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representing local authorities**

When we spoke in June, we were bolstered by your commitment to ensuring the inclusion of local government in all priority areas of the programming process. We would welcome hearing more from you on how these mandatory consultations will be implemented at country level. We know that the coming months will be critical to create the appropriate framework to further entrench the commitments of the 2013 Communication on local authorities and the EU Consensus, and to mainstreaming local government into all thematic areas of the EU's development cooperation.

As you have heard from the regional PFD consultations, the priority areas outlined in the NDICI are all priorities for local government, as cities and local communities are the point at which success or failure will play out.

Therefore, we welcome the EU's growing recognition of a territorial approach to development and look forward to TALD being an integral part of the national programmes moving forward.

It is important to remember that the decentralisation process is incomplete in many of our member countries, and that both funds and capacity often remain concentrated in capital cities and economic hubs. Yet it is secondary cities which will see exponential growth in the final decade of the 2030 Agenda. It is only through a localised approach to development that we can avoid a urbanisation of poverty.

We welcome the commitment to developing roadmaps to further guide the EU engagement with local and regional governments and their representative associations beyond the structured dialogue of the programming phase.

It will be important to ensure a variety of opportunities and modalities for support to local authorities going forward. This could include:

1. mainstreaming of local authorities in bilateral programmes;
2. FPAs at the national level which support LGA to take forward their strategic priorities;
3. targeted capacity building programmes; and
4. financial commitments not tied to bilateral programmes (such as the LA/CSO budget line) but with more simplified implementation modalities.
5. Access by local government to new financing mechanisms and instruments should be ensured.

Questions:

- What are the concrete mechanisms that the EUDs have at their disposal to engage with LAs? How will mandatory consultations be implemented as part of the programming process?



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- How are political differences between national governments and Local Authorities going to be taken into consideration and handled by the EU?