**CSO-LA Consultation on Inclusive Multilateralism**

**Virtual meeting** held 13 September 2021

**Follow up answers to questions raised in the meeting but not answered due to time constraints**

Q: [What is] the role of the current FPA holders in the new multilateralism strategy and how to continue our current fruitful cooperation?

A: The Commission intends to continue to use Framework Partnership Agreements to promote cooperation with global and regional CSO networks in areas of mutual interest and in the pursuit of common objectives, linked to EU’s policies and core priorities and the 2030 Agenda. This includes supporting a more inclusive policymaking by linking local concerns, experience and expertise to international debates.

Q: Why is the multilateral system currently in crisis, and what weaknesses or mistakes can the UN and EU identify?

A: Today’s world is marked by major geopolitical and economic power shifts. Relations between major powers are increasingly confrontational and unilateralist. Competing visions and agendas on the global order are at play, which challenge established multilateral rules and organisations. These current geopolitical rivalries have a negative impact on efforts to promote peace and prevent conflict; they hamper humanitarian responses, undermine trust and complicate the provision of global public goods. Basic principles of international law, human rights, democracy and the rule of law are being challenged. Existing institutions upholding such values are all too often bypassed or misused for narrow national or ideological interests.

At the same time, growing global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflicts and extreme poverty in many parts of the world, make all too evident the need for multilateral cooperation grounded on basic principles of international law and universal values.

Q: Is there is a connection between the Conference on the Future of Europe, including the topic of EU in the world, and the work around a Europe fit for purpose and the coherence between the internal and external work of the EU?

A: The concept of inclusive multilateralism implies synergies with other processes, where there is a strong ‘inclusive multilateralism’ dimension. This notably includes the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; planned work on Digital governance, the ongoing process of the Conference on the Future of Europe; and our work on addressing inequalities more broadly.