



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Review of Global Ireland:

Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025

Achievements and New Priorities



Global Ireland Review

Prepared by the Department of the Taoiseach
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www.gov.ie/globalireland

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FOREWORDS

1 Forewords

1.1

Foreword by the Taoiseach



Since the launch of the Global Ireland strategy almost five years ago, the world – and Ireland’s place in it – has seen significant change.

In 2020, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally altered our way of life, how we do business, and how we interact with family and friends at home and abroad. The pandemic threw into sharp relief how interconnected and interdependent we all are.

In February 2022, the rules-based order was upended with Russia’s fullscale invasion of Ukraine. Ireland responded and, with our EU counterparts, we have supported Ukraine politically and financially, as well as providing shelter to those who have fled to Ireland for safety, just as others have done for us in the past.

Since the United Kingdom voted to leave the EU, our priority has always been to protect the Good Friday Agreement, including in avoiding a hard border, and to

ensure the least possible disruption to trade, including tariff and quota free exchange. We also, of course, were determined to protect the EU Single Market and Ireland’s place within it. These goals are being achieved and, most recently, reaffirmed in the Windsor Framework. But no Agreements can replace the seamlessness of EU membership. The UK’s trading relationship with Ireland, and with all of the EU, has inevitably become more complicated and less close.

In aiming to increase Ireland’s reach, presence and influence in the world, the Global Ireland strategy will continue to be an important tool helping Ireland to adjust to new realities. Growing our presence abroad, and diversifying supply chains and markets for exports and investments will continue to support our drive for a stronger, more sustainable economy – one that is equipped to withstand future challenges. It will also help us to build new alliances and find new opportunities in the EU and beyond.

Since the inception of this Strategy, we have seen our presence and influence within the EU deepen and mature. Ireland has held the Presidency of the Eurogroup, and been re-elected to the position unopposed. We have strengthened 'Team Ireland' in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark, and at the heart of the EU, in Brussels. New strategies for the Nordic Countries, and for France and Germany, reflect Ireland's commitment to strengthening ties with important European partners. Together with a group of 'likeminded' Member States, we have worked, and will continue to pursue progress on priority issues, such as the digital and green transition, and completion of the European Single Market. Preparing for Ireland's EU Presidency in 2026, presents a two-way opportunity: to advance the EU's agenda and effectiveness, while building greater competency and understanding of the EU processes and emerging opportunities for Ireland

Ireland has long been a steadfast supporter of the United Nations and its fundamental goals. It was a particular honour that the membership of the UN expressed their trust in us by electing us to the Security Council for the 2021-2022 term. We brought our experience of peacebuilding to the table,

where we advocated tirelessly for conflict prevention and promoted accountability – particularly for breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law. Our leadership on Syria, on Ethiopia, and in linking together climate change and security challenges, demonstrated the impact a small country can have when it has a seat at the table. Ireland's tenure on the Security Council has substantially deepened our engagement on international issues and our bilateral relations with countries on every continent.

During the remainder of the term of the Strategy, we will build on the legacy of our term, remaining an active voice on international issues, and a bilateral partner with informed ambitions about driving our relations across the full spectrum of possibilities - political, economic, cultural and people-to-people. The Global Ireland strategy will play a vital role in helping to drive and accelerate that endeavour.



Leo Varadkar, T.D.
Taoiseach



1.2

Foreword by the Tánaiste

In 2018, the Government, through the Global Ireland strategy, committed to doubling its global footprint by 2025, including through the opening of 26 new overseas missions. As we conclude this review of the strategy, it is clear that all of its targets are on track and that the ambition which informed the Strategy is even more important now than when it was launched.

Expanding Ireland's reach and influence in a benign global environment is advantageous. In difficult times, it is indispensable. This is one of the key findings of this review.

In a time of war on the continent of Europe, generational economic challenges, geopolitical rivalries, mass migration and climate change, it is clearer now than ever that Ireland must widen and deepen its global network to serve our diaspora, forge friendships, win and secure jobs and promote our values and interests.

But just as important as the expansion of our national mission network is the whole-of-government approach that has defined the Global Ireland strategy. Whether investing in a flagship Team Ireland House in the world's third largest economy, Japan, or

in designing a digital Ireland House via the ireland.ie website, Team Ireland has become a living reality. Government Departments and agencies have worked together, as one team at home, increasingly under one roof overseas, to deliver for the Irish public. This was never more in evidence than during our national response to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having an Embassy in Kyiv when Russia launched a war on Ukraine; being a member of United Nations Security Council when humanitarian aid to the Syrian people was on the line, and, indeed, launching a network of cultural attachés to promote Irish culture and Ireland's creative sector, are all instances of how our wider network promotes our values and protects our interests.

One of the most significant goals under the Global Ireland Strategy was for Ireland to secure election to the UN Security Council in 2020 for the 2021-2022 term. On the Council, Ireland demonstrated its determination in promoting peace and security, vindicating the trust of the UN membership.

We played a prominent role on a number of critical issues including strengthening accountability for violations of international law, promoting peacebuilding, mediation, and reconciliation internationally, highlighting the relevance of climate risks to international peace and security, and standing up to Russia's continued invasion of Ukraine.

Competition for global presence has never been more intense and one of the areas where Ireland has delivered is digital diplomacy, in providing timely and practical information to the public and creating a platform for bringing Ireland to the world online. Through rolling out ireland.ie to our mission network and developing a national reputation strategy, we will present a unified image of Ireland as a good place to live, study, invest in and trade with, to an ever-widening audience.

Ireland has always been an outward facing country. Through our Diaspora communities, our work to alleviate global hunger, our unbroken record in peacekeeping, our commitment to human rights and disarmament, and our open economy, we have always sought a place in the world. The Global Ireland strategy has given us the resources and the impetus to meet our international ambitions. In this review, we are focussed on, and on target to deliver, an international platform and profile that will serve our people, build our economy, and promote our values in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Micheál Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a light blue rectangular background behind it.

Micheál Martin, T.D.
Tánaiste & Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence

1.3

Foreword by the Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport



The last five years have been some of the most extraordinary Ireland has ever experienced in terms of its relationship with the outside world.

Despite the pandemic confining most of us to this island, we succeeded in increasing our presence on the international stage through our tireless work on the United Nations Security Council, as well as our support for Covid-19 vaccine programmes in the developing world.

Just as the pandemic began to subside, Russia's devastating invasion of Ukraine saw us take part in an extraordinary Europe-wide effort to provide shelter to the millions of refugees fleeing the war.

Two years ago, no-one could have imagined that Ireland would be hosting more than 70,000 people escaping a conflict on European soil. Meeting this challenge hasn't always been easy but I believe that in 20 years' time we will look back on our efforts with a justifiable pride at having played our part.

The period since the Global Ireland strategy was adopted in 2018 has also seen Ireland become an increasingly important voice on climate internationally. Our Climate Act is recognised as one of the most ambitious in the world, while we are also making great strides in terms of switching to a circular economy and moving on from the "take, make, waste" model.

In November, I was proud to lead the Irish delegation at the COP 27 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt, as well as heading the European negotiations on the "Loss and damage" talks.

The agreement we secured in this area means that millions of people whose land, water sources and livelihoods are being eroded every day can begin to look forward to targeted and strengthened support from the global community.

While not perfect, the deal that was agreed allows us to explore the potential for financing and debt relief for especially vulnerable countries from multilateral and development banks.

It was also a signal of trust between the 198 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that we are serious about climate change and that we are serious about protecting especially vulnerable countries and communities.

While in China during as part of the Government's recent St Patrick's Day programme, I took the opportunity to raise the Loss and Damage agreement and the role that China can play in supporting those developing countries most affected by climate change.

Ireland's commitment to a multilateral system has also been seen closer to home through our chairing last year of the North Seas Energy Cooperation. The NSEC is a regional non-binding cooperation framework which aims to advance development of crucial offshore renewable energy in the geographical area of the North Seas, including the Irish and Celtic Seas.

The United Kingdom had regrettably left the framework in 2020 following Brexit but last year Ireland was able to oversee the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) between the UK, the eight current member states of the NSEC and the European Commission. The memorandum will bolster energy security into the future for Ireland, Europe and the UK and is a recognition that none of us can go it alone when it comes to transitioning to renewables.

Variable supply and variable demand need to be balanced on a European-wide grid that will see us all prosper as we reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Only by working together can the world make the transition to a greener and healthier future that benefits everyone. Ireland is at the centre of that journey.



Eamon Ryan, T.D.
Minister for the Environment, Climate,
Communications and Transport



2

BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

2 Background to the Review

The Global Ireland 2025 Strategy was launched in 2018 with the ambition to grow our international footprint, to be present and active in new cities and countries in the world, to build new partnerships, new business links, new alliances, and new friendships.

The strategic ambition is to make Ireland's voice count for more on the international stage, to build our national reputation, to exert more influence, and to be a strong participant in global enterprise, trade, culture, diplomacy, peacebuilding, and development.

Two reports on Ireland's progress under the strategy were completed and published, in 2019 and 2021. They are available at www.gov.ie/globalireland. The purpose of this Review has been to reflect on the

implementation of the Strategy and whether the ambitions set in 2018 remain pertinent and of value – including in the context of the seismic international challenges of the past few years – and looking to the likely or known challenges of the period between now and the end of 2025. The Review considers where objectives need to be updated, amended, or added to, to take account of areas of increasing Government focus, including in response to significant changes at global and national level since its publication. It is also an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved.

The aim is to ensure consolidation of the progress made since 2018, and to refresh priorities and commitments with a view to maintaining ambition and focus for the remainder of the terms of the strategy.



Presentation of Thomas Francis Meagher Tricolour Celebration Flag to US President Joe Biden, March 2023 © Marty Katz

3

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

3 Overview of Findings

The overall finding of this Review is that the strategy adopted in 2018 to double Ireland's impact and footprint internationally continues to bring benefits, and places Ireland in a stronger position overall to withstand the challenges of recent years, and the likely challenges of the remaining period of the Strategy, and to contribute to international responses.

A series of profound challenges have occurred since the time of its publication – continued Brexit impact, COVID-19, the real-time impacts of the climate crisis on every continent, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the reversal of progress towards achieving some of the UN SDGs. In all these cases, Ireland's response has been in line with the underlying principle of the Global Ireland strategy – recognising that challenges of a global nature require constructive, structured, and active EU and international engagement by Ireland to contribute to best decision-making at home and abroad.

Looking to the remaining term of the Strategy, as well as the imperative of responding to the climate crisis, a more negative global economic picture, continued geo-political tensions, the medium and long-term impacts of the war in Ukraine, and of climate and poverty in the Global South, will shape profoundly the world in which this Strategy operates. The scale and scope of these challenges reinforces the case for strong EU and international engagement across a broad swathe of areas of Government as an essential component to protecting Ireland's interests and values. It also points to the need for continued and expanded engagement with international partners; primarily those with whom we share interests, values, and a commitment to a rules-based international order, but also with those whose actions present a challenge to multilateralism and adherence to international law, norms and values.



Meeting President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in Kyiv, July 2022 © Government of Ireland

4

DELIVERY ON 2018 GOALS

4 Delivery on 2018 Goals

The Government has delivered on many of the objectives set in 2018, including in the depth and breadth of Ireland's diplomatic and state agency presence worldwide, in the diversification and strengthening of our trade and investment portfolios and profile, and in our contribution to peace, security and development, at the UN, through our international development programme, and in our solidarity with Ukraine. Region-

specific strategies to develop our relationships have been developed for many regions of the world.

At the same time, COVID-19 knocked off course the delivery of some targets – particularly those that rely on international travel, such as tourism and international education. For these sectors, new targets and a reset have been necessary.

Team Ireland



IDA presence in 10 new locations



Additional Trade, Finance, Agriculture and Culture attachés appointed



Launch of A Career for EU Strategy (May 2021)

EU50 Programme (2022 – 2023)



Arts and Culture

New Irish Arts Center in
New York



New strategic
plan for the
Centre
Culturel
Irlandais/
Irish College
Paris



Funding for the
redevelopment of the
London Irish Centre



Business, Finance, Trade and Tourism

New Trade and
Investment Strategy



FDI 

Increase in FDI from outside North America



Resilient agri-food
exports (€15.5 billion in
value in 2021, up from
€13.7 billion in 2018)

€2.38 **BILLION**

Economic impact of €2.38 billion from
international education on Irish economy over
the lifetime of the *Irish Educated - Globally
Connected strategy*

Peace, Security and Development

Successful 2021
– 2022 term on
the UN Security
Council



Negotiation of
Political
Declaration on
Explosive
Weapons in
Populated Areas



**EXPLOSIVE
WEAPONS
IN
POPULATED
AREAS**
Dublin Conference 2022



Government
decision to run
for election for
the UN Human
Rights Council
for the 2027-
2029 term

€1.23 BILLION

Official Development Assistance allocation in
Budget 2022 over €1 bn for first time -
increased to €1.23 billion in Budget 2023

Assisting Irish Citizens Abroad

New diaspora
strategy



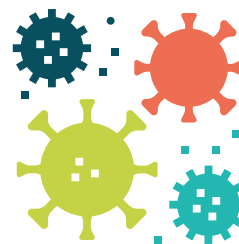
New one-stop-shop
for returning
emigrants



Almost 5 million
visits to the
Government's
Travel Advice
pages in 2022



9,500 citizens
assisted during
COVID-19 in
returning home



5

A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT

5 A Changing Global Context

The geo-political and geo-economic situation in which we are living and working has changed dramatically since 2018. The lingering effects of the pandemic, the impact globally of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and ongoing conflict elsewhere, disruption to global supply chains, inflationary pressures, risks from fragmentation of the world economy, global food insecurity and the climate crisis, and the ongoing effects of Brexit, all point to the global environment remaining uncertain for the lifetime of this strategy.

Responding to these challenges will require sustained engagement on Ireland's values and interests, consolidating the achievements since 2018: to uphold and defend the rules-based international order and multilateral system, to ensure the security, prosperity and well-being of the people of Ireland, to contribute positively to and benefit from Ireland's position at the heart of the European Union, and to sustain Irish businesses and the Government's trade, investment and external economic objectives.

Continuing to assist Irish citizens abroad is at the heart of this initiative, delivering continuous improvements to the service available to citizens worldwide, including on consular matters.

External problems are now also internal. We are all touched by the war in Ukraine. Our future wellbeing is tied to that of the wider European continent, and arguably wider than that.

In this context, we need to ensure that we get the balance right ensuring agility built on social, cultural, and enterprising investment at home, and diversified and constructive relations abroad.

To do this, and if we want to safeguard peace and prosperity at home and abroad, ultimately, we need to invest our human capital towards that ambition. We must work hard to create lasting and sustainable relationships with our partners. We have to convince others that a rules-based international order matters.

The Global Ireland strategy has provided a framework, and a set of principles and objectives within which to promote Ireland's external interests and uphold our values against this changing and uncertain international landscape.

Our work at home to safeguard basic human rights anchors our priorities as we represent Ireland abroad. Government initiatives on gender equality, combating gender-based violence, on pathways to citizenship for the undocumented, on reforming the experience of asylum seekers in Ireland, provide new impetus as we seek to protect and defend universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. Closer to home, the Government's Shared Island initiative recognises that by investing and working together on the island, we can create greater prosperity and quality of life throughout this island.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the global roadmap to a fairer, more sustainable and more secure world. In moving forward with the Global Ireland strategy, we will continue to work to deliver the SDGs internationally and here at home.

As we continue to seek to double the scope and impact of our global footprint, encompassed within that is a commitment to champion our interests and our values which will continue to be informed by the progressive implementation of the wider programme for Government.

6

EMERGING THEMES

6 Emerging Themes

The review has highlighted a variety of themes that have emerged since the launch of the Strategy, and which will guide our work for the period remaining until end 2025.

Consolidating Achievements

The Government will continue to work to expand Ireland's influence and impact abroad, with a greater focus on intensifying engagement and strengthening bilateral engagement in existing locations. This means working with partners with whom we share interests and values, as well as with those with whom we differ. Underpinning the growth and expansion will be a concerted effort to drive collaboration across Government Departments and Agencies using the 'Ireland House' model, for both physical missions and online with www.ireland.ie.

Broadening Our EU Engagement

Just as with Brexit, the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the climate crisis have once again reminded us of the fundamental importance of Ireland's place within the EU. Action taken by Ireland and our partners at EU level can frame and accelerate Ireland's responses to such challenges. Within the remaining timeframe of this Strategy, we need to ensure the resources and commitment to play a role in helping to shape the EU's work, including the digital and green agendas, and in the run-up to Ireland's Presidency of the EU in 2026.

Building a New Stronger Relationship with the UK

The UK's departure from the EU profoundly shifted our relationship with the UK, and a new EU-UK relationship is taking root. Being prepared to manage this shift was a

fundamental driver of the Global Ireland strategy at its conception, and will need to remain a focus for the remainder of the timeframe of this Strategy, focussing on building and deepening the vital strategic relationship between Ireland and the UK.

Partnering to reach climate targets

Combatting climate change and its consequences – for the environment, our economy and security, global hunger, food security and the future of all living things on this planet is a core priority of Government, and of partners across the world. As part of this Review, it is recommended that stronger focus be given to the centrality of the climate crisis to all of our global engagement, and to our ambitions as a country and as an international actor.

Developing policies and EU and international partnerships to secure our energy future will also be a particular focus during the remaining time period of this Strategy. EU and international engagement will be essential if we are to meet our targets in terms of energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability, energy access, innovation in clean energy technologies and energy security.

Preparing for global economic changes

Challenges to the security of global supply chains and a global technology race, set against a backdrop of geo-political tensions, requires us to reflect on how Ireland and the wider EU can retain and grow our prosperity. To achieve these ends we need to engage intensively with EU and international partners to accelerate the green transition, boost skills, strengthen the EU Single Market, and maintain an open and ambitious trade policy.

A damaging cycle of rising inflation and interest rates could delay the progress we are making in housing, in improving our health services, in creating infrastructure for a growing population and future generations. And we have a responsibility for the displaced people and refugees who have seen their homes and their communities laid waste by Putin.

Stepping up our Engagement on Health

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated forcefully that challenges of that scale need both good governance at home, as well as strong global cooperation and collaboration with multilateral institutions, including the World Health Organisation. A challenge will be to ensure that we are better able to face future global health crises, making health preparedness planning an important additional facet of our global engagement within the remaining timeframe of this Strategy.

Responding to Migration

Migration is a complex and global issue. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has had an extraordinary impact on migration patterns,

with the largest number of people fleeing war from a European country since World War II.

As we look to the final years of the Global Ireland strategy, Ireland will continue to actively and constructively engage at EU and international levels on migration issues. We will make our voice heard on the international stage, and meet our international obligations to those seeking refuge.

Engaging with the Digital World

The original Global Ireland strategy recognised the increasing importance of Ireland's international digital presence within our global footprint. The imperative of the digital transition was underlined by the pandemic and is an increasingly central consideration in all our international engagements. This will continue to be a focus of this Strategy for the remainder of its term, including adapting to digital opportunities to enhance our presence abroad. The Strategy will also reflect the need to contribute to international efforts to counter the rise in cyber and hybrid attacks and disinformation, and to ensure the security of data, and data infrastructure.



Visit of President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, to Government Buildings, February 2023 © Government of Ireland

7

COMMITMENTS TO 2025

7 Commitments to 2025

Between now and the end of 2025, when the Strategy concludes, the primary objectives will be as follows:

- Continue to expand Ireland's network of Diplomatic Missions, opening new missions in Milan, Munich, and Islamabad, and make final decisions regarding the remaining four missions by 2025.
- Expand the number of Ireland Houses operating across Ireland's mission network, including opening the new flagship Ireland House in Tokyo in 2024.
- Continue the design and development of the new Ireland House location in New York for opening in December 2025.
- Finalise arrangements regarding the opening of Ireland House in London.
- Create new health attaché posts in Brussels and Geneva and step up our engagement in EU and WHO global health planning and coordination.
- Fully implement the five whole-of-government regional strategies and two country-specific strategies.
- Develop a new regional strategy for the Middle East and North Africa by end 2023.
- Enhance Ireland's impact in shaping the future direction of EU policies, budgets, programmes, and legislation, particularly in preparation for Ireland's Presidency of the EU in 2026, and via our ongoing Presidency of the Eurogroup, our programmes to mark EU50, and through increased representation of Irish citizens in the EU institutions.
- Consolidate the strong foundations already in place for Irish as an official language of the EU and continue to raise awareness about the opportunities arising from this status for the language among the public, officials and elected representatives.
- Progress implementation of the new trade and investment strategy *Value for Ireland, Values for the World* (2022-2026), including:
 - a highly collaborative joined-up approach to country engagement with refreshed 'Local Market Teams' covering 35 key markets across the world; and
 - an annual Global Ireland 'all of Government' trade missions, 2023-2025.
- Deliver a comprehensive programme of engagements at Expo 2025 Osaka.
- Achieve diversification of FDI source markets, doubling growth in IDA-assisted project investments from non-US markets from a 2018 baseline.
- Achieve the export diversification targets set in 2018 to accelerate diversification of export markets by Enterprise Ireland clients with the ambition to double the total value of EI client exports outside the UK from the 2015 baseline by 2025; double Eurozone exports by 2025; and increase the diversification of client exports into new markets, with at least 70% of exports going beyond the UK by 2025 with a value of €21 billion.

- Develop and diversify international markets and achieve export growth targets set out in the *Food Vision 2030* strategy, Ireland's 10-year strategic development plan for the agriculture, food, drink, and fisheries sectors.
- Expand assistance for promoting Irish arts and culture internationally, implementing Culture Ireland's 2022-2025 strategy, appointing Cultural Officers in seven new locations, and furthering the development of international cultural capital projects.
- Implement a major Irish cultural season in Germany 2024 in partnership with Culture Ireland.
- Develop a comprehensive cross-Government attaché programme which would place experts in areas such as Technology, Science, International Education, Research and Innovation, Migration, Climate and Culture in targeted Missions around the world.
- Continue the implementation of *A Better World* Ireland's policy for international development.
- Deliver on Ireland's pledge during UNGA week September 2022 to contribute an additional €50 million to combat child wasting over three years (2022-24).
- Implement Ireland's diaspora strategy by 2025.
- More than double our overall Climate Finance spend to at least €225 million per year by 2025.
- Implement integrated communication strategy for Ireland internationally with Ireland.ie as the primary digital platform.
- Build on the legacy of our United Nations Security Council term and Council of Europe Presidency, including:
 - by seeking election to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2027-2029 term; and
 - through our leadership role as co-facilitator for the negotiations on the political declaration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023.
- Reset our tourism targets and launch a new tourism strategy in 2023, including with new ambitions for sustainable tourism and for emerging markets.
- Attract major sporting events to Ireland and ensure Team Ireland benefits and linkages.
- Reset our international education targets and launch a new International Education, Research and Innovation strategy in 2023.
- Strengthen work with third level partners in the teaching and promotion of Irish in the UK, EU and North America.
- Review Government of Ireland scholarships and other Scholarship schemes to meet our ambitions in international education, research and innovation.
- Implement the *Innovate for Ireland* programme which aims to attract the best international research and entrepreneurship talent to Ireland's research and innovation ecosystem.

8

SECTORAL REVIEWS

8 Sectoral Reviews

As a whole-of-Government initiative, this review of the Global Ireland strategy brings together the views and experiences of a broad range of Government Departments and State Agencies.

The original commitments under Global Ireland were examined. Stakeholders were invited to prepare an assessment of their Department/Agency's commitments under Global Ireland, against a series of guiding questions focused on achievements to date, case studies, adapted priorities, and the changed environment in which they operate.

Renewed or amended priorities were agreed for delivery for the period until the conclusion of the Global Ireland strategy at the end of 2025.



St Brigid's Day events were held worldwide in 2023 © Dónal Glackin

8.1 Our Presence Abroad

The Global Ireland strategy committed the Government to the most ambitious reinforcement and expansion of Ireland's international presence ever undertaken in terms of diplomacy, culture, business, official development assistance, tourism, trade,

education, research and innovation, as well as citizen engagement on global issues. Much has been achieved during the first phase of its whole-of-government implementation.

New and expanded diplomatic missions

In working to reinforce and expand Ireland's international presence, the Global Ireland strategy took a regional approach, seeking to establish whole-of-government relations in countries and regions where Ireland historically has had less of a presence, while simultaneously strengthening our impact in long-established Missions and offices abroad.

To date 19 new Missions have opened¹, while additional Missions in Islamabad, Milan and Munich are scheduled to open in the coming years – bringing to 22 (out of a target of 26 by 2025) the number of new Missions opened or announced under the Global Ireland strategy.

This has been complemented by the strengthening of existing, strategically important Missions (including the Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels, as well as London, Paris, Berlin, New York UN, Tokyo, and Beijing), through the assignment of additional staff from several Government Departments.

An Office for Central America has opened in Embassy Mexico, while plans are underway to establish an Office for the Caribbean, based out of the Consulate General in Miami.

¹ Missions opened 2018-2021: Embassies in Kyiv, Rabat, Wellington, Bogotá, Amman, Monrovia, Santiago de Chile, Tehran, Manila and Dakar; Consulates General in Vancouver, Mumbai, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, Cardiff, Manchester, Lyon, Miami, and Toronto.



Reception area, Consulate General of Ireland, Vancouver, Canada © MGBA Architects

Specialists have been appointed in strategic locations. Trade Counsellors have been appointed to Washington and Beijing. Finance Attachés are assigned to the Permanent Representation to the European Union, the OECD in Paris, and in Berlin and London. Irish officials are also seconded to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington DC and to the UK Treasury in London.

Agriculture attachés in Washington DC, London, Brussels, Rome, Paris, Geneva, Beijing, Abu Dhabi have been supplemented by additional attachés in Berlin, Mexico City and Tokyo in 2019 and in Seoul in 2020, as well as an additional agriculture attaché assigned to London in 2021 to manage post-Brexit agriculture and fisheries affairs.

With a greater focus on global health matters, the health attaché team in the Permanent Representation to the EU has been reinforced through the appointment of a deputy health attaché, since March 2021.

Specialist Cultural Officers have been appointed to New York, London, Beijing, Berlin, Los Angeles and São Paulo, the last of whom has a regional remit across Latin America.

The Department of Defence and the Defence Forces have a number of civil and military staff seconded to the European Commission Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space, the European Defence Agency, EU Military Staff, NATO and to Ireland's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York.

The placing of new missions and the allocation of additional staff have been targeted at regions where there are opportunities for Ireland to advance our national, economic and political priorities.

For example, new Embassies in Senegal and Morocco represent Ireland's first missions in francophone Africa and complement our recent accession as an observer member of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.



The official opening of Ireland House San Francisco, March 2022 © DFA



Artist's impression of Ireland House, Tokyo © Henry J Lyons Architects

In Europe, strengthened staffing in Embassy Lisbon, and associate observer status of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) since 2021, is allowing Ireland to build our bilateral relations with Portuguese-speaking countries around the world. New missions in Lyon, and planned for Milan and Munich, reflect the maturing and deepening nature of Ireland's relations with three major European partners, and key economic partners, and our growing capacity to understand and target regional opportunity and differences. A new officer, based in Embassy Stockholm, is operating on a regional level, implementing the Global Ireland strategy across the Nordic Region. Similarly, a new officer will be posted to Singapore in 2023, to support the implementation of the Asia Pacific Strategy.

Ireland's expanded mission network means increased Government capacity to serve our citizens, including by providing practical consular assistance to Irish citizens in difficulty abroad. For example, the new Mission in Kyiv and other Missions in the region played a significant role in responding to consular aspects of the crisis in Ukraine, and the new Mission in Rabat played a lead

role in repatriating Irish citizens from Morocco in December 2021 when scheduled commercial flights were severely disrupted by COVID-19.

Ireland House

Wherever feasible, new Missions are being opened as 'Ireland Houses' with co-location of diplomatic and state agency presences. Working under one roof in critical overseas partner countries and markets ensures a joined-up Team Ireland approach to Ireland's international engagement.

There are currently over 20 Ireland Houses, with plans underway to expand the model to additional locations.

A new Ireland House in New York at 200 Park Avenue will open in late 2024. In addition, Team Ireland plans are at an advanced stage to develop the first Ireland House in London.

Work has already commenced on Ireland House in Tokyo, which will serve as a flagship model for the concept across the mission network when it opens in early 2025.

The benefits of the Ireland House model can be significant in terms of economies in sharing premises, but also in terms of greater collaboration and coherence, and being a physical reflection of Team Ireland abroad. In some cases, the Ireland House premises also acts as a meeting place and asset for the local Irish community and, in particular, for business, research and innovation, science, education, tourism, and cultural sectors.

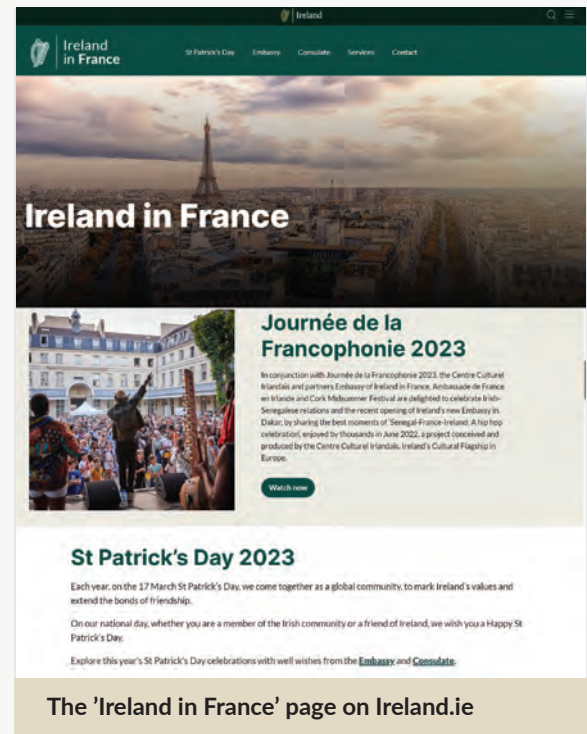
Digital Ireland House

The Global Ireland strategy identified the delivery of an integrated international communication strategy for Ireland as a core deliverable. Core to achieving this aim is the current development of ireland.ie as the central digital hub for information relating to the Government's international engagement, with connections to all Embassies, Consulates, and State Agency offices abroad. This will lead to a more unified approach, creating an integrated 'Digital Ireland House'.

The objective of ireland.ie is to promote Ireland online as a good place to live, visit, invest, study, and trade with. Ireland.ie is being developed as a collaborative digital space enabling Team Ireland to communicate collectively online. It will also be a major digital resource for Irish people and friends of Ireland at home and abroad. It will signpost those seeking in-depth information to relevant Missions, State Agency sites and other sources. A comprehensive 'travel hub' with information relating to passports, visas, and travel advice will also be housed on ireland.ie

A new global reputation strategy will result in a simplified communications framework that will bring coherence to Ireland's international messaging. The new framework will underpin the design and communication approach to ireland.ie,

physical Ireland Houses, and Ireland's presence at Expo 2025 Osaka. The framework will address regional differences in awareness and perceptions of Ireland. The core themes and key messages identified in the communications framework will be informed by insights, research and feedback from Government Departments, State Agencies, and other stakeholders.



Diaspora

The Global Ireland Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025, launched in November 2020, adopted a broad and inclusive definition of our diaspora, reflecting the diversity of the global Irish community today, and sets out how the Government engages with Irish communities around the world.

Since the publication of the Diaspora Strategy, there has been a continual enhancement of connections with the diaspora to give voice to the 70 million people around the world who are part of Ireland's global family. The strategy has the welfare of the Irish abroad and celebration

of the diversity of the diaspora at its core. Many of these community groups receive funding through the Government's Emigrant Support Programme which was allocated €14.1m in 2022 (€13.1m in 2021)

In 2021, the Samaritans Freephone programme was expanded to Canada, Australia, and Poland. This resource provides access to culturally sensitive emotional assistance for distressed Irish abroad.

Efforts continue to minimise the barriers which face those who wish to return to Ireland to live and work. A joint programme with the Citizens' Information Board provides a one-stop-shop of contacts, advice and information for anyone returning to Ireland from abroad. The Back for Business programme deals with the challenges that all early-stage entrepreneurs face, but has a particular focus on the additional barriers and challenges faced by those who have been away from Ireland. In 2022, the programme expanded to include an alumni network of previous participants to help other returning emigrant entrepreneurs and ensure continued peer-to-peer care.

The issue of Irish immigration to the US continues to be an important element of Ireland-US bilateral relations, and one which the Government raises regularly with contacts in the US Administration and Congress. This includes working towards

securing legal pathways for Irish people to live and work in the US, as well as focusing on the situation of undocumented Irish.

Ireland's network of diplomatic missions works constantly to create and develop mutually productive relationships with the growing reverse diaspora – people who have once lived in Ireland, but who have left and wish to maintain a connection with our people and country.

Ireland also has an extensive Irish-educated alumni network. In addition to those who travelled to Ireland for their education, there is also a substantial and influential cohort who were taught in long established Irish-run schools and by individual Irish educators throughout the world

Global Schools Programme

The Global Ireland strategy recognised the importance of communicating Ireland's international policy objectives.

The Global Ireland Schools programme was created as a platform to engage younger citizens in Ireland's international work and contribution. It involves Irish diplomats, peacekeepers, and aid workers visiting secondary schools around the country to talk to students about their work overseas. 128 secondary schools have been visited to date.



In January 2020, Irish peacekeepers and diplomatic staff visited 80 schools across the country as part of the Global Ireland Schools project © DFA

A Global Ireland Media Challenge Fund has been launched with a core principle of editorial independence, to facilitate media engagement in significant international events, and public understanding of Ireland's role in a changing world. The overall objective is to deepen and broaden public understanding of global issues in a manner that is accessible and engaging.

Global Ireland Summit

The 'Global Ireland Summit' is an annual gathering of leaders from across Government and wider Irish life to discuss the ambitions of the Global Ireland strategy and its priorities. To date there have been four Global Ireland Summits, either in person or virtual. The next Global Ireland Summit is planned for Autumn 2023.

From that Small Island

From that Small Island – The story of Global Ireland is a televisual/public history project centred around a four-part television series for broadcast on RTÉ, BBC, PBS, and other broadcasters worldwide. It will consider Ireland and Irish history from a Global Ireland perspective, showing how our historical experiences and geographic location inform and shape our global role and ambition. The series will be produced in 2023 and released for Q1 2024.

8.2 Citizen Services

Passports

In 2022, for the first time, over 1 million passports were issued in a calendar year.

Over the coming period the Passport Service will continue to modernise, improve, and protect the Irish passport, as well as the environment and systems that underpin service delivery for our citizens. This work will also encompass the redesign and modernisation of the passport book and card.

The Irish passport is currently ranked sixth in the Henley Passport Index and this high status allows for visa free access to 188 countries. The improvements underway are essential to maintaining the integrity and status of the Irish passport.

Consular Assistance

The Government's Consular Strategy will be reviewed and updated in 2023. It outlines the strategic framework for the provision of consular assistance to Irish citizens in difficulty abroad, whether due to a crisis or individual circumstances.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw the largest repatriation of Irish citizens in the history of the State. The re-opening of international travel in 2022 then saw a surge in demand



**Addressing the Global Ireland Summit,
April 2022 © DFA**

for the Government's Travel Advice service, which offers bespoke guidance and advice for almost 200 countries.

The provision of high quality, timely and compassionate assistance to citizens, whether in crisis situations or cases of individual difficulty remains an important part of the Global Ireland strategy.

Ireland's expanded mission network means increased Government capacity to serve our citizens, including by providing practical consular assistance to Irish citizens in difficulty abroad.

8.3 EU Engagement

Ireland has benefited enormously from our membership of the EU. It has been critical for our economic and social transformation and has helped us to build political peace and stability on this island. Since Ireland joined the then EEC in 1973, Irish people have played a vital role in the construction of our shared European project. Today, Irish people who work in the EU Institutions do so on behalf of almost 450 million citizens from 27 Member States. We understand that an effective European Union is essential for us to achieve our goals, both at home and on the international stage.

We are committed to enhancing our standing as a constructive partner in Europe. We do this by working through the EU to make an impact in international affairs that

affect Ireland and by engaging on the full range of policy priorities in the Union to ensure that Ireland's interests are being taken into consideration.

A Career for EU

A Career for EU strategy was launched in May 2021 in a context where the number of Irish people serving in EU Institutions is declining. The strategy aims to increase the number of Irish people working for the EU Institutions and Agencies, including within the lifetime of the Global Ireland strategy. Initiatives under the strategy to date have included: a large-scale nationwide communications campaign across public transport in Ireland, third level campuses and other media outlets to encourage interest in EU careers in English and in Irish; EU careers promoted widely across careers fairs; the number of scholarships for Irish people studying at the College of Europe increase from 3 to 6; an increase in the funding for the centrally funded Seconded National Experts scheme to €3.5 million, and much enhanced supports provided by the Government to Irish candidates participating in EU jobs competitions.

Our further and higher education institutions are also playing a key role in the promotion of human relations and institutional partnerships across Europe through the Erasmus + programme and the European Universities Initiative.



EU50 celebrations at Embassy Paris
© Government of Ireland

Irish Translation Internship Scheme in the EU Institutions

An Irish translation internship scheme in the European Union Institutions is administered by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in co-operation with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, the Committee of the Regions and the Publications Office. The scheme is focused on the provision of opportunities for graduates to acquire work placements in the special subject field of translation and proof-reading. The scheme contributes to the Government's objective to provide assistance to the European Union in implementing the decision to make Irish a full official language in the EU, as set out in the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030.

Under the scheme, ten internships are funded by the Government, and each work placement lasts for a period of ten months. 2022 saw the introduction of a six-month interpreter strand to the internship scheme and it is hoped to develop this model further in 2023/2024.

Aistritheoirí Óga

The 'Aistritheoirí Óga' (Young Translators) translation competition is organised jointly, each year, by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the European Commission. It is open to students aged 15 and above from across the island of Ireland, who have the ability to translate from English into Irish, or from a choice of five other European languages into Irish. The competition has three goals: to promote a high standard of Irish, to encourage multilingualism among secondary

school students and to encourage their interest in careers with Irish. The 2023 competition took place in March.

Conference on the Future of Europe

The Conference on the Future of Europe (COFOE) was a series of discussions and debates at European level held from May 2021 to May 2022 aimed at promoting greater citizen involvement in the European Union. Ireland undertook a successful national programme of events in connection with the Conference involving a wide range of regional seminars, virtual consultations and town-hall events which were principally aimed at providing an opportunity to those who may not normally engage on EU matters.

Sectoral events and consultations were held with Irish people living in the EU, young people, the LGBTQI community, new Irish/migrant communities, Travellers, Islanders, Gaeltacht Communities, and Inner City/Communities with fewer opportunities.

The final report of the Conference on the Future of Europe adopted in May 2022 set out 49 proposals and recommendations. The EU Institutions (Council, Parliament, and Commission) are now following up on implementation of these proposals with many already being pursued as part of the Commission's legislative programme. The Conference has demonstrated the importance of greater citizen engagement and more participative democracy within the EU, an outcome which Ireland strongly supports. The work of the Conference will also contribute to discussions on the Future of Europe and changes which may be required by any future enlargement of the European Union.



As part of the EU50 programme, primary and secondary school students met President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen in Government Buildings, December 2022 © DFA

EU50

A whole of Government programme, EU50, has taken place from January 2022 until May 2023, to mark milestones in Ireland's journey towards EEC accession on 1 January 1973. The EU50 programme is intended to encourage broad reflection, celebration, debate, and exchange among audiences at home and abroad, in particular, our youth, on what EU membership has meant for Ireland and what Ireland has contributed and continues to contribute to the EU.

To date, the programme has included a new MYEU50 primary, secondary and third level competition; a lecture series, a nationwide Europe Day/Week schools outreach involving Government Ministers and EU Ambassadors, a Government of Ireland EU50 *Ireland in the Single Market* Conference, an EU50 event on *A European Health Union for the future*, a doubling in funding for the annual *Communicating Europe Initiative* scheme towards EU50 initiatives; a new funding stream for local authorities to mark EU50; and a EU50

exhibition on display in venues across Ireland and in over 30 countries worldwide. Both the President of the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola have visited Ireland to mark EU50, with each addressing special joint sittings of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Ireland's EU Presidency 2026

Ireland marks 50 years of EU membership, we are redoubling our efforts to engage with our partners in Europe and to influence policy formation at EU level through increased Ministerial and official-level engagement with EU partners and through deeper cooperation across government departments and with the Permanent Representation in Brussels. Preparing for Ireland's EU Presidency in 2026, presents a two-way opportunity: to advance the EU's agenda and effectiveness, while building greater competency and understanding of

the EU processes and pipeline opportunities for Ireland. Increased engagement in the period ahead will allow us to positively shape our 2026 EU Presidency programme, as well as further enhancing our reputation in the European Union.



EU Enlargement

Russia's illegal further invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the clear need for continuing, ever-closer cooperation between the EU and our partners across the Eastern neighbourhood, as well as the Western Balkans. As Presidency in 2004, Ireland oversaw the largest enlargement in the EU's history.

In 2022, we reaffirmed our strong commitment to enlargement at the EU's Intergovernmental Conferences with Albania and North Macedonia and in backing the granting of candidate status to Ukraine, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and potential candidate status to Georgia.

On the fiftieth anniversary of our own accession, Ireland continues to support states on the path to EU membership, recognising enlargement as a transformative tool for stability, security and prosperity across the continent.

Council of Europe

Ireland's contribution to Europe extends beyond the EU. Through our Presidency of the Council of Europe (CoE) in 2022, Ireland reinforced democratic security, human rights, and the rule of law across the CoE's 46 member states, leading renewal of the Strasbourg based institution in the wake of its expulsion of Russia as a member. Notable Presidency achievements included the negotiation of a Dublin Declaration on countering Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, the establishment of a new Contact Group to engage democratic opposition and civil society in Belarus, and a range of measures to support Ukraine, including fast tracking its membership of the CoE Development Bank.

The period also saw a record number of Irish citizens elected to senior posts in Strasbourg, including Judge Síofra O'Leary as the first Irish and first female President of the European Court of Human Rights.

8.4 Whole-of-Government Regional Strategies

Under Global Ireland, five regional strategies, and two country-specific strategies, have been launched to ensure a whole-of-government coherent approach to developing our relations around the world. Each has the overarching aim of intensifying Ireland's engagement with the region concerned capitalising on the benefits of an integrated Team Ireland approach – bringing together the ambitions of all Government Departments and State Agencies into one targeted strategy for each region. Each strategy is focused on:

- Building high-level strategic political partnerships;
- Developing the bilateral economic relationship, with a view to achieving specific targets;
- Deepening and expanding Ireland's engagement with our diaspora;
- Promoting our culture and our values; and
- Enhancing Team Ireland collaboration.

To date, strategies have launched for Africa, Asia Pacific, the Nordic region, the USA and Canada, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Building on existing successful regional strategies, especially the recently completed Nordic-Baltic and Latin America strategies, the Government will develop a new strategy for engagement with the Middle East and North Africa.

The Government is committed to regularly reviewing progress towards implementation of each strategy. The Department of Foreign Affairs has been tasked with coordinating periodic progress reports, using a streamlined approach which will ensure consistency in each review process, and will allow for whole-of-government input to each review.



Ambassador Mariam Katagum, Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria, addresses the Africa Ireland Economic Forum in Dublin, June 2022 © DFA

Africa

Since the launch of *Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025* in 2019, significant progress has been made on deepening Ireland's political, economic, cultural and development relations with Africa.

As a member of the UN Security Council, Ireland led work on Ethiopia, on the UN Office in West Africa and the Sahel, and chaired the Somalia Sanctions Committee.

Stronger political partnerships were advanced through deepening of engagement with the African Union and through Ministerial visits (including to Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, and Mozambique).

Ireland has become an observer member of the Sahel Alliance, a member of the African Development Bank, and an Associate Observer at the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), of which many Member States are African.

Trade in goods increased in 2021 to €2.4 billion, (above pre-pandemic levels) and services exports to Africa have grown by

150% in the five years to 2020. Irish food and drink exports to Africa have continued their upward growth trajectory and were valued at €710 million in 2019, €838 million in 2020, €903 million in 2021 and €1.1 billion in 2022. The 7th Africa Ireland Economic Forum, held in June 2022, showcased the significant potential for growth in trade and investment between Ireland and Africa.

There was a return to face-to-face International Education fairs in Q4 2022, with 9 fairs taking place across 6 countries to promote higher education opportunities in Ireland, led by Enterprise Ireland and with full support from the relevant Embassies and Visa teams. (Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Morocco).

Significant progress is being made to strengthen Ireland's leadership on climate action and to facilitate climate adaptation and response in Africa. Progress was also achieved in expanding educational and research links and student numbers from Africa increased 5% in the 2020-2021 academic year to over 1,300 students.

The Horn of Africa is experiencing its most severe drought in more than four decades.

Irish-supported programmes in the hardest hit areas of Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya focus on life-saving health, nutrition, water and sanitation and cash responses. The funding includes direct assistance for the health and protection of women and children, who are disproportionately impacted.

Beyond financial assistance, Ireland donated over 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to COVAX in 2021, including 500,000 doses to Nigeria and 276,000 doses to Ghana. Ireland also donated 335,500 doses bilaterally to Uganda and in 2022 provided assistance through WHO to the response to the outbreak of Ebola.

Ireland has also backed a more ambitious African Union-European Union partnership and actively engaged on EU development programming and planning of flagship Team Europe Initiatives to boost the impact and profile of the EU's engagement in Africa.

Ireland participated in the sixth AU-EU Summit in February 2022 and led a roundtable discussion on sustainable and resilient agri-food systems and rural development. A notable outcome of the Summit was the announcement of Africa-Europe Investment, amounting to €150 billion up to 2030, as part of the EU's *Global Gateway Strategy*.

An annual celebration of Africa Day takes place each year on 25 May. Africa Day 2022 saw the Government collaborating with 30 Local Authorities to host events.

Asia Pacific

The Global Ireland strategy recognises the growing influence and importance of Asia – a region with which Ireland traditionally had less contact. It is also a region with diverse distribution of wealth – including some of the most economically and technologically advanced countries in the world, but also those that are less-developed or that are at greater risk from climate change. The region is also home to a large and dynamic Irish diaspora, notably in Australia and New Zealand. Our diaspora has made significant contributions to public life from business, to culture, sport, and community engagement. The strategy seeks to engage with this community across the Asia Pacific region, recognising their contribution and the potential for our diaspora to deepen Ireland's impact in the region.

Despite pandemic challenges, there has been substantial progress in implementing the strategy, *Delivering in the Asia Pacific Region to 2025*. Our growing diplomatic engagement (the opening of Ireland House Mumbai and of Embassy

Manila), resilient trade and investment links, COVID-related assistance for our diaspora, and digital outreach, underpin this progress.

Bilateral political engagement with Asia Pacific has been sustained, albeit in a largely virtual format due to the pandemic.

Then Taoiseach Micheál Martin made visits to Japan and Singapore in July 2022, meeting with his counterparts in both countries, and launching a comprehensive Ireland Japan Joint Declaration. He also participated virtually in the 13th Asia Europe Meeting Summit hosted by Cambodia, and in the EU-ASEAN Summit in Brussels in December 2022.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, trade in goods between Ireland and Asia Pacific continued to grow in 2021, reaching €36.2 billion in total (up 16% on 2020), of which exports were €18.5 billion (up 1.6% on 2020). These figures reflect the continued importance of the Asia Pacific region as both a market for Irish goods and as a source of employment in Ireland.

Agri-food exports to the Asia-Pacific region remained resilient at approximately €1.5 billion per annum in the period 2019-2021, increasing to €1.65 billion in 2022.

Under Bord Bia's Market Prioritisation study, certain South-East Asian countries have been identified and targeted as areas for high growth for a variety of agri-food sectors. This has led to new agriculture attaché posts being opened in our Embassies in Tokyo and Seoul and increases in locally hired staff dedicated to agri-food sector issues in China and Japan.

In education, Chinese Mandarin has been fully integrated into the Leaving Certificate, with Korean being offered at Transition Year level.

The Asia Pacific Regional Fund (APRF) supported a total of 45 promotional projects in 2022, such as the visit of Audrey Magee to several ASEAN countries, continued support to Embassy Seoul to deliver a LGBTQI+ project and the translation into Japanese of Ireland's Digital Strategy.



Performers at the St Patrick's Day Féile celebration in Shanghai © DFA

Ireland's planned presence at Expo 2025 Osaka will provide a strong platform to promote Ireland in Japan, build and deepen strategic relationships in Japan, and will give impetus to a wider focus on the Asia Pacific region across Government Departments and State Agencies.

USA and Canada

Ireland's transatlantic relationships and the depth of Ireland's historical, and present-day political, economic, and cultural ties with North America – particularly the United States – are of profound importance in our global engagement.

Our US & Canada Strategy 2019-2025 aims to widen and deepen our relationships with the US and Canada in order to achieve a doubling of our impact and influence by 2025. Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, significant progress has been made on the implementation of the strategy under each of the five main areas, and continues apace as high level political in-person engagements have resumed. There have been over 40 Ministerial visits to the US & Canada since 2019. Inward visits have also significantly increased.

Ireland has significantly expanded our physical footprint across the US and Canada, with the opening of new Consulates in Miami and Toronto in 2022, bringing to twelve the number of diplomatic offices across the region.

The opening of Ireland House in San Francisco, coupled with the opening of a new Mission in Los Angeles, and the appointment of both Screen Ireland and Cultural Attachés, represent a significant investment towards realising the potential of the West Coast USA for Ireland.

In addition to the opening of Consulate General Toronto, Team Ireland in Canada has

seen a strengthening of its capacity with an additional post in Vancouver, where Enterprise Ireland has appointed an Education Pathfinder for Western Canada and has also opened a new office in Montreal; and a second IDA officer has been appointed in Toronto.

Political and parliamentary relationships have also become stronger in Canada, with a motion being passed unanimously in the Canadian Parliament in 2021 designating March as national Irish Heritage Month.

Agri-food exports to the United States and Canada increased in 2022 to €1.9 billion and 330,000 tonnes in volume. This represents an increase of €539 million and 86,000 tonnes compared to the 2019 pre-pandemic level.

The provisional application of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) since late 2017 has facilitated an increase in Irish exports to Canada, including agri-food exports.

Creating pathways to immigration and championing the Irish undocumented in the US continue to be important. The diaspora globally is assisted through more than €4 million annually of funding. Irish Arts Centres opened in 2021 and Cultural Officers are now in place in both New York and Los Angeles. The strengthening of Ireland's network across the US and Canada in the opening years of this strategy will allow for the delivery of tangible benefits for Ireland during the period remaining until the end of 2025.

Irish and US research and innovation communities have collaborated successfully under EU framework programmes. The US was Ireland's most important partner outside Europe under the previous programme, Horizon 2020. To date under Horizon Europe, there have been 50 collaborative links across 27 projects involving a wide

range of Irish universities and partners from across the US, including the West Coast.

SFI also supports significant engagement between the Irish and US research and innovation communities. The main areas of cooperation with San Francisco-based partners are microbiology, molecular and cell biology and material sciences.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Global Ireland strategy recognised the strong opportunities for Ireland to deepen our relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), a region of 33 diverse countries and a population of over 650 million people.

Ireland's first-ever Strategy for the region was launched in 2022. The Strategy envisions a significant stepping-up of engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean in the period to 2025.

It takes account of the historical links and shared values that Ireland enjoys with much of the LAC region, and the considerable opportunity to expand these connections to enhance political, economic, cultural, and development links.

Several milestones have already been achieved. In March 2022, Ministerial-led visits took place to four countries in the region (Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Argentina) as part of the Government's St. Patrick's Day programme. Each of these visits aligned with strategy commitments by enhancing political engagement, developing economic partnerships, promoting Irish culture, fostering a Team Ireland approach, and strengthening Ireland's profile and values-based engagement.

Some of the main actions implemented thus far under the Strategy include:

- High level visits including the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Programme, Ministerial attendance at the Colombian Presidential Inauguration in August 2022 and incoming visits to Ireland by Vice President of Colombia (April 2022) and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia (September 2022).
- Establishment of an Office for Central America based in Embassy Mexico.
- Ireland's acceptance as an observer state to the Pacific Alliance.



Irish Aid monitoring visit, Honduras, 2019 © DFA



Gammel Strand, Copenhagen – part of Embassy Copenhagen's St Patrick's Day 2021 Trail © Emily Wilson

- Two trade missions to the region in 2022 with plans underway for future programmes.
- Establishment of Chambers of Commerce/Business Networks in the region.
- Appointment of a Regional Cultural Officer, based in Sao Paulo.
- Appointment of a Regional Agriculture Attaché, based in Mexico.
- Development of new Irish Studies programmes in the region.
- Launch of the Latin America strand of the Ireland Fellows Programme for post-graduate study in Ireland in the areas of human rights and STEM.
- Establishment of new Parliamentary Friendship Groups with Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina.
- Deepened engagement with Caribbean States on the Blue Economy and climate.
- Funding to projects focused on our shared values with the region including peace, human rights, climate, and democracy.

Nordic Countries

Our Nordic Strategy provides a framework for deepening our bilateral and multilateral engagement with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden and to promote greater exchanges with the Nordic region. The Strategy was published in January 2022 outlining the priorities and timeframes for the period to 2025.

Ministerial engagement has intensified significantly since the launch of the Strategy including visits at Taoiseach, Tánaiste, and Ministerial level. Third country visits, as committed to under the Nordic Strategy were also undertaken in 2022, with the Norwegian and Irish Foreign Ministers visiting Türkiye and the Syrian border crossing together, and the Finnish and Irish Ministers for European Affairs visiting the Western Balkans (Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Albania).

The Taoiseach regularly attends Nordic Baltic + 1 leaders' meetings in the margins of European Council meetings. Ireland also attends Nordic Baltic plus coordination meetings at official level in various formats.

Other highlights under the Strategy include:

- Ireland officially joining the Hybrid Centre of Excellence in Helsinki in January 2023.
- The reopening of the Swedish Embassy in Dublin in early 2023.
- The establishment of the Finnish-Irish Parliamentary Friendship Group and the visit of the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament to Ireland in November 2022.
- Irish scientists from the Network of Arctic Research Ireland (NARI) presented at the Arctic Circle Conference in Iceland in October 2022.
- Ireland hosted the annual meeting of the North Seas Energy Cooperation in 2022.
- The “Northern Lights” network of the Irish Chambers of Commerce in the Nordics established in late 2021.

Engagement at senior official level on European policy priorities including the “Fit for 55” legislative programme has also intensified. Ireland cooperated extensively with Iceland during our Presidency of the Council of Europe. Cultural, community and people-to-people exchanges are strong including with support under the Emigrant Support Programme.

There is coordinated Team Ireland collaboration under a newly established Nordic Regional Market Team.

Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region holds significant importance for Ireland in terms of economic, political, and strategic interests. As a region with diverse cultures, religions, and political systems, it has long experienced complex challenges, including multiple interlinked conflicts, refugee and migration crises, social unrest, and significant sustainable development and human rights challenges. While the impact of climate change is felt differently across the region, it is an existential challenge for all MENA countries.

Developing a comprehensive cross-government strategy for the MENA region would allow Ireland to engage more strategically to promote our values and our interests across a diverse region, and identify where we can boost our political, economic and development partnerships with MENA partners. It would allow us to define and target, our contribution to stability and sustainable development in the region.

In developing the strategy, the Department of Foreign Affairs will work across government, and with MENA countries and regional organisations, to identify areas of relevance and interest to key stakeholders. It will provide an opportunity to develop a more holistic and coordinated cross-government engagement across the region, integrating our values and our interests in a consistent way, and identifying new opportunities in our relationships.

Germany

'Ireland in Germany: A Wider and Deeper Footprint' was published in April 2018. It was designed to revitalise Irish-German connections and to deepen Ireland's relationship with the Federal Government in Berlin and with the sixteen individual German States or Länder. Some of the outcomes of the Strategy to date include:

- Establishment of the new Consulate General in Frankfurt, and with plans to open in Munich.
- Regular cross-departmental State Secretary-Secretary General level consultations.
- New formats for consultations with think tanks.
- Establishment of a German-Irish Council representing community and cultural groups.
- Appointment of an Agriculture Attaché and a specialist Cultural Officer to Berlin.

Since the publication of the Global Ireland strategy, Ireland's Embassy in Berlin has almost doubled in size and now includes representatives of four Government Departments (Foreign Affairs, Finance, Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and Agriculture, Food and the Marine). As part of the increased engagement, a Germany-Ireland Joint Plan of Action was published in November 2018. An updated Plan of Action was agreed in February 2021.

Areas of focus for new projects include climate and security; UN peacekeeping cooperation; exchanges on a digital euro and crypto-assets; joint research on livestock production with a focus on animal welfare; cooperation on plant health and forestry; exchanges on EU's "Important Projects of European Interest" and Women in Business.

The *Education in Ireland* branch of Enterprise Ireland has become more active in EU markets, particular the markets of Germany, France, Italy and Spain. The focus has been on promoting Ireland as a location for postgraduate programmes.

France

Ireland's Strategy for France 2019-2025 *Together in Spirit and Action* was published in August 2019 and sets out 26 actions. Many of the actions are community-focussed and aim to further deepen relationships through long-term sustainable actions in the people-to-people and cultural areas.

In July 2021, the Government agreed to open a new Consulate General in Lyon as part of the Global Ireland strategy. The new Consulate is deepening Ireland's engagement and profile in the industrial heartland of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, the second most populous region in France with 8 million inhabitants and an economy similar in size to Ireland's. The new Consulate General commenced operations in September 2022 and was formally opened in 2023.

President Macron visited Dublin in August 2021. During his visit, a Joint Plan of Action was signed by Foreign Ministers setting out

an ambitious agenda reflecting Ireland and France's shared priorities: backing sustainability; increasing trade connectivity; fostering the digital economy; strengthening education and research and innovation links; promoting the French language; and fostering cultural cooperation.

It also contains projects in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and culture. The two Governments are also cooperating closely on the flagship Celtic Interconnector project.

Celtic is a 700MW electricity subsea interconnector between Brittany and East Cork, promoted and developed by EirGrid and its French counterpart, Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTÉ). Upon completion it will represent Ireland's largest electricity interconnector. As an EU Project of Common Interest, Celtic was awarded a €530m EU grant. The project is scheduled to be completed and operational by the end of 2026.



Signing of a Joint Plan of Action between Ireland and France, August 2021 © DFA

Western Balkans

Ireland's engagement with the Western Balkans region has grown considerably in recent years and is likely to become a focal point for increased interaction in coming years.

There is considerable focus currently on enhancing the stability, security and prosperity of the 6 Western Balkan states aspiring to EU membership, with a view to boosting their EU accession prospects by actively assisting their efforts to align with EU rules, standards, policies and practices.

There has been significant uptick in political engagement with the region, through more regular political and official meetings and exchanges, active assistance for reform and reconciliation.

Case Study Embassy Santiago, Chile

The opening of an Embassy in Chile was announced by Government in Budget 2018, as part of the first tranche of openings under the Global Ireland strategy.

Fitting out the permanent Embassy offices in Santiago's Las Condes business district concluded in March 2020, just as pandemic lockdowns commenced in Chile, ushering in an 18-month period of working-from-home or alternate shifts at the office for Embassy staff.

The then Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar T.D., formally opened the offices in March 2022 as part of an extensive St. Patrick's Day programme which also saw him represent the EU and Ireland at the inauguration of Chile's President, Gabriel Boric.

In keeping with the Government's policy of developing Ireland House models across the world, the new offices are equipped to host all Team Ireland partners based in Chile in the future.

Chile is the most competitive economy in Latin America and enjoys the region's highest investment rating. It is in the top 5 export markets for Irish goods in Latin America, while Ireland ranks 6th among European countries for net active FDI flows to Chile and 9th for FDI stocks. Assistance for Irish business from the new Embassy has included successful interventions with Government with regard to planning or project management issues, engagement at Ministerial level in sectors like renewable energy and agriculture; and assisting with the establishment of the Ireland-Chile Chamber of Commerce, which visited Ireland in November 2022.

In the context of considerable social change and constitutional reform in Chile, the Embassy has focused since its inception on sharing experiences around Ireland's Constitutional Convention and Citizens' Assemblies, and of our journey towards marriage equality.



Opening of Embassy Santiago, March 2022 © Viviana Urra

Case Study Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine

Ireland opened our first resident Embassy in Ukraine in June 2021. Since Russia's illegal further invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, having a resident Embassy operating on the ground has been an important manifestation of political solidarity with Ukraine, and facilitates essential contacts and co-ordination across the political, diplomatic, humanitarian, consular and development spheres. With a large Ukrainian community now living in Ireland, and Ireland's active engagement with Ukraine in the context of the ongoing war, having resident embassies in each country has smoothed the flow of essential information and coordination against an otherwise very difficult backdrop.

The mission coordinated the first ever visit by a Taoiseach to Ukraine in July 2022, a milestone in Ireland-Ukraine bilateral relations, as well as two visits by

the Minister for Foreign Affairs in August 2021, and April and September 2022.

The Embassy's presence in Ukraine has also assisted in the provision of consular assistance to Irish citizens and their families in Ukraine, including some particularly challenging cases, since Russia's invasion. The Embassy has built up a network of governmental, diplomatic, business and civil society contacts in Kyiv and elsewhere in Ukraine.

Responding to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, assisting the Ukrainian government and people, and working to uphold the international rules-based order, became priorities for Ireland as the events of 2022 unfolded. The Global Ireland strategy, with its focus on Ireland's role on the world stage, was the framework for Ireland's interventions.



Leinster House lit in blue and yellow in solidarity with Ukraine © DFA

Case Study Team Ireland in Tokyo

Diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan were established in 1957, and embassies were opened in Dublin and Tokyo in 1964 and 1974 respectively. The current Ireland House consists of team members from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Bord Bia, and the Japan Ireland Chamber of Commerce.

In 2017 the Government decided to develop a new Ireland House in Japan.

The new Ireland House will be a showcase, state-of-the-art platform from which Team Ireland in Japan will be able to project and promote what Ireland has to offer. It will accommodate the Embassy, the official residence, offices for

a growing number of State Agencies, an acoustically designed performance space which will double as an exhibition area, a business/conference facility, as well as an interactive library and cultural resource. It will be a major meeting place and asset for the Irish community in Japan and for our business, research, education, tourism and cultural sectors in this country.

The new Ireland House, Tokyo will contribute substantially to raising Ireland's profile more broadly in Japan. It will showcase our cultural heritage, creativity and innovation through excellence in design. It will be in operation in advance of Ireland's EXPO 2025 Osaka Programme and will, in effect, serve as a Tokyo venue for elements in this Programme.



Irish dancers performing in Tokyo for St Patrick's Day 2023. © DFA

8.5 Business, Trade, Tourism & Connectivity

Ireland's membership of the European Union and our relationship with the US have been major drivers of our international trade. Countries that are open to international trade tend to grow faster, innovate, improve productivity and provide higher income and more employment opportunities for their people.

Ireland's trading relationships have changed markedly since the launch of the Global Ireland strategy in 2018, as markets have adapted to new realities and to a stream of crises. Our enhanced presence abroad has enabled us to navigate these challenges.

Brexit has permanently changed the trading relationship between Ireland and the UK, and further change can be expected. Businesses have, by and large, adjusted to these fundamental changes, finding alternative supply chains and are being encouraged to find new markets. At the same time, exports to the UK have remained strong, and there remains potential in that market. A dynamic trade and investment relationship with the UK will remain integral to our economic model.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted supply chains globally and has created an uncertain environment for international trade.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has resulted in necessary EU trade and economic sanctions against Russia (and Belarus and Iran). It has strengthened focus on EU vulnerabilities in energy security, critical inputs and infrastructure and is a driver towards a more strategically autonomous EU. While efforts to ensure that the EU can meet the essential needs of citizens and businesses is fundamentally welcome, there are risks to open trade in any industrial and trade model that precludes maintaining supply chain

capabilities with a diversified range of reliable international partners.

New Trade and Investment Strategy

Ireland's Trade and Investment Strategy, *Value for Ireland, Values for the World*, published in April 2022, sets out our approach to trade policy over the remainder of the timeframe of the Global Ireland strategy, with clear objectives to see Ireland sustainably grow and diversify our export markets and supply chains, backed by the EU's trade policy and its network of free trade agreements. The Strategy outlines core deliverables, including maintaining and enhancing our competitiveness; highlighting the benefits of international trade and investment; and making businesses more aware of our network of free trade agreements.

The strategy identified seven priority actions:

- supporting Ireland's economic and trade ecosystem;
- reviewing and refreshing our Local Market Teams;
- optimising Ireland's position within Global Value Chains and Supply Chains;
- communicating Ireland's Interests as a trading nation;
- maximising Ireland's return from EU Free Trade Agreements;
- a new annual Team Ireland Trade Mission Week; and
- taking steps to reap the benefits of the EU Single Market.

Implementation of the Strategy is overseen by the Trade and Investment Council which is chaired by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment and which is supported by a cross-Departmental Senior Officials Group

The review of Local Market Teams was completed in December 2022. Local Market Teams comprise Embassy, Consulate and State Agency staff in a single country or region tasked with coordinating promotion efforts in that market. The Local Market Team review includes recommendations on their future operation, including the establishment of a new HQ Markets Team in Q2 2023 to provide coordinated guidance and whole-of-government support from the centre to the Local Market Teams in the field.

2023 will also see the inaugural Team Ireland Trade Mission Week, a once-a-year exercise that will support the Government's drive towards market diversification and assist in the development and expansion of Ireland's exports, tourism, and inward investment from existing and new markets.

The intention is to enhance the visibility and profile of Ireland in the destination market, based on the global exposure achieved during the annual Saint Patrick's Day programme.

Since its inception, the EU Single Market has generated millions of jobs and significant added value to the European economy. As part of EU50, in October 2022, Ireland hosted a major conference on the Single Market with stakeholders from Irish and European economic, academic, and political life offering perspectives on its enormous success, and also its unrealised potential in the area of services.

Productivity in EU services sectors has grown three times more slowly than in manufacturing, and is significantly outperformed by the US services sector over recent decades.

The Single Market has brought significant benefit to Ireland and the European Union. However, in the coming years, we will need to work with EU partners to fully realise the

opportunities it presents in the areas of digital and services. This work is made even more pressing against a backdrop of significant economic, political, and environmental challenges.

Expanded Presence Abroad

A core function of diplomatic missions is the delivery of the Government's economic objectives abroad in both new and emerging markets, and existing markets.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has officers at Counsellor and Trade Attaché level in Brussels, Geneva, London, Berlin, Washington DC, and Beijing. The focus of these posts varies according to the location, with some concentrated primarily on trade, while others are focused on representation of Ireland's interests in EU and international organisations. They are members of the Local Market Teams in their market.

Recognising the importance of global engagement, the Department of Finance maintains a network of nine officials who are assigned to Irish missions abroad. This includes a team assigned to Ireland's Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels, the OECD in Paris, and attachés assigned to Ireland's Embassies in Berlin and London.

Officers are seconded to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington DC, and to the UK Treasury in London.

Increasing investment in agri-trade is an objective under the Global Ireland strategy, as evidenced by the appointment of a Minister of State with specific responsibility for New Market Development. In addition to the expanded network of agricultural attachés in strategic locations – Mexico, Tokyo, Seoul and Berlin – the sector has

been strengthened through 'local hire' experts who provide additional local knowledge and specialist expertise for our market access and trade development work in those locations.

Enterprise Ireland has expanded its global presence through the opening of eight new overseas offices in Munich, Lyon, Manchester, Copenhagen, Montreal, Seattle, Melbourne and Ho Chi Minh City. These offices provide critical market insight and advice to ambitious Irish businesses who are competing and winning in world markets. Enterprise Ireland is looking at Scotland as a potential location for a new presence.

IDA Ireland has increased its presence overseas, with new offices or staff in Toronto; Seattle; Mountain View, California; Atlanta; New York; Raleigh Durham (based in Atlanta office); Chicago; London; Paris; and Frankfurt, while "Pathfinders" (representatives who assess market opportunities) have been appointed for Türkiye, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and Israel.

The Global Ireland strategy has also seen the expansion of Bord Bia representation in the US, Germany, China, the Netherlands, Poland, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland has opened its first US office in Los Angeles, and working with our new Consulate on the ground, is promoting the Irish creative screen sector and strengthening relationships between Irish production companies and creative talent with US studios and partners, and promoting Ireland as a European production hub.

Tourism Ireland has increased its presence in the US with a new office in San Francisco.

International Finance

The Global Ireland strategy in 2018 highlighted the potential and value of Ireland's relationships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), which give us a voice at important fora on global economic and international development issues. Ireland is a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group (WBG), Asian Development Bank (ADB) Group, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). Since the launch of the Global Ireland strategy, Ireland has joined the African Development Bank (AfDB) and continues to evaluate potential membership of other development banks. We have joined in initiatives across the IFIs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

In December 2022, Minister Paschal Donohoe was re-elected as the President of the Eurogroup for a further two-and-a-half-year term. His initial election during this Strategy, and subsequent re-election, demonstrates the leadership role Ireland can play at European level and provided an opportunity to deepen bilateral relationships in managing and driving the Eurogroup agenda.

The role involves regular exchanges with the Presidents of the ECB, the European Commission, and with EU leaders meeting as the European Council. The President of the Eurogroup chairs the Board of Governors of the European Stability Mechanism and attends Euro Area Summits and G7 meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

Further elevating Ireland's profile on EU banking and financial services issues is the European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union – a role which is held by, and of significant value to, Ireland.

Increasingly the Minister for Finance has an active programme of international engagements each year, with inward and outward visits taking place from across the EU and globally. These are opportunities to develop partnerships and cooperation across a range of areas including banking, financial services and taxation.

In response to COVID-19 restrictions, the Department of Finance developed a programme of virtual international Ministerial engagements to ensure that engagement with EU and international partners could continue.

These new approaches to engagement continue to be used to complement in-person meetings and travel, and are a

valuable means of maintaining and broadening international relationships with priority partners.

The Government and various state agencies, in partnership with the financial sector, will continue to implement 'Ireland for Finance', the whole-of-government strategy for the development of Ireland's international financial services sector to 2025, and are working to fully capture any opportunities for inward investment.

With a dedicated Minister of State, and public-private sector leadership on implementation, the Strategy positions Ireland as a competitive international financial centre. Complementing the strategy, the annual European Financial Forum is the showcase event for Ireland's international financial services sector. Each year the Forum is attended by a diverse mix of public sector leaders and senior executives from global companies, attracting these influential decision-makers to Ireland.



Charing the Eurogroup © Office of the President of the Eurogroup, Dublin

Trade Missions

Each year, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland offer a programme of trade and investment missions and events to raise Ireland's profile. These are a valuable way of developing new and existing markets for Irish companies, and in promoting Ireland as a good place in which to live, work, do business, invest, and visit.

In recent years, the majority of Ministerial-led Trade Missions have been to the Eurozone, North America, and Asia Pacific, which represent the strongest growth opportunities for Irish companies. These Trade Missions focused on promoting the innovative capabilities and competitive offerings of Irish companies to international buyers in sectors including internationally traded services, fintech, high-tech construction, engineering, ICT and life sciences.

Following a hiatus due to COVID-19, in 2022, a series of trade and investment missions took place to West Coast USA; Portugal; US and Mexico; Spain; France, the Netherlands and Germany; the UK; Singapore; and Denmark.

Ministers from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have an annual Trade Mission schedule in conjunction with Bord Bia, Sustainable Foods Systems Ireland and Enterprise Ireland. Bord Bia's Market Prioritisation Analysis identifies the high potential growth target markets for these Trade Missions. Since the re-opening of international travel in 2022, Agri-Food Ministerial Trade Missions took place in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Singapore and Vietnam. Education trade missions are also planned, to develop new relationships and strengthen existing ones.

As well as formal trade missions through Team Ireland cooperation overseas, opportunities to pursue the Government's economic objectives abroad are routinely incorporated into Ministerial and other high-level visits. This is strongly demonstrated in St Patrick's Day visits programmes, but also as part of many other visits each year. Moreover, the Team Ireland approach ensures that visits involve the pursuit of the maximum number of Global Ireland strategy objectives in terms of political, diaspora, cultural and economic engagement.

FDI Market Diversification

IDA Ireland's strategy remains focussed on diversifying source markets for investment. The United States, as the world's largest economy and innovation leader, remains an important market as we target job-creating investment opportunities arising from disruptive innovation, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability. With increased focus on business continuity, IDA Ireland are also focusing on diversified investment from Europe, the UK, and Asia-Pacific.

IDA's focus on diversifying investments has seen the share of non-US FDI increase from 33% for 2015 to 2019, to 35% for 2020/2021, and IDA plans to grow it further during the lifetime of this Strategy.

Agri-Food

Despite extremely challenging geo-political events since the inception of the Global Ireland strategy, related to Brexit, COVID-19 and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Irish agri-food exports have remained resilient. With exports in 2022 valued at €18.9 billion, a sizeable increase on €13.7 billion in exports in 2018.

Ireland's latest agri-food strategy, Food Vision 2030, seeks to make Ireland a world leader in delivering Sustainable Food Systems (SFS), recognising the interconnectedness between food, health, and the environment.

Underpinned by world class standards in food safety, animal health & welfare and sustainability, the sector have set the ambition of growing agri-food exports to €21 billion by 2030.

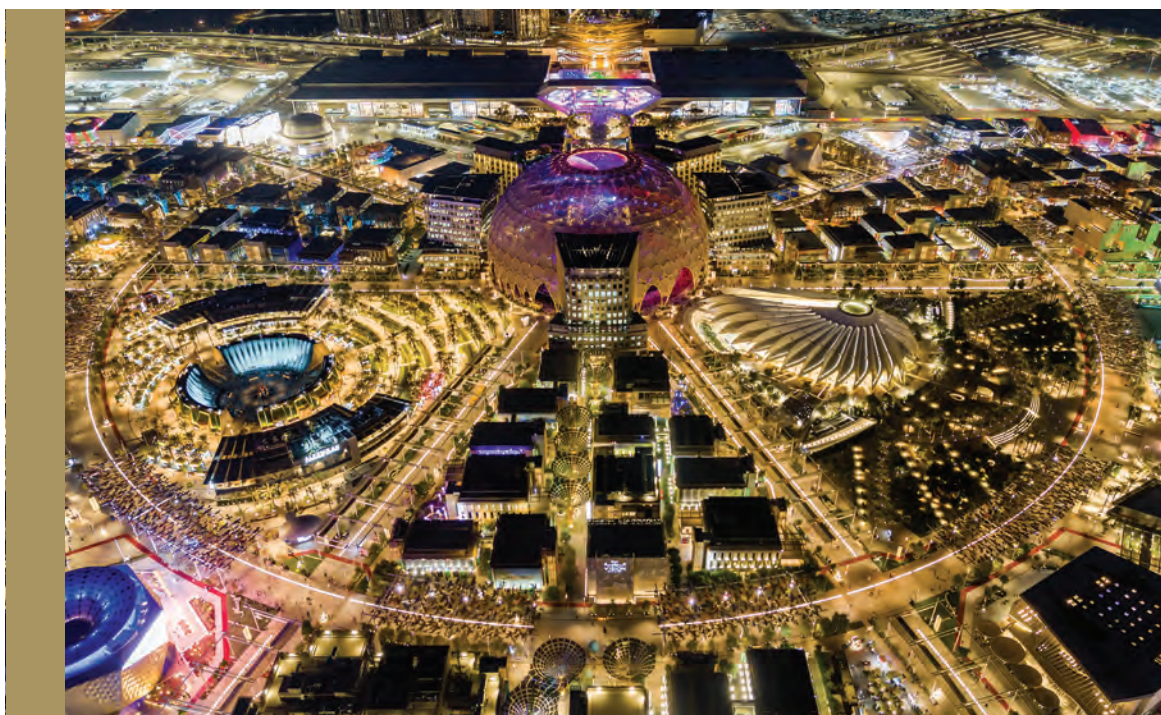
Increased funding has been provided to Bord Bia to realise the opportunities to grow agri-food exports, as well as helping companies that are establishing and expanding their presence in existing and new international markets. Focus has particularly been on markets identified as providing the greatest potential for export growth.

In the remaining period of the Global Ireland strategy, it is proposed to continue to work to fulfil the original objectives of the Strategy with regard to agri-food trade, including achieving the targets in *Food Vision 2030* and Bord Bia's 2022-2025 Statement of Strategy and in realising new market diversification opportunities for Ireland's high quality and sustainably produced agriculture products.

Trade Promotion at the World Expo

World Expos provide a major platform. Ireland's impactful participation in Expo 2020 Dubai was a significant expression of the Glo

bal Ireland strategy at work, and a platform to enable practical cross-Government collaboration, and delivery of an integrated communication approach.



Aerial view at night of Expo 2020 Dubai © Ireland at Expo/Expo 2020 Dubai

Case Study Expo 2020 Dubai

Ireland will participate in World Expo 2025 in Osaka, building on the experience of Expo 2020 – repeating the integrated Team Ireland approach.

Ireland's participation at Expo 2020 Dubai delivered on 7 interconnected levels, namely:

1. Visitor numbers
2. Digital amplification
3. International media coverage
4. Business engagement
5. Political engagement
6. Diaspora engagement
7. Team Ireland enablement.

Our success can be attributed to a variety of factors. The overarching theme of 'human creativity' in Ireland's programme stood in marked contrast to most other

pavilions where the emphasis was on technical displays. The focus on, and commitment of, resources to personal engagement with over 350,000 Pavilion visitors was very well received. Ireland held major, inclusive events, spread over the six months of Expo, including Riverdance, Expo World Choir and St. Patrick's Festival at Expo. There was a permanent, stand-alone, interactive Tourism Ireland exhibit.

The digital amplification of Ireland's presence at Expo was highly effective and impactful. Achieving significant and positive media attention. There have been 700 international media articles on Ireland at Expo and a social media reach of 19.3m across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



The Ireland Pavilion at Expo 2020 © Ireland at Expo

Ireland's participation at Expo 2020 was complemented in a virtual format via ireland.ie/expo – which tracked all engagements, showcased the full programme, and allowed for a virtual visit experience.

Expo 2020 Dubai was a tangible expression of the “Team Ireland” concept with strong collaboration across Government Departments, State Agencies, the cultural and educational sector, as well as the Irish business diaspora (Irish Business Network Dubai).

Eight high-level political delegations attended from Ireland, and there were over 70 substantial Team Ireland events during Expo with a total attendance of over 75,000 guests. In addition, it allowed for partnership with the UN

pavilion, with the emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the EU Commission via Ireland hosting an exhibition on the EU Mies van der Rohe architecture awards, cross-border partnership in terms of all-island tourism promotion and a showcase of the work of Irish Aid, via two specially-curated exhibitions.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, accompanied by Bord Bia, Sustainable Food Systems Ireland and Irish Thoroughbred Marketing, led a Ministerial Trade Mission to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia during Expo, which included Ministerial engagements and attendance at Gulfood 2022 (the region's largest Food and Drink Trade Fair).

Tourism

The Government's goals set out in 2018 for tourism were heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Inward tourism to Ireland suffered significant setbacks during the pandemic, and the Asia-Pacific markets – particularly China and Hong Kong – continue to be hit hard. Tourism Ireland's activity in the region was also curtailed until mid-2022 when Australia and New Zealand began to re-open. In this context, Tourism Ireland is currently undertaking an assessment of Emerging Markets, to review its strategic plan and growth ambition for the region out to 2030, with a particular sustainability lens. In parallel with this assessment, Tourism Ireland's promotional campaigns got under way again in Australia and New Zealand in late 2022, with support

from key tourism industry and aviation partners.

Tourism Ireland's global campaign – *Fill your heart with Ireland* – went live in overseas markets in early 2023. The campaign is all about celebrating the different ways in which the island of Ireland fills the hearts of our visitors and of locals – and inviting potential holidaymakers to come and experience those for themselves.

Tourism Ireland's programme of promotions in all markets around St Patrick's Day each year is part of a broader Team Ireland programme, led annually by the Taoiseach and Ministers, recognising the unmatched opportunity of St Patrick's Day to build international relations and to promote Ireland abroad.



Opening of the new Tourism Ireland Office in San Francisco, May 2022 © Tourism Ireland



New Tourism Ireland campaign “Fill your heart with Ireland” launched in 2023 © Tourism Ireland

Tourism and Film

Over recent years, there have been growing links between the tourism industry and the film industry in Ireland. Screen storytelling provides new perspectives on Ireland for audiences around the world – and projects an image of the country as a rich and creative place with a unique identity.

There are significant individual examples that underline the tourism impacts being delivered by the film industry. This includes *Star Wars: Episode VII*, *Star Wars: Episode VIII*, *Normal People* and *Vikings*.

As part of a Team Ireland approach, there is extensive co-operation between Screen Ireland and Tourism Ireland. For example, Tourism Ireland – in conjunction with Searchlight Pictures – created a short, behind-the-scenes featurette, using footage shot during filming for *The Banshees of Inisherin* and showcasing the locations chosen for filming. Tourism Ireland’s paid promotional campaign of the behind-the-scenes video ran on social media in Great Britain, the United States, France and Australia during November and December 2022; and in Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and the Nordic countries in January 2023 – delivering a further 4.86 million video views. Campaign activity was timed to coincide with the local release of *The Banshees of Inisherin* in each country. Further promotional activity was also launched in

the run-up to the Oscars – in nine key markets: the United States, Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, the Nordics, Canada and Australia. The campaign had almost 29 million completed video views.

Air connectivity

The importance of high-quality international connectivity is recognised in our National Development Plan 2021-2030. Investment in our state airports (Dublin, Cork and Shannon) during the life of the Global Ireland strategy included funding Cork Airport’s runway reconstruction in 2021 and developing the North runway at Dublin Airport.

Opened in August 2022, the new runway provides capacity to enhance connectivity for Ireland’s island economy and is essential to developing Dublin Airport’s network. The new runway will be capable of delivering a 31% gain in connectivity by 2034, underpinning Dublin Airport’s position as a leading European Airport, a prime European gateway to North America and a driver of economic growth. In addition, the IAA’s new air traffic control tower at Dublin Airport will facilitate the freeing-up of additional capacity and reducing delays at the airport. Investment in physical infrastructure at our regional airports has also continued in this period.

In 2021, Ireland signed four EU-level Air Transport Agreements with Ukraine, Armenia, Qatar and Tunisia. In 2022, the world's first bloc-to-bloc air transport agreement between the EU and its Member States was signed with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Member States (ASEAN) which includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. This represents a significant development in aviation and provides the legal framework for the operation of scheduled air services between the two regions.

Our Ports

Given Ireland's status as a small open economy on the periphery of Europe, the maritime transport sector is a critical channel for the movement of goods between Ireland and our trading partners. Around 90% of all our traded goods by volume, and approximately 10% of passengers arriving in Ireland are transported by sea. Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic again highlighted the critical role of international maritime connectivity to

the wellbeing of our economy and society.

Ireland's three Tier 1 Ports of National Significance continue their major infrastructure developments, with the Alexander Basin Redevelopment Project at Dublin Port, the Ringaskiddy Redevelopment Project at the Port of Cork and capacity extension works in Shannon Foynes. Rosslare Europort, a Tier 2 Port of National Significance, is also investing significantly in infrastructure and port facilities over the coming years.

The Irish shipping industry adjusted swiftly and comprehensively to the changes in demand from business during 2020 and 2021 and provided a range of additional services, frequency and capacity options to transport goods to and from continental markets, greatly enhancing Ireland's maritime connectivity. In the Roll-on Roll-off market (RoRo), the number of weekly sailings to mainland European ports rose from 30 sailings per week to more than 60. One third of all RoRo traffic now operates on direct routes to ports in the European Union, up from a 16% share in 2019.

8.6 Culture

The Government's primary commitments in the cultural space under the Global Ireland strategy are to increase Ireland's cultural footprint and achieve larger international audiences for the work of Irish artists.

Despite the challenges of 2020 and 2021, these commitments were achieved, albeit in unforeseen and unprecedented ways. The global health crisis caused by COVID-19 had a huge impact on the cultural sector and the ability of artists to present their work internationally. Adjustments and creative thinking were required for Culture Ireland to continue to assist artists. New and innovative presentation methods were deployed through the use of technology and many artists maintained connections with their audiences. Through the use of this technology, Irish artists continued to connect with diaspora and international audiences and increased their global reach through online presentations.

A major achievement was the SEODA programme of online events curated by Culture Ireland over the St. Patrick's Day periods in 2020 and 2021. The work selected, formed a world-class, multidisciplinary celebration of Irish arts and provided a vital connection for global

audiences at a time when there is a strong cultural focus on Ireland.

The ongoing war in Ukraine and ensuing global inflation have caused unprecedented increases in cost of living and travel. These economic challenges have meant that greater assistance is required for artists to maintain the same level of presentation putting pressure on existing budgets.

The Government, through Culture Ireland, will continue to work towards the commitments identified for the sector in 2018.

Irish Cultural Capital Projects Abroad

The Irish Arts Center New York was redeveloped with Government grant funding of \$9.35 million, and this state-of-the-art facility was opened in late 2021. It acts as a flagship destination and gateway for established and emerging Irish artists to present in New York.

Part funded by an annual programming grant from Culture Ireland, the centre serves as a platform to reach the diaspora and new audiences in the US, and will become a hub for artists to travel onward and tour in the US.



Tolü Makay performing at the St Patrick's Day Gala Concert at the Kennedy Centre, Washington DC, March 2023 © DFA



Dedication of Irish Arts Center, New York, September 2021. © Nuala Purcell

In 2019, the Government gave financial assistance of £1 million towards the redevelopment of the London Irish Centre in Camden. The centre plays a vital role in showcasing Ireland's artists and promoting Irish culture in Britain through an annual programme of arts activity in collaboration with Culture Ireland. Planning permission for the new facility was granted in 2020 and work will begin on this historic site in 2023, with the aim of being completed by 2025.

In January 2021, Centre Culturel Irlandais (CCI), Ireland's cultural flagship in continental Europe, located in the historic Irish College in Paris, launched an ambitious strategic plan for the next five years which focuses on investing in the future, enriching its artistic programme and strengthening the engagement of CCI through strategic partnerships across Europe.

Cultural Officers

Under the Global Ireland strategy, seven specialist Cultural Officers have been created to widen and deepen our global cultural engagement in specific locations, namely London, Berlin, New York, Los Angeles, Beijing, Paris, and Sao Paulo (a regional role serving Latin America.)

These positions were established with the aim of increasing Ireland's global cultural presence and enhancing artists' touring experience by providing vital local knowledge and expertise. Strategic cultural promotion, collaboration and exchange also enhance Ireland's visibility, influence, and reputation, and deepen bilateral relationships. This approach will contribute to Culture Ireland's goal of sustainable touring and reduction in artists' carbon footprint through joined up touring models.

The Cultural Officer initiative is a partnership between Culture Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Following a successful pilot, the programme will now be expanded to appoint additional posts over 2023/24, in seven locations: Africa, Middle East, Southeast Asia, Japan, Canada, Nordic/Baltic and Central Europe.

The new posts will focus on the further development of a regional approach to achieve a broad and balanced global footprint in the cultural domain, greater engagement with local cultural networks, increased promotion of events and enhanced opportunities for Irish artists.

Shared Island

In 2022, Culture Ireland worked with the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach to organise a Shared Island Dialogue focused on Arts and Culture, aimed at drawing on the potential of the Good Friday Agreement to enhance cooperation, connection, and mutual understanding among communities on the island of Ireland to build consensus around a shared future.

Panel discussions at the Dialogue focused on two themes:

- the challenges and opportunities in performing and fostering deeper engagement with cultural diversity through the arts sector on a shared island; and,
- Building cultural and creative communities, particularly through the strong role played by the community and voluntary sector across the island.

Irish Film

Screen Ireland is the national development agency for Irish filmmaking and the Irish film, television, and animation industry, investing in talent, creativity, and enterprise. The new Screen Ireland office in Los Angeles has proven successful in assisting the Irish creative screen sector, while further strengthening the US-Ireland creative screen industry relationships. It has also helped promote Ireland as a location for inward production while also promoting Irish creativity and talent internationally.

Screen Ireland helps writers, directors, and production companies by providing investment loans for the development, production and distribution of film, television, and animation projects. The Screen Ireland allocation for 2019 was €20m and their budget has increased significantly to €37.9m in 2023.

The extension of Section 481 Tax Film Relief in Budget 2023 to 31 December 2028 will give valuable certainty to allow for adequate planning in the film industry.

An agreement on Cinematographic Co-Production between Ireland and France was signed in Paris in December 2022. This will lead to benefits for the industry in Ireland and will incentivise work between the two film industries. The bilateral basis of the Agreement allows for cultural stories to be told across both territories, opening up access to a wider talent pool based in both France and Ireland.



India Wolfhounds GAA club train on Shantipath, New Delhi © India Wolfhounds

Sport

The Global Ireland strategy recognised that sport is one of the many powerful ways to introduce ourselves abroad and to express our national identity. In the years ahead, Ireland will continue to raise our visibility on the global sporting stage, through our hosting of high-level events such as the Ryder Cup in 2027 and our ambition to host Euro 2028 together with Great Britain.

Hosting major international sports events has the potential also to deliver a range of other benefits from a short-term economic boost through direct tourism to longer term sporting and social benefits.

Sport-related tourism is now a multi-million-euro market. During the remainder of the term of this strategy, the island of Ireland will host a number of high-profile sporting events such as The Open returning to Royal Portrush in 2025, the Ryder Cup at Adare Manor in 2027 and the American college football series. Each provides an opportunity to highlight the island of Ireland as a holiday destination, as well as a top location for sporting events.

We continue to support Irish sport overseas, and through sport to support the physical, mental, and social well-being of our diaspora.

In Britain and the USA, the Government's Emigrant Support Programme supports a number of GAA development officers. In

New York, Chicago, San Francisco and London, Government funding has helped to build Gaelic Games infrastructure.

In an exciting trend, the GAA is growing fast worldwide, boosted by the Global Games Development Fund, which funded 104 projects in 2022, up from 14 a decade ago.

Promoting the Irish Language

The Irish language has an important role to play in making cultural and heritage connections, not least with the global diaspora where the language strengthens links to home and maintains expressions of Irish identity through generations. Through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Government is currently engaged in a wide variety of Irish language work which focuses on the global community.

The Government provides funding of over €1m per annum for the teaching of Irish in over forty universities worldwide. The objective of the funding is to promote and foster goodwill for the Irish language outside of Ireland and to provide a platform on which the Irish language can be accessed and showcased as an international language. 2022 saw increased funding awarded to the scheme in recognition of its valuable contribution to the promotion of Irish outside the Gaeltacht and abroad.

Fáilte ar líne, a Massive Open Online Course, has been developed by Dublin City University, with Government funding. Through this unique and innovative programme, participants are able to progress from beginner level to complete a degree in the Irish language – entirely online. The programme has had over 125,000 users in over 155 countries participating since its inception in 2018.

Trasna na dTonnta is an online dialogue or ‘cyber-Gaeltacht’, which takes place on Twitter. The aim of this event is to create a worldwide engagement around the Irish language by encouraging all those ‘across the waves’ who feel a connection with Ireland to post online messages in Irish. This annual event has grown from strength to strength and continues to provide a bridge for Irish speakers abroad to connect with other Irish speakers, at home and abroad.

In 2023, the Government aims to further strengthen its work with third level partners in the teaching and promotion of Irish in the UK, EU and North America. It also aims to consolidate the strong foundations already in place for Irish as an official language of the EU and to raise further awareness about the opportunities arising from this status for the language.

8.7 Education

International Education

Since the launch of Global Ireland, the Government established a new Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) to develop Ireland’s further and higher education and research and innovation capacities to reach their full potential. The Department provides new opportunities to position Ireland globally as a leading knowledge economy to underpin sustainable economic and employment growth, as well as enabling a more inclusive, sustainable and just future. It facilitates the bringing together of international education and research and innovation strategies in an aligned framework.

Prior to the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, exceptional progress had been achieved in expanding the number of international students in Ireland and in increasing overseas research income. These achievements helped strengthen the sustainability of the Irish education sector and had wider positive societal and educational impacts.

Indecon estimated a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.67 for the Irish economy, indicating that for every €1 of costs associated with international students visiting Ireland, there is €1.67 in benefits.

In the year prior to March 2020, there were 44,229 international students in Higher Education Institutions HEIs in Ireland. This represented an increase of over 15% in the two years since the launch of the Global Ireland strategy in 2018, and a cumulative increase of 33.6% since 2015. Despite COVID-related travel restrictions, many students, particularly those on 2- or 3-year programmes, opted to remain in Ireland, rather than travel home.

While final figures are not yet available, indications are that student numbers have rebounded strongly in 2022. While the number of inbound international students was down as a result of COVID-19 in 2020-2021, the associated revenues did not fall as precipitously, due to online delivery and transnational education programmes.

The exponential increase in online communications has encouraged the growth of online educational programmes. This increases the prospective market size but also undermines a model where students locate to Ireland to study.

The relatively lower cost of online education, and the relative ease of access may result in students choosing to study elsewhere.

Brexit has significantly changed the environment for international education in Ireland. With many of the same attributes, Ireland and the UK traditionally compete for international students looking to study in an English language medium in a European country. Ireland as a native English-speaking country in the EU, has access to the Erasmus and EU research funding, providing new opportunities.

The Government is currently working on a new International Education, Research and Innovation strategy which will help inform priorities, strategic goals and objectives to 2030. It is expected to be published in 2023 and will drive the development of Ireland's international education sector, and provide a framework to develop and strengthen existing and new connections.

As part of the new strategy, DFHERIS will continue to build relationships with partner countries across the world.

An independent evaluation of the implementation of the previous strategy, *Irish Educated, Globally Connected*, published in February 2022, highlighted significant success in achieving current objectives. In particular:

- Good progress in terms of international student numbers and research income.
- Major gross impact of €2.38 billion per annum on the Irish economy.
- Cost benefit appraisal shows strategy had a strong positive benefit to cost ratio.
- Cost benefit greater for international students from non-EU countries.
- Brexit likely to open up new opportunities for Ireland.

Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy was published in May 2022. This Whole-of-Government Strategy leverages our national performance to date to advance the strategic development of Ireland's research and innovation (R&I) system between now and 2030.

The domestic and international context has fundamentally changed since previous R&I strategies and the *Impact 2030* strategic framework reflects that.

Ireland is facing key economic and societal challenges, including climate change and the need to transition to a climate-neutral

society; economic transformation fuelled by technological and other change; greater international competition and geopolitical instability; increased mobility of talent; and the need to build societal resilience against the threat of shocks. *Impact 2030* puts R&I at the heart of Ireland's response to these social, economic and environmental challenges.

Pillar Five of *Impact 2030* details the international R&I policy objectives. R&I is part of a positive agenda of co-operation on the island of Ireland, and also on an East-West basis, with the potential for this to grow. Under this Pillar, DFHERIS will seek to maximise this potential by promoting further cross-border cooperation through invaluable R&I connections. In addition, European and national research and innovation strengths will be developed through engagement with the European Research Area and the Research & Innovation Framework Programmes (currently Horizon Europe).

Foreign Languages

Under "Languages Connect – Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026", progress has been made in a range of areas designed to increase and diversify the range of foreign languages taught and learned across our education system.

Four new languages were introduced as curricular subjects for Leaving Certificate in 2020 – Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish and Portuguese – and these were examined for the first time in summer 2022.

1,478 Students sat one of these exams (186 Lithuanian, 280 Mandarin Chinese, 881 Polish and 131 Portuguese).

The Department of Education through Post Primary Languages Ireland in collaboration with Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board have piloted a blended model of provision of Polish for 17 Leaving Certificate students across 4 schools aiming to manage the challenge of small student numbers in individual schools and the supply of Polish teachers. These students are scheduled to sit Leaving Certificate Polish examination in summer 2023.

The draft Primary Curriculum Framework includes a proposal to introduce foreign languages in senior classes at primary level as set out under the Languages Connect Strategy. The new Framework was published in March 2023. It will then guide the NCCA's work in developing a specification for each curriculum area.

In 2021, a 6-week languages sampler module for primary schools "Say Yes to Languages" project was launched. 470 primary schools comprising 40,000 primary pupils participated in the project in 2021/22 which included 13 languages: French, Spanish, Irish Sign Language, German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Arabic, Japanese, and Tamil. The project is running again in 2022/23. It has been extended to 8 weeks and 730 primary schools applied to participate across 16 languages, with the addition of Ukrainian, Russian and Hebrew in the 2022/2023 programme.

8.8 Official Development Assistance

Budget 2023 allocates over €1.23 billion for international development – an increase of 18% on 2022 figures. It is the highest amount ever provided for Ireland’s development programme – *A Better World*.

This increase is helping partner countries to recover from the impact of the pandemic and conflict, to respond to the climate crisis, to counter the broader implications of the invasion of Ukraine, and to continue on, or to restore, their pathway to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While COVID-19 slowed and, at times, reversed progress towards achieving some of these goals, Ireland is committed to doing our part to contribute to the goals domestically and internationally. The focus is on reaching the furthest behind first, through strengthening our interventions in health, education and social protection. Ireland has an overarching focus on women and girls in all partnerships and interventions, and we will continue to prioritise education for girls, especially in emergencies.

Irish Aid has put in place systems to ensure Irish Official Development Assistance (ODA) contributes to delivering the SDGs, including mandatory reporting on SDG outcomes at appraisal stage of programme development, and routine tracking of expenditure against SDG outcomes. Ireland is also co-facilitating the negotiations on the Political Declaration for the UN SDG Summit which will take place in September 2023, in New York, with a view to galvanising global action to get the SDGs back on track.

A recent Overseas Development Institute (ODI) publication ranked Ireland as the number one donor in the “Principled Aid Index”. The report highlighted Ireland’s

strong focus on interconnectedness, supporting the multilateral system and targeting those most in need.

In 2021, Ireland’s Climate Finance spend reached €99.6 million, nearly all of which is untied and grant-based, and aligned with the SDGs. Important areas for climate diplomacy and financing are Adaptation and Building Resilience to Climate Change; addressing Loss and Damage; Sustainable Oceans and Blue Economy; and Climate and Security.

Ireland’s whole of-Government International Climate Finance Roadmap, published in July 2022, sets out the strategy for achieving Ireland’s international climate finance targets which involve more than doubling such funding for developing countries by 2025. The roadmap reaffirms Ireland’s commitment to focus on supporting adaptation and resilience to climate change in some of the most climate vulnerable countries, including least developed countries, small island developing states and fragile states.

The scale of humanitarian need across the world has expanded drastically, driven by conflict and climate change. In the face of escalating needs, Ireland’s funding for humanitarian response has increased steadily in recent years. In 2021, it reached €228 million, increasing to nearly €300 million in 2022. Ireland’s humanitarian funding supports the policy priority of reducing humanitarian need. To this end, we provide life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to urgent needs, while also working towards reducing humanitarian need over the longer term. This means addressing underlying drivers, and providing assistance in a way that builds community resistance to shocks and stresses, including through multi-annual and flexible humanitarian funding to our UN, NGO and Red Cross partners.

The world is facing hunger on an unprecedented scale. World hunger has, since 2019, increased substantially and almost one-tenth of the world's population was undernourished in 2021.

The deepening global food crisis is complex. Reduced global food and agriculture supply, the proliferation of international and local conflicts, climate pressures, counter-productive food trade policies, elevated energy prices, and increasing indebtedness are having a devastating impact on the food security of vulnerable communities. These inter-connected structural drivers will create persistent challenges for food and nutrition security globally in 2023 and beyond. A recent analysis by the World Bank Group estimates that the global severely food insecure population may remain above 1 billion through to 2027 unless large-scale interventions are made.

During the remaining period of this strategy, we will build on Ireland's historical global leadership role in hunger and nutrition by moving towards an integrated food systems approach.

A significant milestone in this journey was reached through the significant policy and financial commitments made at the 2021 United Nations Food Systems and Nutrition for Growth Summits where Ireland pledged €800 million for nutrition over a five-year period to 2026. At UNGA 2022, Ireland pledged an additional €50 million to combat acute malnutrition in children, in response to the evolving food crisis, especially in Africa.

Ireland will contribute to the global coordination of food systems transformation to address the interconnected drivers of food and nutrition insecurity. We will deepen our engagement on global food and nutrition security through enhanced partnerships with the World Bank, African Development Bank, African Union, and European Union and other global platforms and organisations including the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). Ireland works with CGIAR, a global agricultural research partnership, to develop research and innovation for food systems transformation. At the country level, Sustainable Food Systems Ireland can provide expertise and knowledge exchange to support transformation.

At EU level, Ireland actively participates in Team Europe which brings together the EU, its Member States and its Development Finance Institutions, including the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The Team Europe global response to the pandemic grew into a collective approach to development cooperation via Team Europe Initiatives to which Ireland is also contributing. While our bilateral ODA is important, we are also active in influencing the direction of Team Europe, which in 2022 continued to be the largest global provider of ODA, providing 43% of total ODA.



A demining project co-funded by Irish Aid and operated by Halo Trust in Vietnam © HALO Trust 2021



An Irish peacekeeper attached to MINUSMA (the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali) teaches a class on international law to fellow peacekeepers © Defence Forces

8.9 International Peace and Security

Securing the Legacy of Ireland's Security Council Term

Ireland campaigned for a seat on the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term, under the themes of 'empathy', partnership' and 'independence', and our election was an affirmation by the international community of Ireland's values and our work in the promotion of international peace and security.

Ireland's term concluded at the end of 2022. We will continue to build on the legacy of our work on the Council.

Ireland's tenure on the Security Council has substantially deepened our engagement with the international issues on its agenda, comprising 23 country and regional files, 22 thematic files, 12 UN Peacekeeping Operations and 19 sanctions committees and working groups.

Through these efforts, we made meaningful progress on our core priorities of (i) improving peacekeeping mandates, (ii) addressing highlighting potential drivers of conflict such as climate and food insecurity, (iii) promoting respect for international humanitarian law and accountability, and (iv)

improving humanitarian access globally.

The institutional knowledge developed in the course of the two years now informs the full range of our activities right across the diplomatic network from our bilateral Embassies and Consulates in third countries, to multilateral missions in Brussels, Paris, Vienna and elsewhere, and at the UN itself where we continue to be an active and committed member.

We have been actively working with new elected members of the Security Council (Switzerland, Malta, Japan, Mozambique and Ecuador), to ensure continuity on the Council for our core priorities. Working with Norway, on the Syria Humanitarian file, we secured the passage of vital cross-border humanitarian aid to North-west Syria in 2021, and again in 2022.

We will continue to lead efforts to ensure humanitarian access in all parts of Syria, including in 2023 in the wake of the devastating earthquakes in that country and in Türkiye.

The knowledge and experience gained from our time on the Security Council will also inform our UN membership in the period ahead, particularly with respect to our candidacy for election to the Human Rights Council for the 2027-2029 term.

The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory has been a longstanding priority for Ireland. It was a significant focus of our tenure on the UN Security Council and will remain key dimension of our foreign policy engagement in the future. We are deeply concerned about the human rights and security situation, especially the increase in civilian casualties. Ireland will continue to engage with both Israeli and Palestinian authorities, as well as with EU and international partners to work towards the restoration of a genuine political horizon towards the relaunching of meaningful negotiations between the parties on realising a two-State solution. Ireland's political engagement on this issue is complemented by its longstanding Irish Aid programme of assistance to the Palestinian Authority, which aims to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Palestinian people while supporting the Palestinian Authority to build the institutions of a Palestinian state.

International Peacekeeping

During 2022, Ireland contributed an average of 560 Defence Forces personnel to various missions throughout the world. Defence Forces personnel also deployed to a range of international organisations and national representations. Ireland lost a member of our Defence Forces when Private Sean Rooney was killed while on United Nations peacekeeping service in Lebanon in December 2022.

Ireland's main overseas missions in which the Defence Forces personnel are currently deployed are the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with around 345 personnel, and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Syria with around 130 personnel.

The UNIFIL mission in Lebanon continues to represent Ireland's largest overseas deployment. Irish troops are currently

serving as part of a joint Irish-Polish Battalion in UNIFIL.

Nine Maltese officers serve as part of the Irish contingent in UNIFIL. The Defence Forces have had an ongoing relationship with Armed Forces of Malta since 2009, providing both cadet and officer training for Armed Forces of Malta personnel in the Defence Forces Training Centre. Poland has some 218 personnel deployed with Hungarian personnel also deployed as part of the Polish contingent. Partnership with other States is an important element of peacekeeping operations.

In addition to UN missions, members of the Defence Forces currently serve with the EU training mission in Mali, (EUTM Mali). The Defence Forces first deployed to this mission in 2013.

Other missions in which Defence Forces personnel are currently deployed with continued Government approval include: the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina with five (5) personnel; the NATO-led international security presence (KFOR) in Kosovo with 12 personnel; United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) with 12 personnel; and the European Union military CSDP operation in the Mediterranean Operation IRINI with 3 personnel in the Operation Headquarters in Rome in addition to the scheduled deployment of a Naval Vessel and support crew for seven weeks during June/July 2023. Ireland also contributes observers and staff to various United Nations and OSCE missions and personnel to staff appointments at UN, EU, NATO/PfP and OSCE headquarters. Ireland continues to progress pledges made at the United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial hosted by Korea in December 2021, responding to the UN's identified needs spanning from training and personnel to programmatic funding.

Ireland's participation in Partnership for Peace is critical also to meeting our obligations in providing professional peacekeepers for international crisis management and peacekeeping operations mandated by the UN and in enhancing the Defence Forces' interoperability with other professional military forces.

The Naval Service is also active in global engagement. In 2022, the LÉ James Joyce, visited Boston Massachusetts, Portland Maine and Halifax Nova Scotia as part of a Diplomatic Ports Visits programme.

The port visits facilitated a series of high-level political, community, business, official and cultural engagements in all three locations. High-level Team Ireland events took place in each port.

Democratic Security and Rule of Law

The past year has highlighted the threats facing the democratic values to which Ireland subscribes and which underpin our foreign policy. In 2022, as Presidency of the Council of Europe, Ireland strove to reinforce the European Court for Human Rights, reaffirm rule of law, and promote democratic security across our continent.

This year, including as Chair of the OSCE Human Dimension Committee, we continue this work, recognising that lasting security cannot be secured without respect for human rights and functioning democratic institutions. Ireland will contribute actively

to the Summit for Democracy, joining the European Commission to chair a Cohort on Deliberative Democracy and Citizens Assemblies, sharing our experience, and learning from others.

Through these multilateral forums, our development partnerships and wider bilateral engagements, within the European Union and beyond, Ireland will continue to champion democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law as core values.

Consultative Forum on International Security Policy

The Tánaiste will convene a Consultative Forum on International Security Policy in June 2023. The Consultative Forum will allow for broad discussion on the full range of international security policy issues, including Ireland's work to protect the rules-based international order, through Ireland's engagement in peacekeeping, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and arms control and disarmament. It will look at new and emerging threats, including cyber, hybrid, disinformation and threats to critical infrastructure. The Consultative Forum will also examine Ireland's current and future engagement in EU Common Security and Defence Policy, as well as the existing relationship with NATO through the Partnership for Peace. It will seek to build deeper understanding of the threats faced by the State, and the links to, and between, our foreign, security and defence policy.

Case Study Ireland on the UN Security Council

Ireland held a seat on the UN Security Council from 1 January 2021-31 December 2022.

Our approach was underpinned by three core principles: Building Peace, Strengthening Conflict Prevention and Ensuring Accountability.

In line with these, Ireland's specific priorities included improving peacekeeping mandates, addressing highlighting potential drivers of conflict such as climate and food insecurity, promoting respect for international humanitarian law and accountability, and improving humanitarian access globally, including in Syria and Ethiopia. Ireland was active across the Council agenda including on Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Middle East Peace Process, Syria, and Iran.

We also led the Council's response to the situation in Ethiopia. We acted as Facilitator of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2231, which underpins the Iran Nuclear Deal; chaired the Somalia Sanctions Committee; led on the Syria Humanitarian file; and co-chaired the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace, and Security (with Mexico).

Ireland (with Niger in 2021) also led work on the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). Ireland and Norway worked together to lead negotiations on humanitarian access to Syria, providing a vital lifeline for over 3 million people. In 2021, Ireland was co-chair along with Niger of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security, looking at climate change as a multiplier of conflict and instability.

Ireland held the Presidency of the Security Council in September 2021, using the occasion to mark the 25th anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Alongside Mexico and Kenya, we formed a "Women, Peace and Security Presidency Trio" committing each member to use their respective Presidencies to integrate Women Peace and Security fully into our work. We brought a record number of women civil society briefers to the table to speak directly to the members of the Security Council.

Then Taoiseach Martin chaired a High-Level Open Debate on Climate and Security. Working closely with Niger and other likeminded partners, we subsequently led negotiations on a draft resolution on Climate and Security. While the resolution was ultimately not adopted due to the use of the veto by Russia, 113 UN Member States co-sponsored Ireland's resolution, demonstrating the overwhelming support of UN Member States for more decisive action by the Council on the link between climate change and insecurity.

The war in Ukraine dominated the work of the Council throughout 2022. Then Taoiseach Martin, in his National Statement to the UN General Assembly in 2022, called for reform of the Security Council and questioned Russia's place on it, in light of their actions in Ukraine. Ireland co-sponsored resolutions at the General Assembly condemning Russia for their illegal, unjustified and unprovoked attack against Ukraine. We have consistently highlighted the need to prevent sexual violence in this conflict.

We joined a group of 40 States in referring the situation to the International Criminal Court and are supporting

Ukraine's cases against Russia at the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights.



Ireland Chairs meeting of the UN Security Council, September 2021 © Manuel Elías, UN

8.10 Global Health

Looking ahead to the period to end 2025, we will work to increase our engagement with and influence on global health, including health in Ireland, through enhanced international engagement that builds upon our longstanding support for health system strengthening; reproductive, maternal, new-born and child healthcare; and the prevention and treatment of HIV, TB and malaria. We will increase our health teams in the Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels and the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. This is with the aim of leveraging more fully the strategic potential of the expansive health expertise and coordination currently at the EU, European regional and global levels.

The new EU health programme, EU4Health, with a budget of €5.3 billion, is over ten times the size of its predecessor. Likewise, ambitious proposals for a European Health Union, including the recently finalised health security package of measures, envisage a greatly enhanced role for EU coordination and action on health. Ireland will continue to prioritise early, strategic engagement in EU initiatives. Ireland has also engaged actively in the development of the new EU Global Health Strategy, launched in November 2022.

In December 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) membership agreed to begin to negotiate a convention to strengthen global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. Ireland is engaging actively in these negotiations in Geneva and in Brussels.

8.11 Climate Change

The Government's Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as set out in the Climate Act 2021. To achieve this ambitious goal will require collaboration at EU and International level.

Through CAP23, Ireland's climate diplomacy and finance explicitly focuses on the needs of countries and communities, which are least responsible for causing climate change, have limited resources to respond and adapt, and have the most to lose. Our focus continues to be on locally led adaptation, which channels funds to communities on the front lines of climate change. In addition, we are focusing on sustainable oceans, on the effects of climate change on international peace and security, as well as on the issue of Loss and Damage.

Ireland will more than double our overall Climate Finance spend to at least €225 million per year by 2025. We will climate-proof all our Official Development Assistance.

Ireland played a central role in the EU team working on Loss and Damage over the 18 months leading up to COP27, and during the COP itself to achieve the historic agreement to establish funding arrangements for Loss and Damage, and to ensure the inclusion of provisions on targeting the developing countries most vulnerable to climate change. We continue to play a central role in this area, via our membership – in a shared seat with Germany – of the Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage established to operationalise the funding arrangements.

As we look to the future, Ireland's port and shipping sector is working towards the use of alternative fuels in line with the EU's Fit for 55 Package. In addition, the aviation sector will be similarly required to meet new requirements stemming from the Fit for 55 Package in relation to sustainable aviation fuel and strengthening of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme.

The Government's Trade and Investment Strategy deals with climate and sustainability issues by setting out a principled and holistic approach to trade policy.

The implementation of the Strategy and its seven priority actions will allow Ireland to realise our trade and investment goals, increase exports sustainably, deepen and extend our trade relationships, grow quality employment, and reinforce our economy.

9

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL IRELAND STRATEGY

9 Monitoring the Implementation of the Global Ireland strategy

Global Ireland is a whole of government strategy; a commitment which is reflected in the Programme for Government, *Our Shared Future*.

Implementation of the strategy is overseen by a Senior Officials' Group, led by the Department of the Taoiseach, which meets periodically and includes representatives from the following Government Departments:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Department of Defence
- Department of Education
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department of Finance
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- Department of Health
- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
- Department of the Taoiseach
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Department of Transport

State and other Government Agencies play an essential role in the implementation of the strategy.

The Senior Officials' Group will continue to monitor developments and will coordinate a final review of the Strategy, following its conclusion at the end of 2025.

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