



**Concept note on CSO-LA hybrid meeting on the
Partnering to keep the Sustainable Development Goals at the centre of our collective action
23 May 2023
9:00h - 10:00h CET**

Introduction

2023 is a landmark year. The EU Voluntary Review (EUVR) seeks to reaffirm the EU's political commitment to the 2030 Agenda, increase the visibility and consistency of the work undertaken by the EU on SDG implementation, and support the importance of this shared global agenda at global level, at a time when multilateralism is under pressure. Its timing has been designed to influence positively the High-level Political Forum in July, and the SDG Summit in September.

In the current geopolitical context, a strong partnership in favour of the SDG agenda is critical to maintain support for sustainable development in all its dimensions. In support of this, it is important to demonstrate the EU's commitment to the multilateral order and leverage support vis-à-vis other actors.

Members of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) and other CSOs are active participants in the advocacy and implementation of the SDGs, as actors in their own right and in many cases in partnership with the EU. They were briefed and updated on the EUVR process at two PFD meetings last year (in June and November, reports are available in background documents). The synopsis report of stakeholders' consultation will also be annexed to the EUVR and shared before the meeting. It is key to maintain engagement in this critical year ahead of the important UN events on SDGs.

Objectives of the event:

The meeting will have three objectives:

- 1) **Exchange on the EUVR:** given the keen interest on the file, the various contributions during the public consultation, it is an occasion to discuss how the key messages expressed during the consultation phase have been reflected.
- 2) **Look forward together, identify shared strategic objectives in the global context and discuss collective efforts** to support SDG implementation and counter some worrying trends, notably how to work together to push common messages during this crucial year (on the way to and during the various events this summer) but also afterwards/in its follow-up.
- 3) As the EU is engaging on the international scene through the Global Gateway strategy, exchange on the **contribution of the Global Gateway to the SDGs.**

Format and agenda

The event will take place on **23 May between 9 and 10 CET** and allow a discussion on the key messages from the EUVR package and how the EU and CSOs can team together to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, notably ahead of the HLPF in July and the SDG Summit in September.



The event will be a hybrid meeting for PFD members and additional CSOs active on SDG implementation. Brussels based organisations will be invited to participate in person (location tbc).

The Commissioner and representatives from INTPA will share main messages from the EUVR and participants will be invited to ask questions and make comments.

09.00 – 09.05 Welcome

09.05 – 09.15 Intervention by Commissioner Urpilainen: key messages from the EUVR for the UN HLPF and the SDG Summit

09.15 – 09.45 Questions and answers, comments

Guiding questions:

- *What are your views on the EUVR and on the way forward?*
- *In view of the key UN events ahead, what are the key priority issues/areas that you identify and for which we should team up to push strong common messages?*

09.45 – 09.55 Main take-aways

09.55 – 10.00 Wrap up, next steps and conclusions

The meeting will be held in English.