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RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR WHITE PAPER ON ENTERPRISE

Submission from Philanthropy Ireland
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Context & Background

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment conducted a public consultation on the future direction of Enterprise Policy with a view to publishing a White Paper by the end of the year.

The objective of the department was to develop a high-level White Paper on Enterprise which will outline the strategic direction of Enterprise Policy in the face of the challenges faced by business - from Micro Enterprises and SMEs to the Multi-National firms based in Ireland - both today and in the years to come.

Summary of response

As Ireland looks towards 2030, the Dept's efforts to strengthen Enterprise policy provides a real opportunity for Government and business – especially, multi-national firms to strengthen their contribution with strategic giving for more impactful change and sustainable development.

- Tailored supports could be provided for enterprise of all sizes, around developing philanthropic strategy that aligns with their core business values and complement their sustainable strategy.

- Developing policy guidelines and incentives for enterprises to establish foundations and carry out their philanthropic contributions, can positively support advancement of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

- Promoting data transparency, reporting and disclosure through policy guidelines/mandates could result in a resourceful database on the philanthropic contributions of enterprises around giving programs, cash donations, in-kind product donations, Pro-bono services and Volunteerism.

Key suggestions highlighted by PI:

It would be of great value for the Enterprise Department's white paper to explore the philanthropic potential of enterprises and extend policy support to advance the same. Further, to promote strategic philanthropy at an enterprise level there is a need to:

- **Incentivise philanthropic giving by enterprises for sustainable development**

- **Improve the access to philanthropic data that can in turn enable informed decision making that accelerates social outcomes.**