



## **PFD Closing event on EU programming consultation: *A discussion with Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen***

### **Overview**

Since March 2020, the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) has moved **to a virtual format**. The **Virtual PFD** kicked off in April with a broad series of consultation that engaged over 360 organisations and focused on the following areas: how PFD members can support the Commission agenda's in the achievement of the SDGs in the global world; the environment in which PFD members work and the obstacles they are faced with in the implementation of their activities; the multi-stakeholder partnerships used to implement development work; as well as the initial impacts of COVID-19, and the successful contribution in the fight against it played by the PFD members.. The focus of the virtual PFD then turned to its role within the framework of the EU programming, and continued with a set of meetings with PFD members by regions (Africa – Asia – Latin America, and the Neighborhood) and in September with a world- wide I meeting co-chaired by Koen Doens, Director General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). During the second half of October and early November the PFD hosted a series of thematic webinars to refine members' input from the regional meetings to the ongoing EU programming exercise.

The thematic webinars brought together technical experts from the PFD networks (NGOs, Associations of Local Authorities, trade unions, cooperatives, professional and business associations, foundation networks and diaspora groups), and EC officials working on three topics: 1) An economy that works for the people; 2) Green Deal; and 3) Digitalisation for Development. The objective of the webinars was to gather recommendations from the PFD constituencies on how the programming and implementation of the EU priorities can: i) contribute to reducing inequalities, ensuring a just transition and leave no-one behind, ii) strengthen the enabling environment and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and iii) be supported by multi-stakeholder partnerships at global, national and local level.

The **closing event will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 14h to 15h CET and will be chaired** by the Commissioner for International Partnerships, **Jutta Urpilainen**, who will receive first-hand feedback from the membership of the PFD on the key recommendations for EU programming that have emerged along the process and will react to these recommendations, including how can the EU better broker and support the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the PFD itself.

### **Methodology**

This **one-hour moderated discussion** will provide an opportunity for PFD members to formally present key messages and recommendations that are relevant for EC programming stemming from the past months of consultation. **Pre-identified speakers** will present findings and Commissioner Urpilainen will have the opportunity to react to the recommendations provided.

The **findings can be grouped along the lines of the three areas of questions** that have been asked during the thematic discussions, **notably inequalities, enabling environment and partnerships**. The idea of



ending on partnerships would allow the Commissioner to relate the discussion to her portfolio. This will also allow PFD members to look at what needs to be done, in what work environment, and how joint work can support this at all levels. Specific attention will be given to how to make the PFD's recommendations useful for EU Delegations, as this has been a repeated focus in PFD discussions. Final recommendations to present and groupings will be agreed in a TT meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> following review of a **summary document** to be shared between November 12 and 20. This is important, as **DG DEVCO has committed itself to giving feedback as to whether or not the recommendations are indeed taken on board.**

Members are currently working on a compilation of written submission from the PFD on EC programming, based on the key conclusions and recommendations from both regional and thematic meetings, from which highlights will be shared in the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. This means that Commissioner Urpilainen will have written input to reference prior to the meeting to be prepared to engage in the discussion on the day itself.

Draft run of show:

13:45 – 14:00: Welcome/introduction/ways of working (Moderator)

14:00-14:10: Welcome and introduction of the Commissioner

14:10-14:15: Welcome and introduction (PFD co-chair 1)

14:15-14:25: First intervention and recommendations (inequalities and SDGs)

14:25-14:35: Reactions from Commissioner

14:35-14:45: Second intervention and recommendations (role of CSOs and LAs and enabling environment)

14:45-14:55: Reactions from Commissioner

14:55-15:00: Wrap up and thank you (PFD co-chair 2)