

Minutes of the Global Gateway Civil Society and Local Authorities Advisory Platform Plenary Meeting

Brussels, 10 - 11 October 2024

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda for the plenary Meeting of the Global Gateway (GG) Civil Society and Local Authorities Advisory Platform (hereinafter *the Platform*) was collaboratively developed in partnership with the steering group of the Platform.

2. Nature of the meeting

The Platform's second plenary meeting since its inauguration a year ago.

The meeting took place under Chatham house rules over 1,5 days: on Thursday 10th October in the afternoon and Friday 11th October (full day). The meeting was based on invitation only and included in-person participation of the Global Gateway CSO-LA Advisory Platform members and additional PFD members for selected sessions during the second day of the programme.

3. List of points discussed

- On day 1 of the agenda, examples of country level progress on specific GG flagships (in Kazakhstan, Kenya, and Ecuador) were presented in dialogue with EU Delegations (EUDs) and local civil society and local authorities' representatives. Presentations started with an overview of the flagships by the respective EUD, followed by interventions from local civil society organisations and local authorities' representatives explaining their challenges and opportunities on the ground in relation to the flagship and respective sector.
- The following day started with a discussion of Platform members with Mr. Koen Doens, Director General of DG INTPA on the way forward on Global Gateway under the European Commission President's new political guidelines, and how CSOs and LAs are crucial in driving the agenda forward.
- It was followed by an information session on financing mechanism of the Global Gateway. DG INTPA and European Investment Bank (EIB) staff explained guarantee and blending processes on concrete cases and clarification questions were answered.
- Afterwards, Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, shared her feedback on achievements from the past five years, including findings of the 2023 Survey on Consultations held at EU Delegation level, the 2023 figures of funding for CSOs in overall NDICI Global Europe, and the increased number of consultations held at HQ and EUD level, including on Global Gateway. Platform and Policy Forum on Development members shared their views on past achievements and vision for the future.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

It was agreed that there is great momentum and opportunity for the Platform to contribute meaningfully, especially through the member's constituencies at local level. The meeting provided the opportunity for Platform members to raise their concerns about upholding EU values and principles in Global Gateway implementation, and to call for more transparency and accountability of all actors involved. At the same time, it enhanced the understanding of Platform members on the Global Gateway and what it means in practice through the presentation of concrete examples. The meeting illustrated the added value and importance of the inclusion and participation of civil society and local authorities in the design and implementation of the Global Gateway, which goes beyond consultations.

Next steps

- Platform members will reach out to DG INTPA with proposals on concrete next steps and proposals of focus groups.