



General Election 2020 Candidate Engagement Guide for IDEA members

Introduction

The next government must be an international forerunner in adopting and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and a policy agenda which respects human rights and addresses key global challenges of the 21st century, such as climate change, poverty, inequality, resource depletion and quality of life.

As a key enabler of this policy agenda, we seek urgent implementation of SDG Target 4.7.

by 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

The transformative Development Education for sustainable development envisaged by Target 4.7 is a life-long learning process and a public good, promoting change and the necessary development of individuals, communities and systems. Target 4.7 is fundamental to achieving the SDGs by assisting people, communities, and state and non-state entities to fully assume their responsibilities as actors in a single interdependent world.

Development Education fosters engaged, active and critical learners and builds constructive and democratic approaches to difference. In Ireland, this involves addressing the global issues directly linked to our local context and exploring how as individuals and as a society we can act to tackle broader issues and resolve complex problems.

Specific Development Education 'asks' of candidates:

- **Development Education should be a strategic priority** in the next government's policy agenda and in Irish Aid's management and strategic approaches, with clear actions associated with this prioritisation.
- **Funding increases for Development Education** to at least 3% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2025, in line with the European benchmark for Development Education funding.
- For a **coherent, integrated government approach to Development Education** that reaches across relevant departments, including the Department of Education and Skills & the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.
- For a long-term commitment through **multiannual funding approaches and strategic partnerships**, as well as the current annual Irish Aid grant system for newer applicants, 'seed funding' and innovative approaches to Development Education to reach new audiences.
- **Fulfil Ireland's international commitments by increasing ODA to 0.7%** of Gross National Income by 2025.
- **For a 'whole of government' approach to implementation of the SDGs**, including a specific line in future budgets with dedicated resources for implementation of the SDGs.