

'Future We Need' Group Appeal For Inclusion Of Protection of Natural Resources And Gender Equity In Sustainable Development Goals

'Future We Need' meet Department of Environment Officials about principles which should be included in the Sustainable Development Goals

Dublin, Ireland – 31st May, 2013: On Thursday May 30th members of the Future We Need group met with Department of the Environment officials about their submissions to the Creation of Sustainable Development Goals.

After the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) each member state agreed to develop sustainable goals, that must address social, economic and ecological sustainable development. The Future We Need group have proposed 13 actions, principles and values to underpin the Sustainable Development Goals. These proposals include Debt & Tax Justice, Gender Equity, Climate Justice & Low Carbon Energy and Protection of Natural Resources.

During their meeting, the Future We Need group discussed their submissions, making clear their objectives. The group also stressed their belief to the Department of Environment that the Sustainable Goals must not replace the Millennium Development Goals, which have shaped international development discourse since 2000. The group believe the Sustainable Development Goals must instead complement and support the attainment of the Millennium Goals.

Speaking after, member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy (Ireland), Carmel Bracken said the meeting with Department of Environment officials was constructive – “The Sustainable Development Goals are extremely important as they will help to shape Ireland’s future. The Future We Need group are committed to ensuring these goals address the needs of Irish people, in particular marginalised groups. We believe that the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals should emphasise the urgent need for all countries to alter their often destructive vision and mode of economic development. After our meeting today, we are hopeful that the Department of Environment will take our submissions on board and will work with us to create a meaningful set of Sustainable Development Goals.”

About

The 'Future We Need' is a group of Irish Religious who have come together to work on issues of Eco Justice. The Sisters of Mercy and Presentation Sisters were jointly lobbying the Irish Government on environmental concerns prior to the Rio+20 conference. Since then they have been alert for the outcomes, particularly in anticipation of the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to the Sisters of Mercy and Presentation Sisters, the 'Future We Need' group now comprises of the Order of Franciscan Friars, the La Sainte Union Sisters and the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in Ireland. Together with our Associates, we represent approximately 11,000 people in Ireland and 50,000 worldwide. Members of our group belong to congregations with Special Status at the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations and this informs our work at national level.

Contact

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