

## **PRESS RELEASE**

28 April 2010

### **Millennium Campaign chief addresses Foreign Affairs Committee**

### **Irish NGOs welcome Oireachtas Committee call on Minister Power to set out a binding timetable on overseas aid**

Irish Development NGOs today welcomed the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee's call on the Minister of State for Overseas Aid, Peter Power, to set out a clear and binding timetable and interim targets for Ireland's overseas aid programme.

Committee Chairman Michael Woods TD made the call during a meeting with the Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign, Salil Shetty. The meeting was called to assess the progress made in reaching the Goals, and to review how Irish Aid money is being spent in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

At the meeting Salil Shetty stated that real progress is being made across the globe and that progress was accelerating.

"One of the key elements behind progress on the MDGs has been citizen action. People across the world holding their governments to account, and demanding real action and real change" said Shetty, who heads up the UN Millennium Campaign.

"The quality of Irish aid is second to none; it is focused on the poorest countries, and the right issues" continued Shetty.

Salil Shetty is in Ireland for a two-day visit following an invitation by Plan Ireland and Dóchas, the umbrella group of Irish development NGOs. At his meeting with the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee, he underlined the influence that Ireland has as a direct result of its high calibre overseas aid programme; he urged TDs and Senators to use that influence.

"We urge Ireland to ensure EU sets and reaches ambitious aid targets. Ireland can lead in Europe by bringing in legislation on aid, and by doing all it can to ensure that in September, world leaders agree an ambitious action plan to accelerate progress towards the eradication of world poverty", said Shetty.

Earlier this week, Irish NGOs set out their stall on the MDGs in a [position paper](#) on the 10-year MDG progress review. In the paper, Dóchas members called on Ireland and other EU Governments to develop and deliver an MDG Action Plan in the run up to 2015.

**ENDS**

**Contacts**

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### **Notes for the Editors**

• The Dóchas position paper, *Supporting Accelerated Progress on the Millennium Development Goals*, is available at [http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/Dochas\\_MDG\\_paper\\_April2010.pdf](http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/Dochas_MDG_paper_April2010.pdf)

• The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals which the UN set out to achieve by 2015. They were adopted by 189 nations, including Ireland, during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The eight goals are to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: [www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie)

### **Dóchas Member Agencies**

1. A-Z Children's Charity
2. ActionAid Ireland
3. Afri
4. Africa Centre
5. Aidlink
6. Amnesty International Ireland
7. Bóthar
8. Camara Education
9. Centre for Global Education
10. ChildFund Ireland
11. Children in Crossfire
12. Christian Aid Ireland
13. Christian Blind Mission Ireland
14. Church Missionary Society Ireland (CMSI)
15. Comhlámh

16. Concern
17. Friends of Londiani (Ireland)
18. Galway One World Centre
19. Gorta
20. Habitat for Humanity Ireland
21. International Service Ireland
22. Irish League of Credit Unions International Development Foundation (ILCU/IDF)
23. Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs (ICJSA)
24. Irish Council for International Students (ICOS)
25. Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA)
26. Irish Foundation for Co-operative Development (IFCD)
27. Irish Missionary Union (IMU)
28. Irish Red Cross (IRC)
29. Kerry Action for Development Education (KADE)
30. National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)
31. Oxfam – Ireland
32. Plan Ireland
33. Progressio Ireland
34. Self Help Africa
35. Sightsavers International Ireland
36. Skillshare International Ireland
37. Suas Educational Development
38. The Hope Foundation
39. Trócaire
40. Vita
41. Voluntary Service International (VSI)
42. Voluntary Service Overseas (Ireland)
43. Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM)
44. War on Want Northern Ireland
45. World Vision Ireland