

# From the Structured Dialogue to the Policy Forum on Development:

*the point of view of the actors*

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# *Roots, themes and actors of the SD*

- **Roots:** the SD is inscribed in the global process on aid effectiveness - whose landmarks are MDGs, Monterrey, Paris, Accra (Busan in pipeline at the time) - where debates were taking place on the way aid architecture should be reshaped to increase relevance, effectiveness, sustainability of development interventions.

In particular the AAA set a more inclusive framework where the role of CSOs is finally recognised as development actors in their own right (art 13 and 20)

- **Themes:**
  - A) Role and added value of different categories of development actors (Enabling Environment, multi-stakeholders dialogues, actors complementarity)
  - B) Coherence with Aid effectiveness agenda (ownership, accountability, right of initiative, DoL)
  - C) EU Aid delivery mechanisms
- **Actors:** EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, Member States reps, CSOs, LAs)
- **REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN THE SOUTH** (2010-11): involving CSOs in partner countries

# *Why trade unions got on board and their messages*

- SD is linked to the overall involvement of TUs on development effectiveness agenda (at global level, with Better Aid & the Open Forum);
- SD is based on a multi-stakeholders fashion including CSOs in partner countries (although no partner countries' governments involvement) and aimed at revisiting conventional divide between north and south;
- 'Democratic ownership' and an 'actor based approach' : two main principles that inspired TUs participation in the SD, based on:
  - A. Participatory democracy model, involving CSOs in development policies making, be it at national, regional and global level according to their right of initiative (development actors in their own right);
  - B. Recognition of the specificities and targeted contributions that each actor within civil society can provide to development processes. In the case of TUs this is crucially important when it comes to discussing labour market, employment and socio-economic policies, starting in particular from the national level in partner countries

.....towards setting a dialogue mechanism responding to the following criteria:

- **representative** (relevant institutions/actors involved)
- **participatory** (allowing meaningful influence in EU policy making)
- **permanent** (framed into the EU setting)

## *Most innovative SD Recommendations*

- The EU should respect and actively promote the right of initiative of CSOs in line with internationally agreed commitments. To this end adequate political and financial support should be provided to CSOs;
- The EU should promote and support regular, structured and inclusive multi-stakeholders dialogues at all governance levels (i.e. local, regional, national, global);
- The EU needs to invest in understanding of local arena: strategic mappings should be regularly conducted and updated to identify the most relevant actors, going beyond the known beneficiaries;
- The EU is called on to draw from an appropriate mix of funding mechanisms incorporating sensible actor differentiation and a flexible set of responses adaptable to different situations, to pursue development objectives in a more strategic, effective and sustainable manner.

## *Most innovative SD Recommendations (2)*

### Recommendations to CSOs :

- Work on strengthen successful partnerships at local, national and international levels in order to speak with a stronger voice;
- Self-regulatory standards based on the Istanbul principles.

# *Expectations on the Policy Forum on Development*

The PFD is the SD successor. Therefore, it is fundamental that the spirit of these recommendations will be taken into account and fully translated into practice within the operationalization of the PFD.

The terms of reference of the PFD have been eventually drafted and they constitute a valuable starting point to consolidate and hopefully further develop participatory and inclusive consultation mechanisms.

The PFD should be an actual space where EU development policies and practices can be debated, providing opportunities to its members to contribute to policy making on EU development cooperation, as well as, on EU positioning on global development agendas