

The Brussels Global PFD meeting – October 2014

Introduction and welcoming remarks

On the 1st and 2nd of October 2014, the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) held its second global meeting in Brussels.

The meeting, hosted by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and organised by the European Commission (EC), brought together more than 140 participants, including representatives from all sectors of civil society (ranging from NGOs, women and feminist organisations to trade unions, cooperatives, foundations and employers' organisations), local authorities (including mayors of different continents), EU Member States (MS), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Parliament (EP), the CoR, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Mayor Christophe Rouillon, Member of the Committee of the Regions and Mayor of Coulaines, France, welcomed the participants, on behalf of the CoR. **Director General of DG DEVCO and PFD Chair Fernando Frutuoso de Melo** delivered the opening address, giving an overview of the main priorities on the development cooperation agenda and stressing the importance of the PFD. "This is your forum. Together, we have decided the topics of the agenda and have also designed different sessions," the Director General stressed, pointing out also "the timeliness of the meeting, coming soon after the elections of the European Parliament, with a new European Commission to be appointed shortly, and in this critical year of debate on the post-2015 agenda." He also informed the audience that "2015 is the European development year. It will be a unique opportunity to inform and sensitize citizens about the importance of development. It will be your year and we need your help to hear stories from the field."

Mr. Fabio Cassesse, Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), spoke on behalf of the Italian EU Presidency, and explained the four priorities

envisaged for the coming six months: (i) post 2015; (ii) the role of private sector; (iii) the development migration nexus; and (iv) food & nutrition security. **Ms. Mara Marinaki, Managing Director for Global and Multilateral Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS)** underlined the evolving nature of development cooperation in our changing times. In her words: "The traditional binary North-South paradigm is over. The world is changing rapidly - with new middle-income countries and new actors emerging - and we need to abandon obsolete paradigms of development. We need to go beyond aid and we cannot do it alone." **Honourable Linda McAvan, Member of the Parliament** and newly elected **Chair of the Development Committee (DEVE)**, formally committed to the process and noted that four members will be nominated in the DEVE Committee to work with the PFD in the next years. She also called for making a clear link between climate change and development: "Climate change is not a future problem. It is strictly urgent to tackle climate change and development in a joint effort today."

PFD Co-chairs **Ms. Jacqueline Moustache Bell, Mayor of Victoria representing United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**, and **Mr. Jorge Balbis, Executive Secretary of La Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo (ALOP)**, updated the group on the progress made by the PFD thus far: the PFD is more closely connected to the regions as of a first regional meeting last June in Lima and a second stakeholder meeting foreseen in Kenya in December. In some countries the PFD is becoming more well-known and active, as the European Union Delegations (EUDs) start to integrate this structured dialogue with CSOs and LAs into their agendas and ways of working. Finally, the PFD is no longer led only by the EC but by a joint Task Team and new tools to support the group are under development.

Please consult the agenda, presentations and background documents [here](#).

Key messages

1. **A new paradigm is needed in a post-2015 development framework.** This new way of working must include **equal partnership among all stakeholders** (from national governments, to CSOs and LAs and include the private sector). This partnership means inclusivity of all nations.
2. **Engaging and empowering ordinary citizens is fundamental** to successfully implementing a post-2015 framework. The values of respect, honesty, transparency and equality were watchwords of this discussion.
3. **Local authorities** are a strong interface between community and national and global goals in a post-2015 world. LAs are close enough to know their communities well and to translate national and global policies into local realities.
4. **Civil society organisations** must acquire and preserve their space of equal, global engagement, as they are vital in their implementation and accountability roles.
5. **Minimum social protection and conformity with international labour standards** must be an integral part of of a post-2015 world.
6. **Urbanisation is a global challenge but also an opportunity, as cities are centres of innovation and yield a transformative power.** Well-managed cities can promote new patterns of consumption and production, stimulate creativity and innovation, boost economic development, and foster social inclusion.
7. **A holistic approach is needed to support sustainable and inclusive cities and human settlements.**
8. The most **marginalized individuals are still at the sidelines of the discussion.** Until we address structural causes of poverty we will not overcome this inequality.
9. To advance toward sustainable development goals in a post-2015 framework means **addressing climate change and peace and security** as fundamental aspects of development.
10. In order to address and enhance an **enabling environment**, PFD members agreed on the need to: continue to discuss this issue to **deepen knowledge; reinforce links amongst local, regional and global levels and monitor progress at all levels and by different actors.**

Session 1. The global scene

Section 1.1. The post-2015 agenda

Enormous progress has been made towards achieving the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#) yet much remains to reach these ambitious goals. Global poverty continues to decline, more children than ever are attending primary school, infant mortality has dropped dramatically, access to safe drinking water has been greatly expanded, and targeted investments in fighting malaria, HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis are saving millions of lives. There is global consensus that work must continue unabated and in a different way to achieve a world of prosperity, equity, freedom, dignity and peace. Despite this global will, the post-2015 framework and its means of implementation are yet to be defined.

Chaired by Mr. **Jorge Balbis**, the first session focused precisely on this **Global Post-2015 Development Agenda**, addressing it from a threefold perspective: (i) the key elements for a successful post-2015 agreement; (ii) the EU role in achieving a solid post-2015 framework; and (iii) the role to be played by CSOs and LAs.

Commissioner Piebalgs delivered a [keynote speech](#), underlining the multi-stakeholder character of the new post-2015 framework and stressing the urgency of reaching an agreement. *“This is not a new process and it should definitely not stop in September 2015. Yet, time is running short, and it is a critical moment now,”* he said. The Commissioner also reiterated EU commitment¹ to the post-2015 framework and current debates. In his words: *“The EU is absolutely determined to be a force for good in this debate. We are ready for open and constructive discussions. We need to discuss how the world organises itself to make good on the post-2015 agreement. And to discuss how the EU itself can best support effective implementation, whether through our domestic policies, through our work in international organisations, through our development cooperation, or through other means.”*

A panel of PFD members then discussed the opportunities and challenges for the CSO and LA community and how best they could influence the process. Successive speakers set out the need for a framework encompassing Member States, local government and civil society as key partners, and for proper attention to be given to minimum social protection, empowerment of individuals, respect, transparency and equality. The discussion also focused on the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 169 related targets and the need to design proper monitoring and evaluation systems.

In her intervention, **Ms. Tanya Cox, Co-Chair of Beyond 2015**, highlighted three key elements for the sector. These are: (i) respect for the needs of other countries by putting the people first – with respect for planetary boundaries; (ii) (intellectual) honesty; and (iii) equality, by focusing on the most marginalised people. This particularly means including, and thereby empowering, individuals, as it will be ordinary citizens who must implement the post-2015 framework locally for it to be a success. *“Raising the standard of living for everyone (and not just an elite),”* she said, *“should be the basic philosophy to get to a successful post-2015 agreement”*. She was echoed by Mr. **Matt Simonds**, speaking on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation: *“There needs to be a balance. Growth cannot be pursued to the detriment of sustainability,”* he said. He reminded the audience

¹ The EU shares the view that a “World free of poverty” should be possible by 2030, provided development efforts are more efficient, more equitable, and more focused. This is at the heart of the EU position, put forward by the [new 2014 Communication “A decent Life for all: from vision to collective action”](#). This new Communication, which further elaborates on the vision embracing the principles of universality, transformation and accountability set forward in the preceding Communication “A decent life for all”, formulates a number of concrete proposals, including key priority areas and a call for collective action, through the Global Partnership for Development.

that unemployment has reached 6% globally and continues to rise. He laid out what is needed in a post-2015 framework to achieve decent work in a healthy environment, which include: minimum social protection; strong labour institutions; access to essential public goods and services; conformity to ILO standards for workers' rights; and a global strategy for youth employment.

Mr. **Bernard Bramlage, Governor of the District of Leer**, on behalf of PLATFORMA, stressed the importance of bringing on board LAs. *"The new framework needs to put LAs at the centre as they can and should foster ownership by engaging citizens in policy making."* He touched on needed elements: (i) ownership of the framework and good coordination; (ii) institution building at local level; (iii) role of local and regional governments in ensuring the delivery of the framework (e.g. provision of basic services and competence in key areas); and (iv) decentralised cooperation.

His colleague Mr. **Abdelkebir Berkia, President of the Regional Council of Rabat Salé**, on behalf of UCLG, reminded the group that we have to decide on a new development agenda and also agree on how to address climate change. He made a plea to include not only urbanisation, but also security and migration as key challenges for the SDGs, and called to focus on Africa in this regard. This new agenda must be adapted to the national and local realities; there is not a single model, a single voice. The new agenda will have to converge with the post-Rio and other relevant agendas.

In the question and answer session that followed, various economic aspects were cited, such as the issue of growth, which is deemed essential by the International Organisation of Employers: *"We need to foster sustainable economic growth and investment and promote entrepreneurship, alongside well-run institutions,"* said their spokesperson. Ms. **Tanya Cox** reciprocated that business could and should be different, moving the focus from share-value and profit to sustainability. Through the various interventions from the floor, it was also emphasized that different actors have distinct added values and approaches, and that the new framework needs to build on this.

In his concluding remarks, **Commissioner Piebalgs** stressed the need to strengthen EU efforts, also on the side of Member States, and laid out some of the questions that will be crucial to answer if a new post-2015 development framework is to be successful. *"How can we move out from the current pattern and make a real revolution?"* he asked. Participants agreed on the need to keep post-2015 as a priority in future PFD debates – both in the run-up to the 2015 summit and during the implementation phase. As the Commissioner also underlined: *"The PFD has the potential to make a real difference as it listens to citizens."*

Section 1.2. Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness

Created at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan at the end of 2011, the Global Partnership (GPDE) brings together governments, the private sector, civil society and other actors to ensure that funding, knowledge and policy produce the maximum impact on development. To date, 161 governments and 56 organisations have endorsed the principles laid out by the Global Partnership. Partners include the UN Development Co-operation Forum, the Development Working Group of the G20 and the UN-led process for creating a global development agenda beyond 2015.

Ms. **Maria-Theresa Nera-Lauron**, Co-Chair, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) and member of the PFD, was the first speaker to take the floor after a short introduction by Mr. **Lluís Riera, Director for Human and Society Development, DG DEVCO**. In her [intervention](#), which also touched upon the role the GPDE should play in the post-2015 framework, Ms. Lauron stressed the need to protect human rights defenders, promote an enabling environment as the space for CSOs continues to shrink, encourage action at country level, and institutionalize democratic multi-stakeholder dialogue at the global and regional levels. In her own words: *"Within the GPDE we can and must address inherent policy balances in order to come to the table as equal partners."*

Ms. **Aura Saldana, Mayor of Sabana de la Mar, Dominican Republic** and speaking on behalf of La Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones Municipalistas (FLACMA), took

the floor on behalf of LAs, calling for the urgent need to strengthen efficiency in spending, by getting closer to where citizens are in the provision of social services, and to develop adequate consultative mechanisms to facilitate discussions. LAs' perspective was followed by an intervention by Mr. **Arjan Schuthof, Strategic Advisor for GPDE at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands**, who noted that a post-2015 framework has to incorporate all nations. In his words: *"We need to make a paradigm shift. It is not business as usual and it concerns all of us. What's more, it is an urgent task to change the paradigm."* Mr. Schuthof also stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships as the only way forward, both in constructing and implementing a new vision on development. According to the speaker, other important building blocks of the vision include: (i) strong transparency and accountability mechanisms; (ii) anchoring the partnership into the post-2015 agenda; (iii) translation of the framework into national and local realities; and (iv) mutual learning amongst actors. *"We need a new mould. We need to think out of the box,"* he concluded.

Ms. **Luiza Bara, Aid and Development Effectiveness and Financing, DG DEVCO A2**, echoed Mr. Schuthof's words, particularly as concerns the role the partnership should play in contributing to the reflections on the post-2015 development agenda. She also welcomed progress in increasing inclusivity and pointed out that there is room for more consultation. She finally stressed the need to strengthen monitoring framework systems. *Others will join if the Partnership delivers and if emerging countries commit to (binding) results,"* she said.

In conclusion, most actors, echoed by the audience, **agreed upon the need for a transformational shift, and that it is a collective responsibility to make the GPDE a success.**

Section 1.3. Localising the post-2015 development agenda

Co-led by [UNDP](#), [UN Habitat](#) and the [Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments \(GTF\)](#), the consultation on [localising the Post-2015 Agenda](#) aims to stimulate national and territorial dialogues on the means of implementing the future development agenda. It has entailed a series of events and initiatives, including: e-discussions; national and local dialogues in 15 pilot countries; and regional and global dialogues and events. It is expected that the final report will inform the Report of the Secretary General to the United Nations' General Assembly in November 2014, and look towards Habitat III: the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in 2016.

The need to localize the framework has been expressed since the very outset of the post-2015 consultations. As recalled by Mr. **Josep Roig, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**, in addition to the key role played of LAs in the provision of basic services and in addressing crucial challenges including that of urbanisation, LAs will also play a crucial role in ensuring ownership and commitment of the new development framework, and strengthening partnerships across actors. In his address, Mr. Roig also stressed the importance of an adequate legal and institutional environment, to ensure national commitment.

Ms. **Mireia Villar Forner**, Senior Policy Advisor, UNDP Brussels, updated the PFD members on the agenda for [sustainable development](#).² She was then followed by Mr. **Jean-Christophe Adrian**, Director of the UN-Habitat Office for Liaison with European Institutions, who gave an overview of [the dialogue process](#) to date. In the short debate that followed the presentations, participants welcomed the update and looked forward to the report.

Section 1.4. Urbanisation and the Global Development Agenda

According to current estimations, between now and 2050, the world's population is projected to grow from around 7 to 9.3 billion people, with the majority of this growth expected in developing

² Contributions have come from many stakeholders in more than 100 countries and reflect the voices of more than 5 million people. The work of more than 70 countries has culminated in the proposal of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 specific targets.

countries, particularly in urban areas. Two and half billion new urban dwellers will need access to food, jobs, education, health, new infrastructures - including drinking water, sanitation, housing, transport and electricity - most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia. Around one billion slum dwellers already live with limited or no access to basic services.

Today, the "urban challenge," but also the "urban opportunity" (as urbanisation, if well managed, has an enormous positive transformative power) is being increasingly recognized in international debates and policy forums. The inclusion of an urban goal as one of the focus areas for the post-2015 agenda is an important step forward in this regard. Whether urbanisation is included as a stand-alone goal in the final agenda or not, it will be vital for the targets and indicators for all goals to be designed in a way that makes them appropriate to drive change and monitor progress in both urban and rural contexts. This was the focus of the session, chaired by Mr. **Josep Roig, Secretary General of UCLG**.

Mr. David Satterthwaite Senior Fellow, Human settlements, International Institute for Environment and Development opened the discussion on urbanisation and its impacts and challenges with a [visual overview](#) of cities' growth. His main message revolved around the urbanisation opportunity. Urbanisation, if well managed, has an enormous positive transformative power. The agglomeration advantages of densely populated urban areas can promote new patterns of consumption and production, stimulate creativity and innovation, boost economic development, and foster social inclusion.

Mr. André Kimbuta, Governor of Kinshasa, took the floor next and called for more support to African cities: *"We are seeing dangerous re-centralisation trends and a major urban challenge in Africa,"* he said. *"Yet most African governments do not have an adequate urban policy."* Other speakers, among which Mr. **Hans Janssen, Mayor of Oisterwijk** (the Netherlands), rapporteur for the CoR and spokesperson of PLATFORMA, and Ms. **Emilie Maehara, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Globalisation, Development and Partnerships**, emphasized the innovative strength of cities, echoing Mr. **Satterthwaite's** words. *"Cities are not only social fabrics, but also engines of growth, employment and innovation."* *We strongly call on the EU to keep goal 11 (on urbanisation) as a SDG and further take up territorial governance in the global agenda."*

PFD member Ms. **Susana Eróstegui, Executive Director of Unitas** (Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social Bolivia), focused on the participation of citizens in the design of urban solutions to tackle poverty and made a plea for creative thinking because urban poverty has many faces and inequality is not just about access to services. Mr. **Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit, Water, Energy, Infrastructure, DG DEVCO/C5**, echoed that idea: *"We need a holistic approach to support sustainable and inclusive cities and human settlements."* He confirmed that the EC will look into three areas in order to be ready for Habitat III, namely: governance; access to basic services; and cities' resilience.

In the debate that followed, it was also noted that more knowledge is needed on the role of private companies in an urban context and how new forms of citizen engagement can create frameworks to address and tackle urban goods. The good practice of the City of Copenhagen was cited, where cooperatives are led by civil society actors to produce renewable energy.³

Session 2. The Enabling Environment

Following Accra and Busan GPDE, an Enabling Environment (EE) for civil society and local authorities has been high also on the agenda of the EC Structured Dialogue, and resulted in the recognition of a shared responsibility for achieving such an environment. Following the [Structured Dialogue recommendations](#) (May 2011, see table below) different actors made commitments to work on an EE.

³ <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/blog/post/2013/03/renewable-energy-cooperatives-power-to-the-people>

well written article: put in report or on blog ?

On the EU side, the 2012 [CSO Communication](#) and the 2013 Communication on the Role of [Local Authorities](#) lay out the plans of the institutions for developing the agenda for support for an EE. CSOs and LAs, on their side, have also made sound commitments to actively contribute to a better enabling environment, in their work on their own development effectiveness and transparency, as well as in fulfilling necessary roles of monitoring an enabling environment in partner countries and globally (at political, policy influencing and implementation level; see, for example, Civicus reports on State of Civil Society).

SD recommendations to promote an EE

To governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect international principles embedded in international law (i.e. on the right to organise, to expression and information, to assembly and international affiliation, etc.) States should not only withdraw coercive and restrictive laws but also adopt explicit policies for CSOs and strive for a democratic and functional legal and judicial system - Respect local autonomy and deepen decentralisation efforts - Acknowledge and respect CSOs and LAs “right of initiative” (i.e. non-interference) - Institutionalise opportunities for regular inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue - Make resources accessible to LAs and CSOs
To the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commit to and promote an EE for CSOs and LAs as development actors in their own right - Promote the right of initiative of CSOs and LAs avoiding unwarranted governmental interference - Promote decentralization and local autonomy as an important building block for good governance and local development - Endorse a human rights-based approach to development, ensuring policy coherence - Promote and support regular, structured and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues at national level, where all relevant actors (CSOs and LAs) are taken on board
To CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act as legitimate and independent development actors - Strengthen efforts to implement and monitor self-regulatory standards to ensure multiple accountability, transparency and integrity in their operations
To LAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to a clear division of labour at the local level based on complementarities - Invest in meaningful dialogue with citizens - Contribute to good governance through more transparent and predictable decision-making and management processes

More than two years after the end of the Structured Dialogue, the session reviewed progress on the realization of the commitments by all actors (including CSOs and LAs, individual and networks alike) based on examples, and identified future paths for furthering an Enabling Environment as a shared responsibility, including in the PFD forum.

Ms. **Izabella Toth of CONCORD** and Mr. **Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi of UCLG Africa** moderated this session that included both panel speakers and break out groups by region. After an [overview](#) of the SD recommendations to enhance an enabling environment, Mr. **Thomas Hansen of DEVCO B2** talked about one example of how the EC has taken its recommendations forward: the country roadmaps for enhancing citizen engagement in local and national policy making and implementation, which is currently underway in 128 countries (50 of which have been completed).

Mr. **Cornelius Hacking** from the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs** presented the new Dutch policy for its engagement with civil society, ["Dialogue and Dissent,"](#) and explained the new strategic

partnerships being developed in the Netherlands with civil society networks. In her [presentation](#) about the effectiveness of decentralization Dr. **Bernadia Tjandradewi, UCLG Asia and Pacific**, stressed the need for a peaceful environment in constructing an enabling environment for LAs. Mr. **Daniel Svoboda of Development Worldwide** requested [simplified messages](#) to be inclusive of a diverse civil society to move forward for donors' support to an enabling environment. The last panellist, Ms. **Sevdalina Rukanova, European Foundation Centre (EFC)** overviewed the Code of Conduct for International Foundations and highlighted the themes of transparency and accountability, and EFC initiatives to build a coalition around regulatory issues at European and transnational levels in this regard.

After taking stock in the first part of the session on how different actors (EC, CSO, LAs, Member States) have worked towards enhancing an enabling environment since the Structured Dialogue, the panel queried PFD members on the role for the PFD in furthering the EE agenda through regional discussion groups. All regions agreed that EE should remain on the PFD agenda, except for the group that gathered the European members. Arguments in favour and against were brought forward (see table in annex). Generally speaking, lively discussions were held on accountability mechanisms and the independence of CSOs.

Participants agreed that achieving an **enabling environment** is a shared responsibility and it remains an important topic of review and discussion at the PFD. **Strengthening links amongst local, regional and global levels** is fundamental to advancing progress. Members also agreed on the need to deepen knowledge and monitor progress at all levels and by different actors.

More information on the outcomes of the breakout groups can be found in Annex 1.

Session 3. The EU agenda

Mr. **Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director-General at DG DEVCO**, introduced a session providing information and updates on EU-related topics such as joint programming, financial instruments and the results framework. Several speakers from the Commission and the EEAS intervened. Among them was Mr. **Roberto Ridolfi, Director of DEVCO Directorate C**, who presented details of the [2014-2020 Multi-Annual Indicative Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges](#) (GPGC) and the related annual action programmes on food security, nutrition and agriculture, environment and energy. He also explained the principles behind the flagship programmes. Ms. **Veronique Lorenzo**, Head of Unit, Education, Health, Research, Culture, DG DEVCO/B 4, and Ms. **Camilla Hagstrom**, from Employment, Social Inclusion, Migration, DG DEVCO/B3, then presented the human development part of the GPGC (covering health, education, decent work, social justice, migration and asylum, etc.). Mr. **Felix Fernandez Shaw, Head of Division at EEAS** provided an update of the state of play with regard to [EU joint programming](#), while Mr. **Jan Ten Bloemendal**, Head of Unit, Quality of Delivery Systems, focused on the corporate results framework.⁴ The session ended with a presentation by Mr. **Angelo Baglio, Head of Unit, DEVCO B2** and Mr. **Paul Renier, Deputy Head of Unit, DEVCO B2** of the CSO and LA 2014 Annual Action Plan (AAP) with working hypotheses for the coming years.

During the debate, the European Commission answered questions related to issues such as: the expected number of calls for proposals; the inclusion of gender and equality (especially in emerging economies); the decent work agenda; the inclusion of social actors and LAs; the quality of consultations (as a key to ensuring democratic ownership according to the PFD members). The group also asked how the programming will remain flexible to adapt to the evolutions of the international agenda (i.e. topics like urbanisation, etc.) and was keen to learn about the impact on graduated countries where inequality problems are pervasive. Mr. Baglio gave some context to the decisions taken, particularly in what concerns national allocations. *"The financial allocation related to in-*

⁴ In January 2015, a staff-working document will be issued to define the framework.

country activities reflects EUDs' requests (demand driven). Moreover, considering transaction costs for launching a call for proposals, several EUDs, i.e. those in Latin America, decided to pool the resources of 2 years and to launch a call in 2015 rather than in 2014. Another reason for some is the late adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which in turn generated a delay in the adoption of the financial instruments and subsequently the preparation of the 2014 Annual Action Plan (AAP)."

The session finished with an informal exchange around the CSO and LA future action plans, which included the presentation of a number of working hypotheses, namely (i) the introduction of multi-annual planning to improve long-term planning, enhance the predictability of funds and reduce transaction costs, and (ii) the use of alternative aid modalities, such as framework partnership agreements combined with sub-granting. Participants were invited to reflect further on these proposals.

Concluding remarks

The concluding session offered a space for CSOs and LAs to reflect upon the rich discussions held during the 2-day event and share final messages.

The two PFD co-chairs, Ms. Moustache-Belle and Mr. Jorge Balbis thanked the organisers and saluted the PFD as one of the few platforms where equal partners are given the opportunity to be included in the agenda setting and in the organisation. More specifically, the **LA co-chair** asked the EC for its continued support in promoting an EE for LA and for the stand-alone SDG on urbanisations. The **CSO co-chair** highlighted the challenges ahead for the PFD, namely: (i) ownership of the PFD by the sectors, regions and countries, which is deemed essential; (ii) the post-2015 and Enabling Environment work; and (iii) the commitment to the implementation of the EC Human Rights-Based toolkit (presented during the [training session](#) held on the 30th of September).

March 2015 and Brussels were tentatively suggested as the time and place for the next meeting.

Finally, it should also be mentioned that:

- On 3 October around 100 people attended a PFD workshop on the role of the private sector in development, led by DEVCO Director Roberto Ridolfi. They discussed options for launching a structured dialogue on private sector involvement in development cooperation;
- On 2 October a special lunchtime side event on migration was organised with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to mark the launch of the [Rights of Migrants in Action project](#).
- On 30 September a training and exchange session took place to present the Committee of the Regions, discuss a draft consultation toolkit for the PFD, understand how the Commission implements a human rights-based approach and hear preliminary findings of the 2014 European Report on Development.

You can also check out the agenda, presentations and background documents [here](#).

ANNEX 1

Reports from the regional groups on the Enabling Environment

Asia & Pacific

- The PFD should take on board the EE seriously
- Some elements to be addressed by the PFD:
 - At political level: Conduct research and identify case studies on the EE challenges and successes across sectors and constituencies. A special focus in Asia should be placed on the informal economy.
 - At policy level: Conduct a mapping study to identify challenges and successes on CSOs and LAs influencing policy environment
 - At operational level, more capacity development (CD) initiatives should be addressed to CSOs and LAs, with the identification of entry points for policy development. There is also a need for more popular materials, languages, etc. that can be easily understood by grassroots organisations (GROs) and also for popular fora (i.e. to reach out to grassroots communities). The Structured Dialogue experience should be taken down to country and also community level.
- 3 buzz words to retain from the discussion: Political stability; progressive policies; and timely, responsive and effective implementation

Latin America

- The PFD should be working on the EE, based on its unique multi-stakeholder character. Several of the members are already working on the topic and the unique character of PFD (i.e. multi-actor) could serve to influence other relevant spaces.
- Different actors have different views on what should be prioritised in work on the EE (i.e. employers are interested in developing areas of common interest with CSOs and LAs; for trade unions, social dialogue is essential in promoting an EE; LAs are interested in synergies allowing for the design and implementation of solid public policies; women's organisations put the emphasis on the monitoring of CS influence over public policies and the public in general; for cooperatives the issue of entrepreneurship is crucial, etc.)
- Key priorities for the region: (i) acknowledge the actors; (ii) legal framework; (iii) access to funding and policy dialogue.
- Some recommendations to the PFD: conduct research studies at national and regional level; ensure follow up at national level and disseminate relevant actions; access to funding for capacity development; etc.

European Neighbourhood

- The EE should become a topic of interest for the PFD
- Key priorities in the region:
 - In both parts (South and East) the space for CSOs is shrinking
 - Three key issues emerge: (i) security issue (conflict, security and violence); (ii) independence of CSOs, including also the key question of the independence of funding; (iii) awareness-raising on the importance of the EE (including the importance of the rule of law)

- Some recommendations to the PFD: (i) use the PFD as a platform to identify cases, exchange and disseminate good practices (information is key); (ii) address the question of accession agreements; (iii) hold regional neighbourhood meetings; (iv) address the question of private sector partnership to make the private sector a major stakeholder who would respect these roles; (v) the EU should use all the instruments to support the EE, using EUDs as entry points.

Africa

- The PFD should address the EE
- The following points were addressed with regards to the EE: (i) Decentralisation; (ii) Participatory local governance; (iii) Culture of governance; (iv) Transformative agenda and; (v) The legal environment and constitutions – the problem being that they are not fully respected; the space for CSOs is shrinking at country and international level.
- The group agreed on: (i) the need to promote the PFD in all countries; (ii) that consultations should be reinforced, also with public and civic education; (iii) the need to reinforce communication and accountability tools and systems to engage with constituencies and; (iv) to integrate some more CS constituencies (i.e. cooperatives, etc.) in the EE framework

Global

- The EE should become a permanent topic for the PFD
- Lively discussion on accountability mechanism and independence of CSOs
- Some principles to be further elaborated: (i) nexus between CSOs and LAs; (ii) the issue of restrictive legal frameworks; (iii) the link between local, regional and global levels to ensure a coherent approach; (iv) take into account that there are different actors (i.e. the EE means different things for different actors)
- What should be the role of the PFD?: (i) get the right stakeholders involved (i.e. we need to have national governments and the head of EUD at national level to make discussions on EE really effective); (ii) the PFD configuration at regional level could offer a conducive space to allow for such interaction; (iii) need clear planning to ensure predictability and transparency of processes (not just for the EE; in general for the PFD - we need to plan better)

Europe

- There was not an agreement on whether the PFD should work on the EE or not (i.e. there were arguments in favour and against). On the one hand, the PFD has a unique multi-stakeholder character. Yet it is only a space for dialogue and doesn't have the required leverage. What's more, it may be a space to share practices but the topic is too broad and the PFD may not be able to provide recommendations to other fora. Last, it is also necessary to acknowledge the work done elsewhere.
- There was also a discussion on the need for the PFD agenda to remain flexible to adapt to important topics (i.e. the *"hot potatoes on the EU agenda"*) vs. the need to be more focused (i.e. and have permanent topics, such as the EE). What is clear nonetheless is that the PFD should focus on EU development policies.