

A unique multi-stakeholder space for dialogue

Conceived as a trust-building mechanism, the EU Policy Forum on Development (PFD) brings together Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) from the European Union and partner countries with European institutions and bodies. It offers its members a high-level space to discuss, consult and exchange information and experiences, with the ultimate goal of promoting policy dialogue and enhancing mutual understanding.

The PFD reflects the dialogue aspirations of the Lisbon Treaty. The Forum also builds on international commitments to achieve development effectiveness, at both European and global levels.

In addition to the EU, all four key EU cooperation regions are represented: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; the European Neighbourhood Region; and Latin America and the Caribbean.



The PFD pursues 3 key objectives:

1

▪ **Dialogue** on cross-cutting issues directly related to the role of CSOs and LAs as relevant development actors in their own right.

2

▪ **Policy debate**, consultation and exchange of information and experiences on key EU development policies and initiatives.

3

▪ **Regular follow-up** of the Structured Dialogue's recommendations providing a room for regular update and peer review by all actors.

The history behind the PFD

From the Structured Dialogue to the Policy Forum on Development: a progressive path

The PFD is the result of the Structured Dialogue, regarded by many development professionals as one of the most comprehensive, transparent and well-organised consultations ever launched in the field of development.

Organised in parallel with the global development effectiveness agenda debates in 2010 and 2011, the 14-month process brought together more than 700 CSOs and LAs - including grassroots, regional, national and global organisations - with European Union institutions and Member States to reflect upon and define ways to improve the effectiveness of all actors involved in EU development cooperation.

Launched in March 2010 and concluded in May 2011 by Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, the process ended with a final joint declaration, acknowledging CSOs and LAs as essential components of any working democracy and providing strong recommendations to all actors involved, including the set-up of a permanent space for dialogue, thereafter known as the Policy Forum on Development. The PFD held its inaugural meeting in November 2013 after an intensive interim phase, during which the forum was collectively shaped.

Key landmarks in the follow-up of the process are the Communications on engagement with CSOs (2012) and LAs (2013) in development, at the forefront of innovativeness, and the EC Staff Working Paper on Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR).



Today's changing development landscape:

A stronger partnership among CSOs, LAs and EU institutions to address the challenges ahead.

"In the midst of fundamental debates that will shape the development agenda for the years to come, at a time when civil society organisations and citizens' movements are expanding their impact and making their voices heard, together with those of local authorities, the Policy Forum on Development is a unique and all-inclusive space for dialogue, created in a very participatory way, after intense months of consultation."

We wish to reiterate our support to this complementary mechanism, which offers us a unique space for constant exchange and discussion to foster development effectiveness, and the possibility to think differently about European development policy with a view to ensuring overall coherence."



Eva Joly
Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Development Committee (DEVE).

Photo by Joëlle Dolle

Key figures and facts about the PFD

- **61 key CSO and LA actors**, which include 42 regional networks, 6 global umbrella organisations and alliances and 13 European platforms, are members of the PFD and sit together with representatives from EU institutions, bodies and Member States.
- **136 countries** are directly represented through the networks, alliances, platforms and their constituencies, across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, the European Neighbourhood region and the EU.
- **The global, regional and European voices of citizens, cities and local governments** find their way into the PFD. Overall, one can estimate that the PFD potentially reaches out to:
 - More than 260 co-operative federations, representing around a billion individuals in 92 different countries.
 - 2.5 million Fair Trade producers and workers from 70 countries.
 - Hundreds of millions of workers in 161 countries and territories.
 - More than 1,100 cities and national associations, representing over half the world's population, present in more than 120 countries.
 - More than 150 business and employer federations present in 143 countries.
 - Key global and regional umbrella NGO actors and their constituencies across the world.

➤ **PFD Members** have multiple international relationships with institutions beyond the EU and are highly active in global and regional settings.

PFD Members

AFRICA:

- African Women's Development and Communication Network, FEMNET
- Central African NGO Platform Network, REPONGAC
- Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union, CCP-AU
- Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique, CGLU Afrique
- Conseil National du Patronat du Sénégal
- East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum, EACSOF
- Gouvernorat de Kinshasa (CGLU Afrique)
- International Cooperative Alliance Africa (ICA Africa)
- International Trade Union Confederation-Africa (ITUC Africa)
- TUC Ghana
- Zimbabwe Local Government Association (UCLG Africa)

ASIA & THE PACIFIC:

- ACE-ASEAN Confederation of Employers (IOE Asia & Pacific)
- Asia-Europe People's Forum/Voluntary Action Network India, AEPF/VANI
- Asia Pacific Resource Network, APRN
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, APWLD
- Federation of Sri Lankan Local Governments Authorities (UCLG ASPAC)
- International Trade Union Confederation Asia and Pacific (ITUC A&P)
- International Cooperative Alliance Asia & Pacific, ICA AP
- Local Councils Association of the Punjab, Pakistan (UCLG ASPAC)
- Pacific Islands' Association of NGOs, PIANGO
- United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOUHOOD REGION:

- Arab NGO Network for Development, ANND
- Conseil Régional de Rabat Sale, Maroc (CGLU AFRIQUE)
- Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (UCLG EURASIA)
- Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, EAP CSF
- Federation of Employers of Ukraine (IOE Europe)
- ITUC Pan European Regional Council (ITUC PERC)
- Cooperatives
- United Cities and Local Governments, Middle East and West Asia

GLOBAL:

- CSO Platform for Development Effectiveness, CPDE
- International Cooperative Alliance, ICA
- International Organisation of Employers, IOE
- International Trade Union Confederation/Trade Union Development Cooperation Network, ITUC/TUDCN
- United Cities and Local Governments, UCLG

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN:

- Acción - Asociación Chilena de Organismos No Gubernamentales A.G. , ACCION
- Alcaldía de Sabana de la Mar, Rep. Dominicana (FEDOMU)
- Cooperativas de las Américas
- Alianza Cooperativista Internacional
- Articulación Feminista Marcosur - AFM
- Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo, ALOP
- Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (IOE Americas)
- Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores/as de las Américas - CSA (TUCA)
- Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA)
- Intendencia de San Carlos, Argentina (MERCOCIUDADES)
- Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social - UNITAS

EUROPE:

- Cooperatives Europe
- European Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- European Foundation Centre, EFC
- European Network of Political Foundations, ENOP
- European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development, CONCORD
- European Platform of Local and regional authorities, PLATFORMA
- European Trade Union Confederation, ETUC
- European Youth Forum, EYF
- Fair Trade Movement, FTAO
- Global Forum for Media Development, GFMD
- Green 10
- Human Rights and Democracy Network, HRDN
- Red Cross

In addition representation of Member States and the following European Institutions and bodies is ensured:

- Committee of the Regions, CoR
- European Commission, EC
- European External Action Service, EEAS
- European Economic and Social Committee, EESC
- European Investment Bank, EIB
- European Parliament, EP

How the PFD works

- > The PFD gathers actors from global, European and regional levels and builds on the added value brought by these different actors.
- > A PFD Charter, adopted by all members, sets the objectives and mandates and defines the membership criteria of the PFD. PFD member organisations have a mandate of 2 years.
- > The PFD Task Team, consisting of a core group of the membership, ensures communication flows, undertakes preparatory work and promotes collective ownership.
- > At least one global PFD meeting is organised every year, as well as one regional meeting.

A collective endeavour

EuropeAid is responsible for the overall organisation of the Forum and chairs the PFD. Unit B2 ensures the secretariat of the Forum. The PFD is co-chaired by one representative of the CSOs and by one representative of the LAs.



Fernando Frutuoso de Melo.
Director General, EuropeAid - Development and Cooperation Directorate-General. European Commission. Chair of the PFD.

"We can't stress enough the unique character of the PFD, which should be considered the most representative and inclusive development platform at EU level. It offers a valuable and structured venue for discussions about EU development policies and programmes to ultimately transform them into action for better development results."



Jacqueline Moustache Belle.
Member of the Executive Board of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Co-chair of the PFD on behalf of LAs.

"The PFD provides us with a space in which to strengthen ongoing dialogue with the EU and civil society organizations. In the past, interactions with stakeholders have often been ad hoc and lacking follow-up. The PFD is unique in that we can share information and also follow up."



Jorge Balbis.
Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo (ALOP). Co-chair of the PFD on behalf of CSOs.

"The PFD is unique in bringing together civil society with local authorities and the EU, which is very important - and not obvious. Local authorities and civil society dialogue separately with the EC but not with each other. This forum is an opportunity to achieve true tripartite dialogue."

Where to get more information



For more information, contact:

European Commission, EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General, Unit DEVCO B2 - CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

E-mail: europaaid-b2@ec.europa.eu or visit: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/civil-society/index_en.htm
<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/dashboard>

Policy Forum on Development