

**NEWSLETTER 3
May 2015**

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Perspectives
- PFD Update:
 - The 3rd Global PFD Meeting
 - Stakeholders meeting in Nairobi
- PFD Highlight: Financing for Development
- EU Updates
- News from Members
- Next Events

Perspectives: Why is PFD important?

Hear the views of PFD members



Rosário Bento Pais, Head of Unit, Civil Society, Local Authorities, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development

"In its short lifetime, the PFD has established itself as a reference in the way the EU reaches out to civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs) alike. It provides a unique space for a diversity

of actors from different parts of the world to dialogue on global development issues. This space is one of listening, of questioning, of voicing concerns, and of understanding the diversity of views and finding ways for working and moving forward together. The uniqueness of the PFD is further enhanced by its participatory approach and consensual agreement by a range of different actors whose commitment and implication is, in my view, remarkable. Our recent policies and programme reflect these dialogues, exchanges and consultations held over the years since the Structured Dialogue process and now within the PFD. Such a platform for dialogue will also facilitate discussions in the post-2015 context where Sustainable Development Goals will, for the first time, propose a universal development vision shared by all. Their proper implementation and monitoring will be vital if we are to reach our common objectives of eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, providing dignity for all and developing in a sustainable way. The role of CSOs and LAs will be critical. 2015 is also a crucial year for the PFD itself as it will be assessed by its members and stakeholders, following its first two years of formal existence. We look forward to sharing the outcomes before the end of the year."



Vazha Salamadze, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Member of the PFD Task Team

"Development, as positive sustainable change, can only be effective through inclusive policymaking processes and cooperation of interested parties. The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) creates space where this dialogue and cooperation is possible. The PFD builds on best practices established by the Structured Dialogue and furthermore offers new opportunities to CSOs and LAs. These two very important actors of development have an opportunity to engage with EU institutions and officials to voice their constituencies' opinions and to advocate for reflecting their views in EU development policies. CSOs and LAs around the globe have a unique opportunity to share experiences, exchange information and work jointly with EU officials to make the post-2015 agenda and development cooperation more effective."



Guillermo Tapia, Executive Secretary Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos (FLACMA), Member of the PFD Task Team

"The Policy Forum on Development is the most effective mechanism for building integrated proposals including civil society, trade unions and local authorities, in which I have ever participated. Slowly but surely, the challenges of the Forum and the European Union are being addressed and thus the implementation of the Forum is becoming more and more effective. The challenges faced by humanity are obvious. Prosperity and equity are not antonyms; they are part of a single vision of development that includes a human approach. It is important to continue working together if we want to leave a proper planet to our children. As Local Authorities, we have a commitment to fulfil for the communities as well as for the current and future generations. For all that, the continuity of the PFD, as a mechanism of dialogue and exchange, is very important and decisive to contribute, in a concrete and realistic way, to EU development policy."

PFD update: Third Global PFD Meeting

Continuing its key role as a unique mechanism bringing together Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs), the Policy Forum on Development, once again, gathered a large number of participants during the **3rd PFD Meeting held in Brussels March 17th and 18th 2015**. More than 120 representatives of CSOs and LAs from Asia & the Pacific, Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, the EU and the Neighbourhood region, EU Member States, the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission attended the meeting. They had the opportunity to exchange opinions around the issues of Financing for Development, in which they specifically discussed the latest Communication from the Commission on **"Global Partnership for poverty eradication and sustainable development after 2015"**, and the **Enabling Environment for CSOs and LAs**.



The meeting was perhaps one of the most important meetings of the PFD, as it occurred at the beginning of 2015, "a crucial year for development," as noted by different speakers. The session on Financing for Development and Post-2015 Agenda allowed participants to interact with high-level speakers, while clarifying doubts and questions. Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, keynote speaker, presented the key messages of the Commission Communication. The debate that followed helped participants to better understand the key underlying elements of the discussion and those at stake in the upcoming International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa in July this year (see more in "PFD Highlight").



The other major topic on the agenda was "The Enabling Environment." The discussion showed that some necessary commitments (also fundamental as a part of the means of implementation of a post-2015 framework) are in place de jure but that there is need to push for proper implementation. Overall, the 3rd PFD Meeting contributed to a better comprehension of the current development challenges. The year 2015 is paramount for the development community and the actors of the PFD. The importance of forums such as the PFD in building partnerships should not be underestimated.

For more details, please read [the full meeting report](#).

Stakeholders meeting in Nairobi

African members of the PFD organized a multi-stakeholder forum, held in Nairobi, December 1-3, 2014. More than 40 representatives from CSOs and LAs from Africa met, with the support of the European Commission, to forge closer partnerships via dialogue. In the course of the two and half day meeting, participants discussed: the African Vision 2063 championed by the African Union; cross-cutting issues related to Africa's Development agenda and the role of CSOs and LAs as relevant development actors; how to enhance accountability mechanisms and networking between African CSOs and LAs; and the PFD itself and how it functions, including in Africa. In order to realize these objectives the programme focused on the background events that led to the PFD and the role that the different stakeholders have to play in adding value to the multi-stakeholder process. Some of the sessions enabled participants to review sub-regional and regional processes that can benefit from the platform as it works towards complementing ongoing regional-level activities. The program ended with a session to gather inputs for the PFD "toolkit for consultation," followed by the drafting of an annual action plan to guide the group going forward. The group proposed to hold a second meeting in conjunction with the Africities Summit to be held in Johannesburg (29 November to 3 December 2015).



Participants of the meeting noted that, for the first time, they sat "at the same table with main African development actors, such as local authorities, trade unions, private sector, civil society and the European Union." The meeting was also defined as "a good initiative to create space at the regional level to bring all the actors together... to exchange experiences and discuss issues related to development and bring their visions closer together."

PFD Highlight: Financing for Development

Financing for Development (FfD) encompasses a number of areas that are relevant to all countries, from the broader global issues such as economic governance and external debt to the more concrete such as innovative forms of finance and capacity development. In the lead up to the **3rd International Conference on Financing for Development** to be held by the UN in July 2015 in Addis Ababa, the EU recently published a Communication on “**Global Partnership for poverty eradication and sustainable development after 2015**,” that, among other subjects, lays out EU positions ahead of the conference. The EU is promoting an **integrated view** in which the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development are supported by the Means of Implementation (MoI), meaning both the financial resources and an enabling policy environment that will aid the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to be finalized in September 2015 at the UN.



FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
13-16 JULY 2015 • ADDIS ABABA • ETHIOPIA
TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION



The 3rd PFD Meeting provided a unique occasion for the audience and panellists to share their own observations and positions on financing for development. A preparatory day was organised prior to the PFD to help participants better understand this specific topic. Jean Saldhana, co-chair of the European Taskforce for FfD, CONCORD, provided insights into the historical context of FfD from the 2002 Monterrey Conference to the 2009 UN Conference on the Financial Crisis. Ms. Saldhana further laid out the six concrete outcome areas expected from the financing conference in Addis Ababa: tax, debt, international private financial flows, trade, ODA and systemic issues.

In view of the importance of the subject, it was high on the agenda of the 3rd Global PFD Meeting, giving participants the opportunity to share reactions to the EU position on Financing for Development presented in the Communication. Indeed many questions and observations emerged from the audience on the first day of the meeting, such as: **the question of debt reduction, financing of climate-related goals, global taxation, Public Private Partnerships (PPP), domestic resources mobilization and tax evasion**. During the panel discussion, Ms Tove Ryding, Policy Manager at EURODAD, urged the EU, for its own credibility, to recommit to the 0.7% ODA target and to find new and additional money to finance the challenges related to climate change. She also pointed out key elements which should be taken to the Addis conference, such as the real and inclusive establishment of global tax rules (to avoid tax evasion) and a debate on debt, which is missing in the EU Communication. Mr. Hans Jansens, Mayor of Oisterwijk, Rapporteur for the European Committee of the Regions and Spokesperson of Platforma, also panellist of the PFD, explained the importance of involving **local authorities** in the debate and pointed out the need for a **local approach**. Honourable Pedro Silva Pereira MEP, rapporteur for the European Parliament for Financing for Development, also reminded PFD members that the Addis Ababa event will be a very important and potentially risky conference. He encouraged concrete proposals and a new impetus comparable to the Monterrey Conference in 2002.



The PFD also organised working groups around three different themes related to FfD: **1) infrastructure of public goods and social services; 2) innovative sources of financing; and 3) partnership for development**. The plenary discussions, as well as the ideas and proposals that arose from this collective work, provided interesting food for thought and will contribute effectively to the work that still needs to be done.

For more details, please read [the full meeting report](#).

EU Updates



CSO-LA Thematic Programme: a Call for Proposals entitled “Strengthening Regional, European and Global CSO Umbrella Organisations” was published on 28/04/2015 with a budget of €53.9 million. This innovative call for proposals will allow for the selection of actor-based umbrella organisations with which the EU will establish Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs). FPAs are defined as “long term cooperation mechanisms between the Commission and the potential beneficiaries of grants.” In a second phase, umbrella organisations selected for an FPA will be invited to submit a proposal for an action grant.

The overall objective of this Call for Proposals is to strengthen representative, membership-based and actor-based regional, EU and global non-thematic Civil Society umbrella organisations, to maximize the effectiveness of their work as development actors in their own right and as contributors to policy-making on development-related topics at global and regional levels (including the EU). The deadline for FPA applications is 12/06/2015. Further information is available on the [EuropeAid Call for Proposals website](#).



Organized by the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions, the 4th Assises of Decentralised Cooperation for Development will be held in Brussels, June 1-2, 2015. The Assises are key for political dialogue on development issues between European institutions and representatives of local and regional authorities from Europe and around the world, working towards the full integration of local and regional authorities in development cooperation policies.



Taking place in the context of SDG's preparation and during the 2015 **European Year for Development**, the 4th edition of the Assises will provide an excellent opportunity to highlight the role of local and regional authorities in increasing the effectiveness of development cooperation. You are all welcome to participate and share your views. For the programme and registration: www.cor.europa.eu/portal



The **European Development Days (EDD)** will take place on 3 and 4 June 2015 at Tour & Taxi in Brussels. Organised by the European Commission, the EDD bring together all those interested in collaborating on development cooperation, from Heads of State to community service officers, Nobel laureates to project managers. Participants, moderators and panellists from all parts of the world can put forward ideas and examine creative solutions with the aim of a poverty-free, sustainable and fair world where everyone has a chance at a decent life. Each year, about 7 000 participants from over 140 countries, representing 1 200 organisations from the field of development cooperation, human rights and humanitarian aid participate in the EDD. For more information, visit <https://eudevdays.eu>

NEXT EVENTS

The next regional meeting of the PFD is scheduled for June 24-25, 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand.



News from Members

- 

"Business Accountability For Development," ITUC-TUDCN/EURODAD publication, supported by CPDE, April 2015: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/business-accountability-for-development?lang=en>
- 

In preparation for June's theme Sustainable Green Growth, Decent Jobs and Businesses within the framework of the **European Year for Development 2015**, Cooperatives Europe is launching the campaign **#SharetheBenefits**. Every week one benefit of cooperatives in development will be unfolded. For more information: <https://coopseurope.coop/share-benefits-six-benefits-cooperatives-development>
- 

The second CONCORD Spotlight 2015 policy paper identifies key reforms of the tax system that the EU must push for ahead of the Addis Ababa conference. <http://www.concordeurope.org/coherent-policies/financing-for-development/item/427-spotlight-2015-the-role-of-the-eu-in-ensuring-global-tax-justice>
- 

In the framework of international discussions on financing for development, several PFD members participated in the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) high-level symposium, in Incheon, Republic of Korea, April 8-10, 2015. The symposium examined the role of development cooperation in implementing the post-2015 development agenda at all levels - global, regional, national and sub-national. The meeting contributed to more inclusive, evidence-based discussions on challenging questions around financing and other means of implementation as well as the future of development cooperation post-2015. For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfrok.shtml>

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://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/dashboard>

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development