



# Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals

An Irish business perspective

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# Three questions

What are the UN SDGs?

What do they mean for Irish civil society?

How can businesses contribute?

## The UN view of sustainable development

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

“Three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection”

“Implementation and success will rely on countries’ own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, and will be led by countries.”

“All stakeholders: governments, civil society, the private sector, and others, are expected to contribute”

# The latest stage of a continuing process

1992

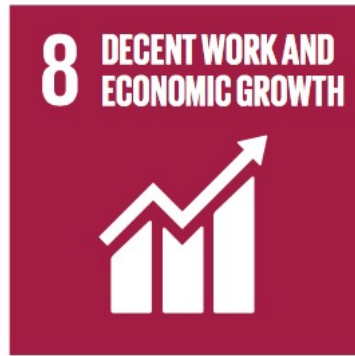
- **Rio Earth Summit**
  - Agenda 21: improve human lives and the environment

2000

- **Millennium Summit**
  - Eight goals on ending extreme poverty by 2015

2015

- **UN Sustainable Development Summit**
  - Blueprint of 17 interlinked global goals under *Agenda 2030*
  - Signatory governments reporting progress on *169 targets*





## The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020

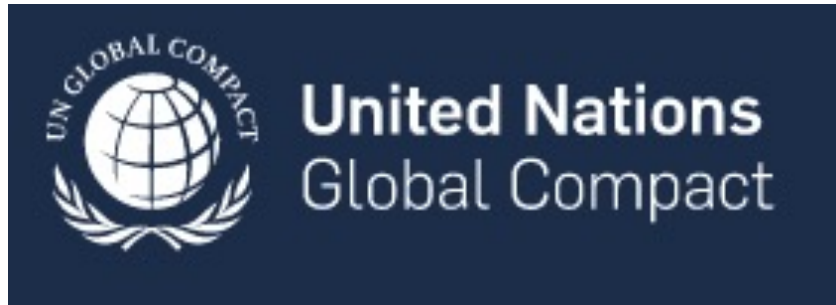


### Cross-cutting themes

- *Smart sustainable economic growth*
- *Efficient use of resources*
- *Inter-generational equity*
- *Gender equity*
- *Respect for ecological integrity*
- *Social equity*
- *Respect for cultural heritage and diversity*
- *Equity between countries and regions*

# Civil society SDG Champions: 2019/21 programme

Organisation	Goals pursued
An Post	Clean energy, decent work, innovation, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, climate
BIM	Zero hunger, decent work, responsible consumption/production, life below water
Carlow CC	No poverty, clean water, clean energy, sustainable cities, responsible consumption/production
ECO-UNESCO	Quality education, climate action, life below water, life on land
GAA	Good health and wellbeing, quality education, life on land, partnerships for the goals
ICTU	No poverty, decent work, reduced inequalities, peace and justice
Men's Sheds	Good health, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, responsible consumption/production
Musgrave	Good health, decent work, sustainable cities, responsible consumption/production
NWCI	Good health, gender equality, decent work, reduced inequalities, peace and justice
Smart Farming	Quality education, decent work, climate action, life on land, partnerships for the goals
USI	Good health, quality education, gender equality, clean energy, reduced inequalities
Vodafone	Gender equality, clean energy, decent work, innovation, reduced inequalities



A call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals.

Companies can register with UNGC either as ***Global/regional participants*** (9 now active in Ireland), or as ***Country/regional signatories*** (17 now active in Ireland)  
Annual financial commitments depend on turnover.



## Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact

1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, *and*
2. make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
4. the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
5. the effective abolition of child labour; *and*
6. the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
8. undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; *and*
9. encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies
10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery

# SDGs and the corporate ESG agenda

Ibec members increasingly recognise environmental and social sustainability as key boardroom priorities

A *'regulatory tsunami'* now approaching? Recent European Commission proposals include:

- Sustainable Products Initiative (expanded Eco-Design)
- Sustainable Finance Taxonomy (six Delegated Acts)
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
- Sustainable Corporate Governance Directive

# How does your organisation stack up?

You may already be doing a lot more than you realise...

In 2021, Ibec conducted an internal mapping of its engagement on sustainability, through the lens of the UN SDGs

- It identified hundreds of recent events, forums, research reports, regulatory submissions and campaign activities relating to the Sustainable Development Goals (*all 17 of which are addressed*)

In 2022 we will establish a *Sustainability Forum* to ensure coherence and consistency across our entire organisation (*including policy advocacy, management training, employer relations, human resources, and company operations*)



# Thank you

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