

Ireland

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. Ireland hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

Ireland:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.
4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions.*
5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.
6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food

sector, skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.
8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Policy cooperation and support commitments

Ireland:

Commits to, within its capacities, share its own learnings and otherwise provide appropriate help and support, within its means, to other Global Alliance member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of policies and programmes referenced in the Alliance's basket.

Specifically, informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes and other activities related to lessons-learned and international cooperation in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

Ireland is committed to delivering for those furthest behind first through our development programme, and this remains the overarching frame of Ireland's development policy, cutting across our priority areas of gender equality, good governance, reducing humanitarian need and climate action. Partnership and collaboration is central to our approach and we are committed to working with others in these areas.

As part of efforts to address the worrying reversal in progress on food and nutrition security seen in recent years as a result of increased conflict, fragility and climate change, Ireland will continue to prioritize nutrition across health, food systems and social protection. Keeping our focus on malnutrition in children in particular, we will continue our work of addressing Child Wasting with UNICEF and WHO as part of the **Global Action Plan on Child Wasting**. Ireland also joined the **Child Nutrition Fund** launched by UNICEF in 2023. The Fund is a UNICEF-led financing mechanism for services supporting the prevention and early detection of malnutrition and treatment of wasting. Ireland's support to UN Nutrition strengthens coordination and effectiveness, in delivering for nutrition at country level.

As part of Ireland's sustained advocacy for the prioritization of nutrition globally, we will lead a resolution at World Health Assembly 78 on the "Extension of the Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition" to consolidate efforts, align time-frames, and galvanize momentum for actions needed to achieve the global target to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

We will continue to support global efforts for food system transformation through partnerships with IFAD, FAO, WFP, CGIAR, World Bank Food Systems 2030 programme and the UN Food System Coordination Hub.

To address some of the particular challenges faced by women, we will support women's economic empowerment in agriculture and rural development, through the **Joint Programme for Rural Women's Economic Empowerment**, led by FAO, the WFP, IFAD and UN Women. We also continue to be engaged in the Women in the Sustainable Economy (WISE) Initiative, which aims to strengthen women's participation and contribution to climate action and the green economy.

Along with USAID, we will continue to support agricultural transformation, climate resilience and enterprise development with a focus on the development of climate resilient crops in Malawi and Zambia, and support the **Accelerator Initiative** on food security in Southern Africa including VACS [Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils].

In line with Ireland's commitment to promoting social protection, and in support for SDG 1.3 to reduce and prevent poverty, we will continue to share our experience and to support partner countries to establish and expand their social protection systems. In particular, we will continue to support the work of the **Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection** for Just Transitions, and its three mutually supportive pillars covering in-country development and implementation of national social protection and employment plans, expanding fiscal space and improving multilateral cooperation.

We will continue to support the ILO's **Flagship Programme on Social Protection Floors**, which assists countries develop the legal and policy frameworks for social protection floors, guided by ILO's social security standards.

Financial support commitments

Ireland:

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the destination, allocation and alignment of the use of its resources, including through coordination and cooperation facilitated by the Global Alliance, to support member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of select programmes or policy instruments in the Alliance's reference basket to drive the fight against hunger and poverty, in line with sustainable country-led financing and implementation strategies.

Informs that an estimated amount of USD 350 million of financial resources under its guidance, management or control is currently being employed and/or may be allocated annually in the reference timeframe of [2024 to 2027] to provide international

development support applicable to the fight against hunger and poverty and advancing SDGs 1 and 2. The amount informed is the best possible estimation considering different applicable modalities, allocations and budget cycles, and is subject to changing circumstances and budgets. It is not to be considered a pledge of new and additional resources.

This includes commitments of €50 million to the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting (2023 – 2026), €44.5 million for countries in Southern Africa for the development of climate resilient crops under the USAID led ‘Accelerator’ initiative, €25 million for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and €105 million for a strategic partnership with WFP for humanitarian food assistance and social protection support.

Knowledge support commitments

Ireland:

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging, and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

Informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

Ireland's approach to supporting social protection internationally is informed by Ireland's experience domestically, where there is a strong track record of delivering high quality social assistance to those in need.

As a funding partner of the CGIAR centers Ireland continues to provide support to research programmes through targeted projects, including at country level, and bilateral investments in research centers that combat hunger, poverty and inequalities.

Ireland is ready to conduct direct lesson sharing activities with counterparts from Global Alliance members through different modalities and arrangements. We also continue to support FAO, CFA, WFP and IFAD as the pre-eminent organisations addressing food and nutrition, so that the Global Alliance can build on the expertise of these agencies.

The World Bank portfolio of programmes, especially the Food Systems 2030 programme has extensive knowledge learning components with which Ireland engages.

General acknowledgments

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.