

CONCEPT NOTE ON CONSULTATIONS OF CSO/LA ON THE EU REGIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (2021-2027)

13 December 13-16h CET

Context

The on-going programming of the EU external budget aims to project the EU's values and interests in Africa through international partnerships based on its political priorities. The EU's engagement with partner countries should therefore be policy-driven and based on mutual commitments. EU programming builds on the political priorities captured in the five partnerships¹ proposed in the EEAS and European Commission Communication "Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa", as well as in the subsequent Council conclusions of 30 June and of 16 October 2020.

Recognising the importance of partnership in successfully reaching our development objectives, it has been decided to organise regular exchanges with civil society organizations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs) in the development and advancement of the EU programming for Sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, INTPA, in coordination with the EEAS and in the framework of the Policy Forum on Development, is hosting a second consultative discussion with CSOs and LAs. This discussion follows the meeting on the draft regional MIP for Sub-Saharan Africa (2021-2027) in March 2021 and has the following objectives:

1. Provide an update of the programming process for the regional multi-annual programming for SSA
2. provide feedback on the inputs from the March 2021 meeting
3. hear the views and contributions of CSOs and LAs on the "advanced" version of the regional MIPs
4. hear the views of CSOs and LAs on the Annual Action Plans 2021 and 2022 (which are currently in the pipeline and under preparation).

Target: Representatives of CSOs and LAs global networks and regional networks and platforms present in Europe and Africa. While this meeting focuses on EU operational programming, many participants will have also participated in the meeting organised at the level of Commissioner Urpilainen to gather views prior to a ministerial level meeting (On the way to the Summit) held in October 2021.

Methodology

This 3-hour online moderated discussion aims to provide feedbacks on the input already gathered in March for the MIP and share the state of play of the AAPs. While registering, each participant will have the opportunity to select the thematic sub-groups he/she will attend.

During the plenary session DG INTPA will present how the programming process evolved since last March and will present the main outlines of SSA regional AAP 2021 and 2022 (which is still under drafting). This presentation will be followed by short Q&A sessions.

The plenary session will be followed by discussions in sub-groups, which will cover the initiatives that will be presented in the AAP 2021 and 2022. They are the following:

1. Human development (including health, education, skills)

¹ 1. A partnership for green transition and energy access; 2. A partnership for digital transformation; 3. A partnership for sustainable growth and jobs; 4. A partnership for peace and governance; and 5. A partnership on migration and mobility.

2. Green transition (including climate change, sustainable energy, agri-food, bio-diversity, water basin management)
3. Investment and infrastructures, digital, STI
4. Regional integration and trade
5. Governance, peace and security
6. Migration and forced displacement

The following guiding questions on the role of CSO/LA on the ground will be addressed in each group:

- What are the CSOs/LAs views on the relevance of the regional action plans for 2021 and 2022 in light of the priorities of the regional multiannual indicative programme?
- What are key areas/ focal points that should be taken into account in the formulation phase of SSA regional initiatives?

The plenary session will be in EN and FR with simultaneous interpretation available. For thematic groups, the moderators will be comfortable with both languages. For the wrap-up session and the conclusion, participants will meet again in a final plenary session setting. A rapporteur from each sub-group will share the main outcomes in plenary.

Agenda

Welcome and opening remarks

Presentations; Q&A

Group discussions

Report back to plenary

Wrap up and conclusion