



IRELAND
United Nations
Security Council
2021—2022



Empathy / Partnership / Independence

“Yet while we celebrate the end of violence, the lives saved and the futures transformed, we are reminded daily of the challenges of sustaining peace.”

MICHAEL D. HIGGINS
President of Ireland

An introduction to Ireland’s candidature for the United Nations Security Council 2021—2022



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Ireland and the United Nations



As members of the Security Council in the past we have shown independence, courage and consistency. We bring no partisan agenda to the table. We are here to serve the wider good and to support the UN and the multilateral system.

(Images, UN Photo/ Yutaka Nagata, UN Photo/ Evan Schneider)

IRELAND JOINED THE UN as a young, recently independent republic in 1955. It is as important to us today as it was to us over 60 years ago.

Ireland has always engaged with the UN in a serious and substantive way. It is an inherent part of who we are. It informs how we act globally and it shapes our international outlook – our belief in Empathy, Partnership and Independence.

As an island State – a Global Island – we are deeply aware that, in an interdependent world, nothing is entirely foreign or wholly domestic. Problems and challenges do not respect geographic boundaries. They are challenges for all of us, a shared responsibility.

We are living in an era when local, regional and global issues collide with increasing frequency and force. Today's crises and challenges do not carry passports or recognise international borders. Unilateral approaches are inadequate. Ireland believes that multilateralism is the key to solving the global challenges that we face. We are stronger together.

Ireland is a small nation which believes that we have a responsibility to actively engage with the UN and which sees our UN membership as a declaration of our global citizenship.

Since 1958 we have been a UN peacekeeping nation. In that period, not one month has passed without Irish troops participating in UN peacekeeping operations. Today, Ireland is one of the highest per capita troop contributors to UN peacekeeping globally.

Ireland's candidature for election to the Security Council for the 2021–2022 term will further deepen our UN engagement.

Empathy

AS A NATION that has experienced colonisation, conflict, famine and mass migration, Ireland's lived history finds resonance in the aims and objectives of the UN Charter. We seek a future that acknowledges the past, but a future which is not bound by it.

We have a longstanding commitment to working for the eradication of poverty and hunger in the world. Hunger has a deep resonance with the Irish people. We recall the great compassion and the open doors shown around the world to Irish migrants fleeing famine as they sought refuge. We reflect on that as we work to assist today's refugees.

Ireland's international development cooperation programme is nearly 50 years old and remains generous, untied and focused on those most in need. We have never deviated from that path, remaining true to our commitments even through hard times at home.

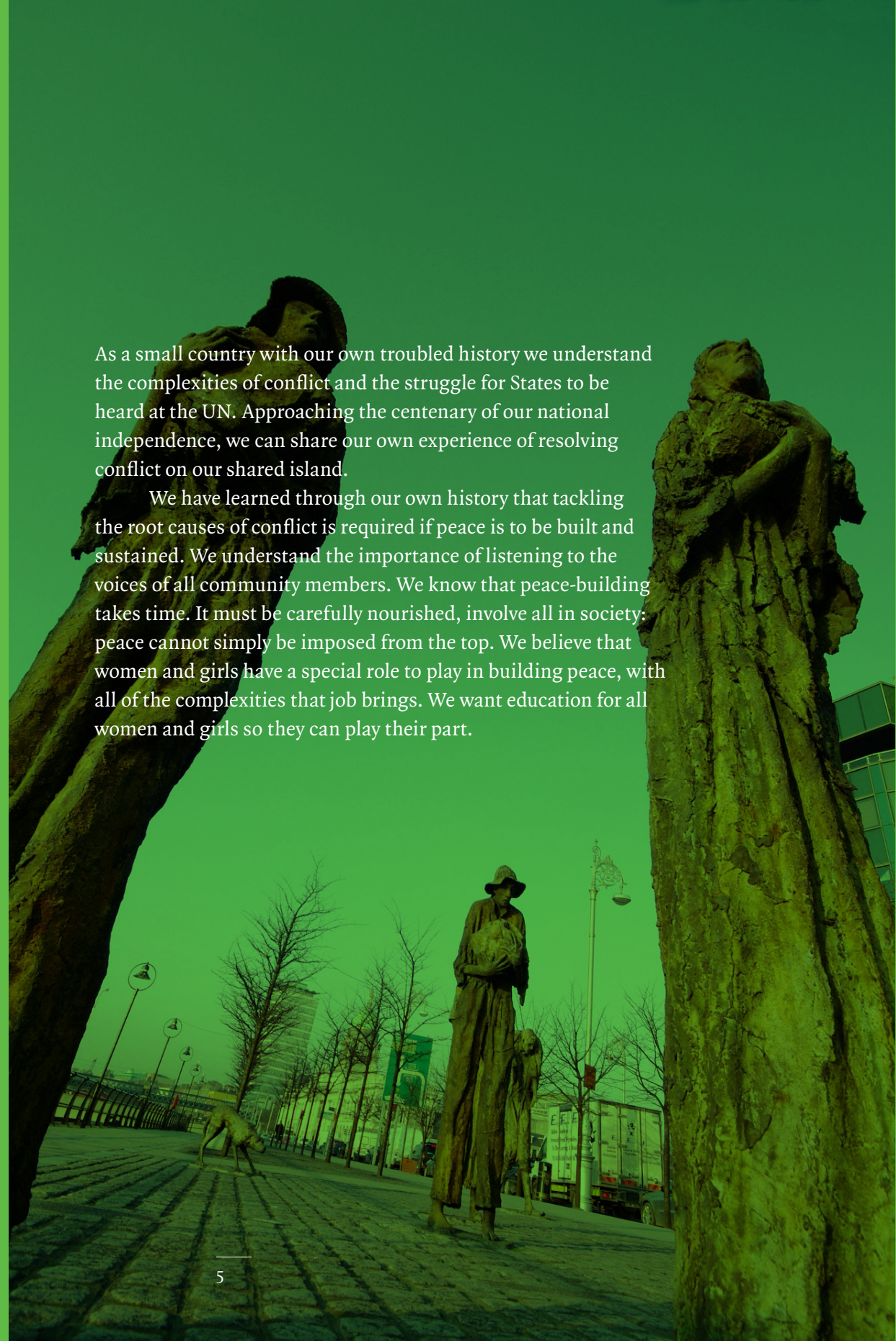
The Irish people lead with their generosity and solidarity, shown by their response to humanitarian emergencies, man-made and natural, throughout the world. Irish humanitarian responders, organisations and their local counterparts are to be found wherever they can make a difference by seeking to prevent and respond to human suffering and to restore dignity.

'FAMINE', Memorial Sculpture, Dublin, Ireland.

The sculpture is a commemorative work dedicated to those two million Irish people, 25% of the national population, who were forced to emigrate during the 19th century famine. One million Irish people died as a consequence of starvation and disease and this has informed our consistent and empathetic response to hunger and sustainable development.

As a small country with our own troubled history we understand the complexities of conflict and the struggle for States to be heard at the UN. Approaching the centenary of our national independence, we can share our own experience of resolving conflict on our shared island.

We have learned through our own history that tackling the root causes of conflict is required if peace is to be built and sustained. We understand the importance of listening to the voices of all community members. We know that peace-building takes time. It must be carefully nourished, involve all in society: peace cannot simply be imposed from the top. We believe that women and girls have a special role to play in building peace, with all of the complexities that job brings. We want education for all women and girls so they can play their part.



Partnership

AS IRELAND'S NATIONAL peace process and membership of the European Union has shown us, we are far stronger acting collectively than we are acting alone. Policies of unilateralism, transactional diplomacy, protectionism and confrontation are not viable alternatives. At the Security Council, Ireland will stand with those who need assistance and help give voice to those who are not at that table.

Partnership and cooperation has brought peace and prosperity to our island and our region. Working closely with other Member States has strengthened our independence, self-confidence and security, rather than diminished it.

Our foreign policy has a strong tradition of principled engagement on development, humanitarian assistance, disarmament, human rights and peacekeeping. These values underpin our commitment to partnership with the UN and its Member States.

Through bilateral assistance to Member States and continued contributions to the UN Funds and Programmes, our approach is built on sustaining strong partnerships to address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality and to work together toward a world that is more equal, peaceful and sustainable.

Our leadership on the Sustainable Development Goals and our commitment to climate justice are expressions of that partnership. Ireland's focus is on those furthest behind, including continuing commitment to support Least Developed Countries. Women and Girls are very often furthest behind, that is why we shine a light on them and work hard to promote and protect their human rights.



The goal of our aid programme, Irish Aid, is to reduce poverty, hunger and humanitarian need by supporting long term sustainable development assistance across more than 80 countries, contributing to a more equal, sustainable and peaceful world.
(Image, Trócaire)


Independence

WE ARE BY NATURE bridge-builders. We listen to all sides and work to build collective solutions to our global challenges. We have shown this in securing agreement on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in 2015, in our facilitation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016, and in our ongoing role as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. The common thread through these processes is Ireland's commitment to hearing and heeding the voices of all, to forge consensus and common purpose.

As an elected member, as we showed in our past terms on the Council, Ireland will apply ourselves in an open and honest way to the agenda of the Council. We pledge to work with all Member States, not only those on the Council. It is our natural way of doing business.

When we have served on the Security Council in the past we have shown independence, courage and consistency. Our path is our own. We bring no partisan agenda to the table. We are here to serve the wider good and to support the UN and the multilateral system.

We speak up. We are committed to working for the necessary reforms and changes on the Security Council, now long-overdue. We want to improve the representativeness and accountability of the Security Council so that it can properly fulfil the expectations of all UN members. As an elected member we will follow that path.



The Permanent Representative of Ireland, Geraldine Byrne Nason, chairing the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women at UNHQ, New York, in March 2018 which delivered a landmark outcome for the empowerment of rural women and girls. (Image, UN Women/ Ryan Brown)

Ireland has kept faith with the UN since we joined as a young republic. Election to the Security Council for the 2021–2022 term would coincide with the centenary of the founding of the Irish State. The international outlook which propelled us toward UN membership decades ago remains undimmed today. We have always sought to be an active and fair member of the international community. This is reflected in the Government of Ireland’s strategy to double the scope and impact of Ireland’s global footprint by 2025 and its commitment to deliver 0.7% of GNI to development assistance by 2030. Our Security Council candidature is central to our international agenda, to our outlook as a Global Island and our conviction that, in today’s globalised world, we must live in each other’s shelter and not in each other’s shadow.



Ireland’s participation in UN peacekeeping has been unbroken since 1958. Today, Ireland is among the highest per capita troop contributors to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

(Image, Óglaigh na hÉireann/ Defence Forces Ireland)



Ireland:
Empathy.
Partnership.
Independence.

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