TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE AND JUST RECOVERY

Seán Healy
Director, Social Justice Ireland

seanhealy@seanhealy.com
www.socialjustice.ie
Overview

• Current situation
• Key questions
• A framework for just and inclusive policy development
Core questions (1)

• Where does Ireland want to be in 2025?
• What should be its guiding vision?
• What infrastructure is required?
• What services are required?
Core questions (2)

• How are such infrastructure and service requirements to be delivered?
• How are they to be financed?
• How are decisions on these issues to be made?
• How and on what basis is progress on these issues to be measured?
A Guiding Vision

• A just society
  – Human rights; Human dignity; Human development; Environment

• Core values
  – Human dignity, equality, human rights, solidarity, sustainability and the pursuit of the common good
Policy Framework

• Macroeconomic stability
• Decent services and infrastructure
• Just taxation
• Good governance
• Sustainability
Macroeconomic Stability

• Financial and fiscal stability and sustainable economic growth
• Adequate investment programme
• Reduce Ireland's debt burden
To achieve macroeconomic stability...

• Economic growth as a means, not an end
• Fiscal Compact
• Fixation with austerity
• Resources for investment
Decent Services and infrastructure

• Secure services and social infrastructure
• Combat unemployment and under-employment
• Ensure seven Economic, Social and Cultural rights are achieved.
• Universal provision
To ensure decent services and infrastructure ....

• Increased investment needed in wide range of areas

• Sourcing investment
  – Example: Housing
Just taxation

• Bring total tax-take to EU average
• Increase taxes equitably and reduce income inequality
• Secure fair share of corporate profits for the State
Total Revenue and Total Expenditure as a % of GDP, 2005-2020
To ensure just taxation ....

• Reforming income taxes
• Reforming tax breaks
• Behavioural taxes
• Environmental taxes
• Broaden tax-base
• Minimum effective corporate tax rate
Good Governance

- Deliberative democracy
- Reform policy evaluation
- Social dialogue - engage all sectors in deliberative process
To ensure good governance ....

• Communities and capacity
• Community and voluntary sector
• Policy evaluation
• Public Participation Networks (PPNs)
• National Economic Dialogue
Sustainability

- Promote climate justice and protect the environment
- Balanced regional development
- New indicators of progress and new Satellite National Accounts
To ensure sustainability ....

- Present and future
- Financial, environmental, economic and social sustainability.
## A policy framework for a just and inclusive Ireland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macro-economic stability</th>
<th>Decent services and infrastructure</th>
<th>Just taxation</th>
<th>Good governance</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial and fiscal stability and sustainable economic growth</td>
<td>Secure services and social infrastructure</td>
<td>Bring total tax-take to EU average</td>
<td>Deliberative democracy and enhance PPNs</td>
<td>Promote climate justice and protect the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate investment programme</td>
<td>Combat unemployment and under-employment</td>
<td>Increase taxes equitably and reduce income inequality</td>
<td>Reform policy evaluation</td>
<td>Balanced regional development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Ireland's debt burden</td>
<td>Ensure seven Economic, Social and Cultural rights are achieved.</td>
<td>Secure fair share of corporate profits for the State</td>
<td>Social dialogue - engage all sectors in deliberative process</td>
<td>New indicators of progress and new Satellite National Accounts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Over-arching issues

- Prioritise long-term policy outcomes
- Multi-annual budgeting
- Focus on medium to long-term policy goals
- Invest in our social and physical infrastructure
- Plan for demographic changes
- New policy framework
Concerns

• Dominant view: “economic growth will solve all problems”!!!!
• Rising political power of corporate and financial elite
• Migration, refugees, asylum-seekers.
• EU crisis may worsen rather than improve
How address these challenges?

- Political Parties
- Media
- Social science research funding
- Think Tanks and NESC
- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
- Oireachtas Committees
Thank you

seanhealy@seanhealy.com

www.socialjustice.ie