



Ireland's Place

in The Wider World

Our commitments:

- Continually increase our Overseas Development Aid budget by at least €200 million as we move towards the UN target of 0.7% of GNI
- Formally recognise the state of Palestine
- Build on Ireland's leading role in negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals by making sure we achieve them at home and abroad
- Support efforts to reform the investor state dispute resolution mechanism within the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership
- Develop the State's first Tax and Human Rights Policy to inform our international corporate tax strategy

Introduction

Ever since its foundation, Labour has been a party of internationalism and promoting social justice for people across the world.

We believe that Ireland has a vital role to play on the world stage as a small, developed nation with a strong history of charity and international activism.

In Government we have built on that legacy by maintaining the monetary value of Ireland's Overseas Development Aid through the economic crisis. We have also ensured, despite serious opposition from some quarters, that Ireland moved to meet its international responsibilities and accepted more refugees than initially proposed.

We are committed to further developing and increasing our Overseas Direct Aid and to making sure this money is spent wisely and in the interests of some of the most vulnerable people on earth.

We believe in multilateralism and a foreign policy that promotes peace, stability and solidarity between nations and peoples.

As a small island nation, we need to constantly strive to build international relationships while preserving and nurturing our vibrant heritage. Labour in Government has worked hard to rebuild our shattered international reputation. Through careful diplomacy and a trade-focused foreign strategy, we have ensured Ireland once again stands tall in the eyes of our global partners.

Our enactment of the country's first-ever Climate Change legislations has also placed Ireland in the forefront of the international debate on how best to effectively tackle the Climate Change crisis.

Labour believes in an Ireland that is confident and secure in the role we play in the world.

Supporting Aid and Human Rights around the World

Notwithstanding considerable progress in recent years, chronic poverty, hunger, political insecurity and injustice persist in much of the developing world, and especially in sub-Saharan Africa. These challenges are being exacerbated by climate change.

Despite the economic crisis Labour in Government maintained the monetary value of Overseas Development Aid. We remain committed to reaching the UN target of 0.7% of GNI.

In order to move much closer towards this target, Labour's plan is to increase our ODA budget by at least €200 million over the next five years.

Labour in Government is also determined to building on our leading role in negotiating the Sustainable Development goals. We are firmly committed to seeing these goals achieved on-schedule both at home and abroad.

We support the policy goals set out in the 2013 White Paper "One World One Future". In particular, we support the reorientation of support towards fragile states.

If re-elected to Government, we will continue to work with NGOs and CSOs in tackling hunger, injustice and the effects of climate change and in supporting human rights and gender equality. We support the 'Scaling Up Nutrition' movement. We will work with our international partners to prevent political insecurity and to mitigate its effects. In particular we will work to assist people displaced or impacted by war and civil unrest.

Labour recognises the link between tax and human rights, including how Ireland's tax system can impact on financial flows from developing to developed countries. Labour in government will develop the State's first Tax and Human Rights policy incorporating issues such as corporate transparency, double taxation agreements, and the interaction of national taxation systems.

Ireland's tax and human rights policy will inform Ireland's existing international corporate tax strategy and the State's position in relation to

the OECD Base Erosion and Project Shifting (BEPS) project and EU tax reform.

Labour will continue to work to achieve progress within the UN on the range of treaties and negotiations in the field of weapons of mass destruction, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the efforts to rid the world of landmines, cluster munitions and biological weapons.

Full Recognition for Palestine

Labour is fundamentally committed to supporting a long-term peaceful solution for the crises in the Middle East, based on the principles of human rights and self-determination.

We believe the European Union must strengthen its collective response in relation to the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, both in terms of providing relocation and resettlement of refugees and in securing greater assistance to bring peace and stability to war-torn regions.

We recognise the special interest of many Irish people in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the need for countries to take symbolic action to encourage a permanent peaceful settlement.

Labour strongly condemns violent action by all sides and will continue to call on the chief actors to respect international rules and norms.

Building on the symbolic support already approved by Dáil Éireann, and conscious of the example set by our European partners in Sweden, Labour will ensure the next Government formally recognises the state of Palestine. This will serve as a basis for ongoing support for a fair and enduring solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.



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