

Stockholm +50 - A Common Agenda for Future Generations

Ireland Statement

2 June 2022

Ireland is delighted to participate in this roundtable event and I would like to emphasise our continued support for strengthening the involvement and contribution of young people to national and international climate action.

We are seeing a new generation of activism in the protection of our environment and climate, and it is navigating a vastly different landscape to those activists who took to the streets in 1972, ahead of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

Advancements in technology and innovation have improved our inter-connectivity, access to information and ability to mobilise. However, our natural environment has experienced unprecedented degradation in the last 50 years, while climate change impacts are now a living reality for many young people and communities across the world.

Involving young people and broader civil society is a crucial part of effective climate action and for enhancing ambition to respond to the climate crisis in a meaningful and substantive way.

But we cannot take for granted that participation and consultation is guaranteed in decision-making, either at local, national or international level.

As a country that champions transparency and consultation, Ireland will continue to advocate for these essential principles to be upheld in decision-making, including on climate action.

In 2019, Ireland was proud to have worked with the Marshall Islands ahead of the Global Youth Summit in leading on a pledge that places young people at the heart of climate action.

With 50 signatories to the pledge, we have gathered significant momentum in raising the voices of young people in climate action.

The pledge commits to ensuring the consideration of the views of our youth and civil society in our implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its goals, including national actions on climate mitigation and adaptation and in the development of long-term climate action strategies.

Ireland is acting on this commitment. In March this year, the Irish Government held a National Youth Assembly on climate change, creating a forum for children and young people to discuss and communicate to the Government the issues related to climate change that are important to them. Their points will directly feed into the preparation of Ireland's National Climate Action Plan.

The Youth Assembly on Climate is part of a broader National Dialogue on Climate Action. The Dialogue facilitates public engagement, participation, community action, networking and capacity building activities associated with climate action in Ireland.

As a country embarking on its transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient future, we feel strongly that we listen and respond to the concerns facing young people, and that we act on the potential solutions that young people propose.