback about the process of the day and Forum process in general. This feedback is drawn from comments by participants on the day and the facilitators own observations from experience of facilitating similar processes.

- **Stakeholder Satisfaction with Style of Engagement:** Participants used Slido to make the following points directly about the experience of the Forum on the day:
 - o *Can we setup a SDG Stakeholder Forum Organising Committee that involves civil society to help organise the agendas of these forums?*

- *Why does the SDG Stakeholder Forum feel top down rather than a partnership?*

These comments were 'liked' by 24 participants and 6 participants respectively. These comments, along with other comments and feedback on the day in response to different questions, suggest that there are significant, unmet expectations among stakeholders about the *process* of the Forum. This relates to the preparation and of the engagement, rather than the content of what is discussed, for example:

- the decision as to what individual Forum events focus on i.e. the agenda;
 - the balance to be struck between presentations and conversations
 - the opportunity to engage with the speakers and other stakeholders
 - the environment for engaging, both physical and cultural, with guidelines as to how to get the best from the process
 - the nature of the engagement – the values, agreements and assumptions - between stakeholders and between the government departments.
- **A Process that can Contain the Complexity of the Task** - The Stakeholder Forum has a lot of complexity to it which comes from the scale and breath of the 17 SDGs, the large number of diverse stakeholders who attend each Forum event, and the different expectations among stakeholders about the scale, pace and focus of the implementation of the SDGs. Successful group processes, require an element of guiding and learning to help people understand what this level of complexity requires of them (mindset) and how to get the best from it and themselves in the process. In other words, the task of the group is as much about learning as it is about contributing to thinking, and this learning is directly linked to the group's ability to be able to deliver /influence change through their respective networks and home groups.

The Terms of Reference for the Forum acknowledge that it will '*progressively evolve*' over its life time and that it will model the Principles and Values of the SDGs. Therefore, the process needs to encompass a learning element that brings these SDGs alive in the life of the Forum, both in terms of process as well as content.

In other words, as the Forum continues to evolve it is useful to keep in mind the distinction between, on the one hand, the content – the focus of individual forum events, selection of speakers and their inputs, the structure e.g. sequencing items on the day and amount of time give to presentations and on the other hand, the process – designing activities which create an experience of collaboration; surfacing and managing the variety and sometimes conflicting, expectations of different stakeholders; creating the conditions for robust and respectful conversations about important issues; and clarifying the roles of the different stakeholders e.g. government departments, civil society, business community etc.

National SDG Stakeholder Forum

AGENDA

18 October 2019

Dublin Castle, Main Conference Centre

- 9.45 Welcome and outline of the day, including update on recent SDG activity, SDG Champions, SDG Working Groups: Communications; Mapping & Activities.
- 10.00 Key Note Address by David Donoghue, “Partnership for the Goals”
- 10.30 Speech by Minister of State Sean Canney T.D, – the Volunteer Strategy, PPN’s and the Sustainable Development Goals Champions Programme.
- 10.45 Columba O’Dowd , Deputy Director, Civil Society and Development Education Unit (CSDEU)
Partnerships for International Development.
- 11.00 Q&A
- 11.15 *Tea/Coffee – Networking*
- 11.45 **Coalition 2030 – Partnership for the Goals**
- Valerie Duffy, National Youth Council of Ireland Youth Pillar representative
 - David Joyce, Irish Congress of Trade Unions Trade Union Pillar Representative
 - Niamh Garvey, Trocaire International Development Pillar representative
 - Michael Ewing, Irish Environmental Network Environmental Pillar representative

- 13:00 *Lunch and Networking*
- 14.15 Discussion on youth engagement and the SDGs.
- 16.15 Wrap-up and conclusion

Appendix 2

Response to the poll **How many times have you attended a stakeholder Forum event?**

How many times have you attended this event?

074

This is my first time!



2nd time



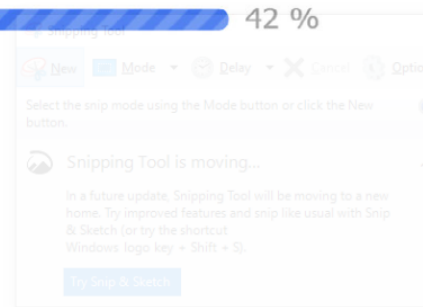
3rd time



4th time



5th time



Appendix 3

Response to the poll **Using one word what attracts you to being here today?**

Using ONE word.. What attracts you to being here today?

095



Appendix 4

Questions and comments from participants during morning presentations?

The numbers in brackets indicate the number of 'likes' a comment/question received via Slido from other participants.

Feedback and suggestions on the process, content and focus of Stakeholder Forum events.

- Can we setup a SDG Stakeholder Forum Organising Committee that involves civil society to help organise the agendas of these forums? (24)
- Why does the SDG Stakeholder Forum feel top down rather than a partnership? (6)
- Considering the topic of SDGs and reaching those furthest removed/in need, why is the level of diversity not reflected in the audience or in the Speaker panel? (6)
- If partnership is about listening to each other, might be good to think about shared panels? Noticing that Minister has had to go as civil society speaks. (5)
- Actually answer the questions through slido. It's not enough to give the tools to raise an opinion without actually engaging and actively responding. (2)
- Annual Forum work plan - what goals/objectives do we want accomplish as a group of stakeholders? Let's develop an impact-based strategy & deliverables. (1)
- Is Ireland SDGs stakeholders open to delegates from developing countries, if yes how can this be achieved?
- Breakout working groups that collaborate over a year to deliver on strategy for the forum.
- Clear trajectory for the outcomes of the Forum to be included in policy development to support policy coherence.
- There was great consultation with CSOs for A Better World policy but none on Global Ireland. Why? Consistency is important if partnership is to feel real.

Engaging marginalised groups.

- Marginalised groups need local community facilities, women groups, men sheds, youth services, and children's centres. Closure amalgamated local groups necessary funding. (3)
- Has the government got a clear definition and analysis of who is being left behind most in this country and internationally? Would be good to share... (3)
- Where are those left behind at the forum? Can they be supported to attend? (1)

Engaging the full cross section of stakeholders.

- Partnership for the goals should include EVERYONE yet there are many that have never heard of SDGs. Why is there no nationwide ad campaign including T.V. and radio etc? (10)
- Civil society played a major role in creating the SDGs. Is civil society being included in Ireland in order to see successful delivery of the Goals? (5)
- How about engaging chambers of commerce as SDG champions? Chambers are business membership organisations and ideally placed to share this message. (4)
- What do you see as the greatest threat to meeting the SDGs? (2)
- Once again the business community appears to be under represented. We hear they are key, but what is about the forum that doesn't make them want to get involved. (2)

- What is your opinion on the fact that Ireland has under 30 UN global compact aligned businesses? (1)

Engaging Young people

- There's a lot of talk on youth participation in the SDGs, young people are vital to their achievement so why isn't there a cohort of young people here to contribute? (4)
- Why was a goal for youth not included (and removed) from the SDGs when they were being developed? Their worth and participation isn't reflected in Goal 17. (3)
- CULTURE has a significant role to play in the delivery of the Agenda 2030 & SDGs, yet it is never seen as an opportunity for youth & SDGs. What's the issue? (3)

Identifying and overcoming SDG implementation challenges.

- Do you think that most of the SDGs are being 'drowned out' by a focus on climate action? (12)
- Does the Irish government know how much it will cost to deliver on its National implementation plan, and what's the current funding gap, and plan to address it? (9)
- Should there be an SDG officer appointed per County to promote the SDGs? (6)
- How on target are we to achieving the indicators of Goal 17 by 2020? (6)
- What is in place to monitor the progress on the SDGs in Ireland? (5)
- Has there been a review or assessment published on progress to date on Ireland's SDGs National Implementation Plan? Can details be provided? (4)
- What can be done (or who can we go to for help) at government level to facilitate (cut the red tape!!) Cross-Government partnerships which can drive the SDGs? (3)
- What additional funding is being made available to forward our programmes as we seek to implement the 17 goals? (3)
- Do you think in an Irish context that more can be done to facilitate (cut the tired tape!) cross government partnerships which can drive the SDGs. (2)
- When will Government report to Oireachtas, public on progress, gaps and plans? (2) Bring citizens assembly type structures to local governments to get civil society as a whole to engage with the goals and contribute ideas. (1)
- How will the maturity of the implementation of the SDG's be measured? (1)
- How close are we to getting SDGs onto the agenda for Dáil Éireann where members can discuss the goals and learn about them?
- David Donoghue referred to the vital importance of policy coherence for delivery of
- Outcomes should be required listening for government ministers. Otherwise SDGs are ignored.
- Evaluation & building on lessons learned
- Workshops with government and stakeholders to create solutions together
- Measured outcomes - a work plan of deliverables
- Policy Coherence i.e. alignment is key.

Ireland in an international context: measuring progress in achieving SDGs

- Finland applies SDG monitoring to its budget process. We've done well at applying gender markers, time to expand it to SDGs? (8)
- Is Germany's recent peer review on SDG progress a good idea for Ireland? How might it work? (6)

- Have you come across any innovative approaches at national level for including marginalised and vulnerable people in implementing the SDGs? (5)
- How does Ireland measure up against other developed countries in line with SDG goals? (2)

Ensuring a continued focus on SDGs in the evolving context in the wider world.

- In context of Brexit & the next stage, future relationship & trade agreements, can Ireland take the lead in ensuring that the SDGs are central to negotiations? (4)
- I would wonder whether Trump is even aware of the SDGs!

Volunteer Strategy

- Will the kind of participatory process noted in developing the Volunteering Strategy also be used for developing the National Implementation Plan for the SDGs? (4)
- Increased funding of 300k to volunteer centres in 2017 and maintaining that level of funding cannot be called an increase, but a decrease for 2018 and 2019. (3)
- What examples would the minister give to show positive partnerships between linking domestic and international goals? (3)

Education

- TU Dublin Environment & Planning -SDGs are central to all our student learning. Education of future land, environmental, planning practitioners is pivotal here. (2)
- Education is key to delivery of the SDG's when are the Department of Education going to embed ESD in Senior Cycle Curriculum subjects-Geography is essential!!

SDG Champions

- SDG champions are very impressive high profile organisations. Maybe smaller organisations who deal with more diverse (left behind) groups could have been selected too. (5)

Balancing a commitment between Ireland and the rest of the world

- SDG financing in Ireland & overseas is not an either/or, it is a both/and. The SDGs are a universal agenda. We must prioritize SDG funding overseas & in Ireland. (8)
- Niamh Garvey's answer was excellent, thank you for answering the q so well on not pitting one disadvantaged group against another. Well said. (3)
- We're one global family, right? (1)

Other

- Who makes up or what is regarded as 'civil society'? (2)
- EU SDG dimension?
- Fairness in funding support of local community organisations who deal with real personalised issues. (2)

Appendix 5

Responses to the question **How do we maximise the potential of this forum and improve on the experience of it, given its terms of reference?**

Develop a more co-creative collaborative approach to structuring the content and process of Forum events in order to draw on the extensive breadth and depth of experience of stakeholders and orientate the Forum towards successful implementation of the SDGs.

- There's an amazing collective intelligence in the room which is not harvested. That's a missed opportunity. A collaborative and co-creative approach is necessary.
- A diverse steering committee for the Forum is an excellent suggestion.
- Include groups/citizens in the organising of the forums
- Work with partners to plan stakeholder forum and what we want from future events
- engage coalition, and other stakeholder, in planning the forum - and each forum to be engaging and participative - with feedback from forum to forum
- Stop speaking at us and include us more! Discussion groups etc
- Breakout sessions/workshops so people can share ideas and knowledge
- Q&A in plenary is not necessarily best way to engage stakeholders.
- Keynote was excellent but move straight from that to facilitated stakeholder engagement - draw on sectoral expertise. Invite diverse groups to input through stories of what they are doing, the impact it has and the challenges they face for addressing one or more of the SDGs. New SDGs Champions need to attend - and to be visible - allowing for greater collaboration opportunities
- Space for collaboration & exchange. Breakout groups.
- More engagement with audience (working groups)
- The Forum is an ideal space to look collectively at progress in implementing the goals
- Allow exchange of information between people in the room e.g. closed group on Facebook.
- Actually answer the questions through slido. It's not enough to give the tools to raise an opinion without actually engaging and actively responding
- Establish an organising committee to devise the work of the Forum & bring in specific issues, obstacles thrash out
- More participation. Group work on collecting ideas and bringing them forward for policy change
- Actually answer the Slido questions throughout the day so that there's more of an inclusive discussion
- A diversity of formats for engagement, building trust, with shared tasks and collaborative goals.
- Have a more diverse audience to really build partnership from the ground up.
- Create a no blame culture
- Should be driven by NGOs rather than central government
- In partnership with NGO's
- Organise this based on needs of people who have signed up - listen to their needs and how they can contribute to the forum
- Give us all a badge/conversation starter.

Reflections on the Purpose of the Forum.

- Delivery of information is very interesting but the forum should be about government gathering information, discussion & debate. Q&A is very limiting. Specific questions on actions to be take & routes to implementation to be debated in groups. A hackathon would be good & citizen assembly.
- Re-examine its terms of reference

Progress as a Forum

- Are we making progress? Need progress reports and debate at forum.
- Demonstrate impact forum is having
- Clear measurement and analysis of achievements
- Create actions as a result of forum
- Create specific goals to achieve

Stakeholders attending

- Reps of ALL Government departments need to attend to listen and understand recommendations arising from forum and to ensure these are considered by policy makers and acted on.
- A lot of sectors not represented at these forums, each Government Department have an SDG rep. They should also have a role in highlighting this event and engaging with groups in their sector
- Better business representation
- Include all sectors not just civil society
- Get the private sector involved
- Include more young people at the forum or a young person section
- Engage with business membership organisation like chambers of commerce as sdg champions
- Representation from for profit sector as another driver of these aims
- Add business perspective.

Geographic location of Forum events.

- Have regional workshops
- Move it around the country
- Bring it to the regions.
- Broaden it out the rest of the country, promote the SDGs and these kinds of forums across media, remember that your stakeholders are people at a ground level and top-down change is not an effective method of engagement
- Include rural Ireland
- Forum outside of Dublin. Inform rural Ireland
- Include rural perspectives
- It would be great to have forum take place outside of Dublin too. Engage with communities in cork etc. Or take it by region. Bring sdgs discussion to people across the country
- Organise regional satellite events/video conferences to network and encourage partnerships.

Suggestions for agenda items for the Forum.

- Get a regular report, and then start a dialogue with the Inter Dept SDG group, as standing item at the forum.
- More concrete reporting on targets and impacts by responsible departments. Greater accountability.
- Link to specific SDGs (and policy issues) coming up at the next SDG global summit
- Have a presentation from a community that have successfully implemented some of the goals.
- Prioritise addressing the barriers to driving the SDGs in Ireland
- Need to focus more on implementation
- Focus on Ireland's progress on the SDGs
- More on the ground examples of embedding the SDGs in schools etc
- Share local experiences
- Agree key priorities and gaps on current implementation plan and make those the thematic focus?
- Get beyond the government bubble.

Structuring the work of the Forum

- Don't necessarily need more subgroups, but work efficiently and regularly with those already in the arena
- Insert a Local Authority layer

Panels at Forum events

- Wider societal representation on panels
- Have a more diverse panel. Advertise it better so that it has a further reach to more organisations

Communicate, raise awareness and publicise the work of the Forum

- Enhance awareness about the forum and its purpose
- Raise awareness. National advertising campaign along the lines of Referendum Commission but for SDGs.
- Increase awareness
- Ask everyone to post about it TODAY to maximise coverage.

Implementation of SDGs

- Governments own DPER guidelines are helpful framework towards consultation. Let's use that as we review the national implementation plan next year. Could be good focus for forum?
- Need for a more innovative, inclusive response to implementation of SDGs
- SDG education to be incorporated into CSPE curriculum
- Develop a monitoring and accountability process for the government
- Share the results widely
- Need to see whether we are achieving the goals
- Draw up a 'well-being index' for the people of Ireland using the SDGs

- Policy coherence critical issue. Forum needs to properly address very significant and systemic issues here.
- Create stronger links between departments implementing SDG goal actions and the forum
- There is a huge amount being done at local level. Local Partnerships and achievements are not being mapped or recorded against the SDGs. There needs to be a national coordinator to map Partnerships and achievements.

International example of good practice

- Need to draw on international experience of civil society and governmental partnerships on implementation and monitoring of SDGs

Other

- Create a register of risk based topics that can be a basis for discussion at a grass roots level to assist communities groups and businesses align or form strategies in conjunction with the forum
- Build partnerships
- Shared planning
- Start by accepting that it can't be only space for dialogue. Would be good to have a particular space to develop a mechanism for policy coherence for sustainable development, with the forum holding us accountable to deliver on that.
- Importance of great collaboration among groups
- Recognize and identify the different value add of stakeholders in order to maximise their role and impact. Recognise the shared agenda and understand capacity constraints.
- Point on accountability is spot on. The forum must address this for it to have real value.

Appendix 6

Response to the question **In ONE word, what does "Partnership" look like to you?**

In ONE word, what does "Partnership" look like to you? 072



Appendix 7

Response to the question **What should the Department take into account when establishing the Youth Forum?**

Engage young people directly, in contrast to asking the Stakeholder Forum at which there are no young people.

- Ask the youth
- Invite young people
- Youth led
- Ask youth themselves

Be clear on the purpose of the Youth Forum.

- Youth forum or youth action?
- What is the purpose of the forum? What do you want to achieve? Do you want a broad interest range, demographic etc. Are they regional and national? Frequency of meetings? Who sets the agenda?
- establish clear outcomes
- Very clear purpose
- Have terms of reference to include definite actions after each forum
- Think about the objective of the forum. How can it really give youth a voice?
- Not just about engaging them in awareness but active contributors to support implementation
- Focus

Use existing youth engagement process to avoid unnecessarily duplicate what may already exist

- Use existing youth forums eg Junior Chambers of Commerce - don't set up another. Using an existing one allows you tap into pre engagement
- A lot of forums already in place. Reinventing the wheel can slow the overall progress. This SDG Forum should knit those fora together and unify those efforts across all policy areas
- Many existing structures for engaging young people already. Link in with existing structures and build on that.
- Get schools on board and make use of GAA as SDG Ambassadors
- Check out Young Voices
- Using UN Youth advocates.
- Link or feed into EU youth forum and/or UN youth forum
- Use the champions and those who may not have been successful as championing this time
- Use the Champions. Don't overload schools. Tap into what animates this age group and turn their voices and concerns into policy and actions so they can see outcomes.
- Inclusive maybe using existing adult networks to identify youth sections Existing youth organisations and structures.
- Ask schools to participate or nominate representatives

Ensure that the Youth Forum is a genuine engagement process with young people

- Genuine engagement and accountability. There has been a groundswell of youth activism with the Climate Strikes. A forum should enable political dialogue between young people and policy makers that, as David Donoghue said, gives people the confidence that their recommendations are being acted on within the political system.
- Important to facilitate preparation of young people for event. Perhaps this could be done regionally
- Inclusion in decision making
- Young people must have a role in establishing agenda
- Create opportunities for young people to meet with actual decision makers and policy makers
- Empower students to spread the messages and create their own content.
- Not patronising and don't undermine the knowledge of youth
- Take it seriously (not tokenistic)
- Fast paced, dynamic, interactive and tangible outcomes
- Feedback and constant contact with youth on what has and has not been done.
- Organised by youth
- Get young people's opinion on this instead of us adults.
- Young people setting the agenda
- The output is it's not tokenism
- Deliver the forums in a more youth friendly way
- No young voices here

Ensure that the Youth Forum reflects the diversity of young people's experiences and perspectives.

- Inclusivity - include marginalised groups Good Selection process. Think about who we are targeting. Provide support and resources for engagement. Clarity on link between stakeholder forum and youth forum. Terms of reference for youth forum. Meaningful engagement of young people. Intercultural communication. Links to parliamentary committee. Regional forums. Digital
- Consider that some students/youth representatives may not fully know about or understand the SDGs but important to include this demographic
- Create diversity targets for participation based on the SDGs themselves. Gender, ethnicity, Education, Rural and Coastal living, Eliminating Poverty etc.
- Accessible locations or allow for linking in online
- Include school going and non-school goers
- Inclusivity in terms of culture and economic background, I.e. that a wide range of opinions would be heard
- Roadshow, avoid being Dublin centric
- Consider the diversity to ensure its accessible to all
- Diversity representative of modern Ireland (class, race ability)
- Involve the youth in establishing a forum
- Regional accessibility
- Ensure diversity of membership including socio economic status
- Diverse and inclusive of all youth
- Take into account of diversity (location, socio-economic disadvantage, age, gender)
- Social economic backgrounds

- Accessibility. Diversity. Visible results. Effective recruitment
- Diversity of background
- All youth voices heard from a diversity of backgrounds
- Inclusivity - ensuring wide range of representation - not just same voice or only self-selecting
- Gender Balance.

Age range

- Consider the age span - it's too large and should be broken into groups a 14 year old would have very different perspective to that of a 20 year old university age student . Use online forum to create online communities and encourage discussion 4. 5.
- Broaden age group
- Review define and align the youth age category for the forum in line with National Youth Council (under 25's)

Suggestions for how to structure a Youth Forum

- Build the forum on a County level first use local knowledge to create this group and then nominate from local fora to the national forum
- Regional engagement
- Providing structures and parameters which allows for clear debate and progress
- Clear structures for engagement - schools & youth organisations - with support from Dept. of Education - coordination with existing structures
- Single events are less effective in engagement and learning than continuous involvement
- Youth should be a part of the organising of the forum (agenda ect.)
- Decentralise opportunities to take part (smaller groups).
- Set up SDG youth centres to get teenagers off the street corners
- Youth representation on parliamentary committees for their priorities
- Suggest that each of the 12 champions nominate a youth forum member
- Target SDG's by region
- Commence with a mapping exercise under different pillars e.g Education/Community/Business and look at ways to work regionally to capitalise on some excellent work already being undertaken
- Embed module on SDGs into curriculum
- Let the students lead on topics that are discussed.
- Let youth ambassadors lead the workshops/forums.

Use technology as a way of accessing young people

- Tap into their passion. Use technology.
- Poll young people on social media
- The website youth.ie and specifically the interactive map on youth and SDGs

Messaging, communications and raising the profile of the Youth Forum

- Don't patronise young people. Package messages in a way that isn't 'academic' but that clearly and concisely outlines why the SDGs are important, the effect it has on their future, why getting involved will help to achieve goals and improve the lives of

'everyone'. Young people care about social issues, but feel like the things they do won't make a difference - convince them it will.

- The method of communication needs to be relevant and accessible to the age group- eg video and digital.
- Use targeted social media to create awareness especially snap chat and instagram
- Need youth ambassadors
- Include positive case-studies on video of both Irish and international examples of where youth activists have had an impact on SDG-related policies - encourage and empower young people to believe that they can make a difference and champions of the SDGs

Plan

- Set targets and have a plan of action

Link with Stakeholder Forum

- Clear connection to this forum
- Maybe don't silo young people from current Stakeholder Forum

Resources for participation and engagement in the Youth Forum

- Resource with dedicated young team
- Too much dependency on volunteers

The value in having a Youth Forum

- Young people taking ownership of their future

Appendix 8

Response to the question **How can the Department ensure that the Youth Forum is representative?**

Proactively reach out to and engage young people

- Invest in active outreach, not enough to say this is open to all. Put funding into actively ensuring all groups can attend, covering travel, childcare, payment if needed eg. If someone had to miss a day of work. Outreach takes time and skill, pay staff or civil society organizations to do this.

Be clear on the Purpose of the Youth Forum

- Always ask ourselves “what do they get out of it?” Why would they want to be involved and what difference are they expected to make
- Make sure it has a clear purpose.
- Before you reach out you need to be sure that you can clearly tell the young people what the outcome of their involvement t would be.

Make creative use of young people’s use of technology to raise awareness of the SDGs and to engage them

- Use SDG theme browsing as condition to gain access to free Internet
- Why not set up a dedicated Facebook page and get the Youth contributions from there so they have a collaborative space to speak
- Get 30 minutes in a school day and set up online event
- Other opportunities to engage using technology - online queries, questions or idea's.

Access and engage young people through existing structures, processes and organisations.

- Avoid duplication of structures and forums. Build on the existing structures.
- Talk to EcoUnesco
- Go through schools, youth groups, youth reaches, GAA, traveller community, religious communities, LGBT groups, youth organisations e.g. NYCI, ECO-UNESCO, Foroige etc
- Encourage and support Youth Organisations to have a SDG small festival/band night/include in local initiatives that are taking place already.
- Possibly connect through coderdojo and an SDD category in the annual competition in The rds
- Link together structures already in place and connect them all together through SDG Youth Forum
- Collaboration with youth groups in the community
- Reach out with slido to schools on days like today
- Have a young scientist SDG category
- Take SDG's to classroom
- Talk to Youthreach
- Reach out to different groups, for example Traveller organisations, people in Direct Provision, etc
- Networking with established youth organisations to ensure all youth are represented
- Use champions to go to regions

- Secondary Schools as the primary source, but also clubs and other existing structures?
- Offer youth a voice for inclusion using existing infrastructures through regional representatives eg forroige/deis schools, marginalised youth groups etc
- Use existing structures and youth engagement mechanisms/organisations
- Reach out through organizations that work with marginalised youth.
- Recruit from DEIS schools
- Go to youth reach, vocational schools, look at other successful models of outreach such as Trinity Access Programme.
- Invite representatives rom different youth focused organisations
- Go through DEIS schools
- Work with different organizations - NGOs, Champions, schools
- Have SDG achievement awards to youth in BT Young scientist, other youth events

Be proactive in ensuring the Youth Forum is diverse

- Targeted consultations with representative groups for vulnerable people should take place alongside Youth Forum to ensure most marginalised voices are heard
- Actively seek out young people from different backgrounds
- Begin with furthest behind
- Support marginalised communities with resources if needs be to attend meetings shop
- By actively seeking out marginalised communities and supporting them with resources needed for their involvement.
- Ensure funding available for travel etc
- Support marginalised communities with resources if needs be to attend meetings
- Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds often don't think these opportunities for them. Ask adults who work with disadvantaged youth to nominate young people
- Reach out to all parts of community in all regions
- Reach the furthest behind first. Remove barriers to participation, including covering transport costs
- Include various socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Existing youth groups, educational levels e.g. secondary and 3rd level. Primary 5th/6th ? Various levels of ability. Those affected by poverty and homelessness.
- Don't assume everyone has the same resources e.g. access to internet, literate parents
- Different age groups. All nationalities. All abilities Leave no one behind. Make an effort to include all
- Youth from groups outside of school eg scouts, GAA, music school etc
- Youths with visible and non-visible disability, Migrants, Youths from refugee centres
- Youths from different ethos schools
- Involve all organisations not just education
- Give tools to teachers and don't over-rely on schools.
- Make contact with all sections of society and that they feel comfortable in engaging

- Geographic balance to include rural Urban, marine communities. Tap into existing organisations for representation but don't limit it to this. Use SDG champions as a model for selection !!

Ensure a quality of engagement with young people

- Meaningful participation from Ministers and Department officials. They need to talk TO young people...not talk AT them
- Dialogue process Ensure Young people are listened to
- Young people need to be the leaders of the forum
- Ask the youth

Support meaningful participation of young people

- Provide training to young people from diverse backgrounds so that they can engage effectively
- Ensure no financial barriers ie to attend meetings
- Provide resources and funding for young people
- To make schools aware of absence on that day as kids will stress about missing a day

Have a variety of channels to engage

- Have a mix of webinar and slido
- Focus on spaces and channels that make young people comfortable to participate- physical, virtual etc.
- Ensure there are regional meetings so that there isn't an issue for transport
- Physically visit the groups and discover new groups
- Regional forums
- One annual plenary plus regional / sub-regional hubs using social media in a thoughtful way - all so as to maximise engagement.
- Where all voices are heard via a hub. So as travel costs are not incurred
- Organise survey of youth from all areas.
- The 12 champions should be representative of society so ask them to nominate a youth member each

Create a safe participative space for young people to engage with each other

- Create safe space where views are shared
- Create a safe space for young people to share opinions and action plane
- Make it interesting and adapt young people culture and language

Agenda items – focus

- Focus on particular areas of interest rather than being too broad
- Show how other SDGs relate to climate change

Structure

- Ensure timing of forum doesn't preclude particular groups. Eg exams etc

Raising the profile and awareness of the existence of the Youth forum.

- Popular youth celebrities as SDG champions, i.e. 2fm presenter, love island winners, etc.

- Tap into popular cultural events, shows, TV, radio
- Involve celebrities youth look up to & follow
- Get popular youth celebrities to champion programme
- Communication in different medias

Role of Forum

- Link young people directly with policy makers and decision makers

Selecting participants

- Expressions of interest
- Develop a selection process to ensure that a range of voices are heard. Too often the same youth are given opportunities to input.
- Consider increasing the age range to 24
- Remember that by increasing the upper age limit, problems arise engaging younger audiences (Garda Clearance / Child Protection). Nothing stopping people 20+ yr olds engaging in current stakeholder fora.

Other

- All interested parties to be included in ongoing feedback It's about creating awareness
- Mapping and developing local programmes managed at local authority level, ensures regional spread and access without an onerous transport burden.
- Common interest and more commitment
- Can we be careful of making an assumption that hard to reach students are automatically disadvantaged and/or students in DEIS schools.

Appendix 9

Response to the question **In ONE word, how would you suggest we judge the success of the Youth Forum?**

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