

National Statement – Ireland

Madam President of the General Assembly, distinguished
Heads of State and Government, Secretary General,
Excellencies, dear colleagues,

[To begin, I am happy to be here today speaking on behalf of
Ireland] *This sentence will be delivered in the language of Ireland.*

I would like to acknowledge and thank our generous host His
Highness Sheik, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the
State of Qatar, and his government. I would also like to thank
Belgium and Morocco, the co-facilitators of the
intergovernmental negotiations to develop the Doha Political
Declaration. Your role in guiding our collective hopes and
efforts to a successful outcome is greatly appreciated. We
thank you sincerely.

This Summit, and the Doha Political Declaration, is a testament to our shared commitment to staying the course on Agenda 2030 and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, - leaving no one behind.

Despite progress over the course of the thirty years since the first World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, ours remains a world of persistent poverty amidst a push back against gender equality and human rights, growing levels of conflict and humanitarian need and a worsening climate crisis.

This Summit provides an opportunity for the international community to take stock of progress and to address the profound social challenges still facing us.

The Copenhagen Declaration of 1995 recognised, for the first time, the flaws inherent in siloed, sectoral approaches. It recognised that the structural drivers of poverty, inequality and exclusion called for policies and interventions that reinforce one another.

Ireland's path of social development reaffirms the need for integrated measures for social inclusion identified in Copenhagen and underscored again, here in Doha. Tackling persistent pockets of poverty, ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and promoting access to basic services for the poorest in society, requires whole-of-government responses.

The Doha Political Declaration offers us an opportunity to re-commit to an integrated holistic approach. It sets out a clear course of action for getting us back on track with the Sustainable Development Goals.

I welcome the Declaration's call for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, the provision of social protection, quality education, decent work and adequate health care for all. I echo the call for inclusive societies that enable full, equal and meaningful participation for all, including but not limited to, women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Firmly rooted in our own social history - Ireland has been a long-standing champion of global efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and to increase access to quality education and universal health care.

The Doha Declaration makes many references to social protection, recognising its role as a precondition for social development.

Social protection is a central component of Ireland's own social development – a great example of a policy instrument whose benefits underpin success across a range of other social development priorities.

We have seen in Ireland, how social protection acts as a frontline tool for tackling extreme poverty and inequality. It acts not just as a safety net, but also as a springboard for individuals to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Reaching the Furthest Behind First, is the overarching framework for Ireland's international development

cooperation and humanitarian action. Globally, we cannot reach those furthest behind, unless we expand social protection services.

In low-income countries, where social protection is most needed, coverage remains critically low. Expanding social protection coverage is necessary to ensure that the most marginalised navigate a rapidly changing world and adapt to the challenges posed by crises including conflict and climate change.

The Doha Declaration builds upon the Copenhagen Declaration, the Political Declarations of the 2019 and 2023 SDG Summits, the Pact of the Future and the outcome of the recent Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development.

Success in meeting these commitments relies upon a strong rules-based multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core. Ireland remains a firm and strong supporter of the UN

and of the ongoing efforts to strengthen and modernise the UN system.

With a strong UN, together we will ensure the coordinated collective action required to deliver on the commitments we are making during this Summit in Doha.

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