Dublin Conference Hunger-Nutrition-Climate Justice
Panel 8: From Learning to Leading - Panel Discussion, Tuesday,
Address by Mr. Joe Costello, T.D., Minister of State for Trade and Development
16 April, 15:45

I want to thank Mary Robinson for distilling the key messages from our dialogue over the past two days. These messages are important in helping to inform the Irish Government’s ongoing and future work. We are in the process of finalising a review of our development policy. Our dialogue here over the past two days will build coherence in Irish Aid’s approach to addressing the hunger nutrition climate change challenge.

Having listened to and learnt from you all over the past few days I’d like to assure you that your messages will be well used. We will use the good lessons shared over the past few days on programmes, particularly the lessons on how to bring location solutions to scale to ensure that our programmes effectively respond to the Hunger-Nutrition-Climate Justice challenge. In terms of our international policy engagement I can see a number of key opportunities over the coming months, indeed days, to progress our messages.

Later this week I am travelling to Washington for the Spring Meeting of the World Bank. I am co-hosting a side event with the Canadian Government with a focus on sustainable agriculture and nutrition. This will be my first opportunity to share the message from our conference.

We have a strong ongoing partnership with our nearest neighbour, Britain and, as EU Presidency, we will certainly be working coherently with them, during their chairing of the G8. We are partnering with the UK in particular on the nutrition event they are planning with the Children’s Investment Fund Framework on the 8th of June in London.

Addressing the linkages between hunger nutrition and climate justice has been a clear development priority for Ireland’s EU Presidency. We are working to ensure agreement on an EU maternal and child nutrition policy and a clear plan for its implementation. We will bring this policy to the EU Foreign Affairs Council at the end of May for agreement. We are also bringing together a coherent EU position on the post 2015 process to that Council to ensure a strong EU position in advance of the Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals in New York in September.
Ireland is co-facilitating the process towards the Special Event in September along with South Africa. We will do all in our power to ensure that the hunger nutrition and climate justice challenge is considered and addressed in the ongoing post 2015 development agenda process.

In the Sustainable Development Goal process, we are working with the Norwegian and Danish governments, in the Open Working Group and there will be plenty of opportunities to inform the deliberations of the open working group. I hope to meet my Norwegian and Danish colleagues in Washington later this week.

Going back to the issue of joined up approaches to the Hunger-Nutrition-Climate Justice challenge, it was vital that we had both our Ministers of Agriculture and Environment actively participate in our dialogue here in Dublin. In Ireland’s engagement with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poland at the end of this year, but equally, or more importantly in the lead up to 2015, we will support the leadership of our Minister for the Environment, in ensuring that these linked challenges are considered in the planned new 2015 global climate agreement.

Let me finish by thanking you all for sharing your wisdom and experience during our dialogue. I commit to doing all that I can, both within our own development programme but also within our engagement with the global development agenda policy dialogue to ensure that the hunger nutrition and climate justice challenge receives the attention it needs and deserves in our shared ambition for a world we want, for both present and future generations.

We will continue to play a strong and active role in addressing the hunger nutrition and climate justice challenge and will make full use of the conference findings in guiding our work.

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