

Policy Forum on Development

2nd interim meeting, Brussels - 18/19 October 2012

Background Information

Enhancing regular dialogue and consultations with Civil Society (CS) is one of the principles stated in the Lisbon Treaty, with a view to ensuring consistency and transparency of EU policies. In the development field, the European Union has, during the last decade, promoted the comprehensive and progressive participation of Civil Society and, more recently, of Local Authorities in countries' development processes and in broader political, social and economic dialogues.

Taking into account huge evolutions in the Civil Society organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) landscapes, notably the emergence of new type of actors beyond traditional NGOs on one side, and the perception that a more strategic approach was needed to more effectively involve CSOs and LAs in EU development policies and programmes, the European Commission launched, in March 2010, the *Structured Dialogue (SD) for an efficient partnership in development*. This intensive consultation process ended in May 2011. The process brought together more than 700 CSOs and LAs from all over the world with participants from the EU Member States, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Delegations to reflect upon and define ways and means to improve the effectiveness of all actors involved in EU development cooperation.

The Final Statement of the SD, also known as the *Budapest Declaration*, calls upon all parties to move forward, to the extent possible, with the recommendations addressed to the different categories of actors. Those addressed to the EC concretely call upon the Commission to "*improve the quality of engagement/dialogue processes at all governance levels (i.e. local, national, regional, global)*". In Budapest, Commissioner Piebalgs reiterated the importance of enhancing dialogue at all levels, and suggested establishing a **stable space for dialogue in Brussels**, to allow for systematic debate with Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities.

On the 9th and 10th of November 2011, over 80 SD stakeholders, including regional representatives and delegates from different European institutions, gathered in Brussels for the first follow-up meeting. During this meeting the proposal for a **High-Level policy dialogue** (the so- called Policy Forum for Development) was well received, confirming the need to bring together, at the EC

Headquarters level in Brussels, relevant stakeholders working on development and cooperation issues, to exchange and discuss issues linked to the follow-up of the SD, EU main policies and initiatives and more global policy issues linked to the international development agenda.

A first interim meeting of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) was then organised in May 2012 (10th and 11th of May) with the same stakeholders. A second interim meeting was organised on the 18th and 19th October in Brussels, after the 7th edition of the European Development Days (EDD12)¹.

Programme

The second interim meeting consisted of five sessions over two days, in addition to the Opening and Closing sessions. The agenda and PowerPoint presentations are available at CISOCH².

Opening session: 18th October 2012

The opening session was chaired by **Kristian SCHMIDT**, Director, DG DEVCO, European Commission, and included speeches delivered by **representatives of all the constituencies of the PFD**: the European Parliament (EP), Member States (MS), the European External Action Service (EEAS), CSOs community and LAs.

In her opening speech, **Eva JOLY**, MEP and Chair of the Development Committee, European Parliament (EP), welcomed the main orientations of the recently issued Communication about CSOs' engagement within the EU external relations and reiterated the EP's engagement towards the setting up of the PFD. In particular, Ms Joly underlined some of the principles that should underpin the PFD, which include: its conception as a complementary mechanism, the constitution of a space for constant exchange and discussion among relevant actors to foster development effectiveness, and the need to offer the possibility to think differently about European development policy with a view to ensure overall coherence.

Dimitrus THEOPHYLACTOU, Chair, Development Cooperation on behalf of the Cyprus EU Presidency stressed that the Communication is strongly supported by all Member States, as evidenced by the Council Conclusions, and represents a major breakthrough in the way EU institutions view the role of CSOs in development. In particular, the Council welcomes the strengthened emphasis on the enabling environment and EC's efforts to support CSOs' governance roles. With regards to the implementation of the Communication, Mr Theophylactou added that the Council encourages and supports the development of roadmaps at country level.

¹ <http://eudevdays.eu/>

² https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development

Mara MARINAKI, Managing Director, Global and Multilateral Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS), confirmed EEAS's interest in the PFD and welcomed the recently issued Communication, particularly in connection with the multi-stakeholder framework that the Communication develops and which can provide the necessary infrastructure to promote development effectiveness, as described in the Agenda for Change. She also stressed the cornerstone role played by EU delegations (EUD) around the globe and underlined the continuous cooperation between the EEAS and the EC, also with regard to relevant development debates, such as the Post 2015 agenda for development.

As a representative for the Local Authorities, **Francis DURI**, Zimbabwe Local Government Area (LGA), focused his interventions on the momentum gained by debates around the involvement of LAs in development. He congratulated the EU for the substantial efforts made during as well as after the Structured Dialogue (SD) and encouraged EU institutions to strengthen their engagement with LAs, also when rethinking Post 2015 development priorities. Mr Duri also underlined the relevant synergies that exist between CSOs and LAs and that need to be further explored and stressed the importance of capacity development addressed towards LAs, to ensure that they can fully assume their roles of development actors.

From the CSO side, **Philipp JAHSHAN**, Board Member, Coordination Sud, CONCORD, congratulated the EU for continuing the dialogue begun with the SD and stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder spaces to foster the exchange of experiences, promote debates, understand each other's positions and bring innovation. In his intervention, he paid particular attention to the current context, characterised by an unprecedented social, political and economic crisis, as well as the rethinking of the development agenda and architecture. Finally, on behalf of CSOs, he emphasised civil society's commitment towards the future PFD and stressed the challenges that need to be tackled in order to move forward "from words to action". They include the lack of capacities on the side of EUD, the insufficient knowledge of the SD outcomes by MS, and the need to enlarge the themes addressed by the PFD to ensure policy coherence.

Finally, in his welcoming words, **Kristian SCHMIDT**, Director, DG DEVCO, European Commission, briefly introduced the Agenda of the meeting, and reiterated once more its relevance in relation to the on-going work in DEVCO. Mr Schmidt underscored that the recently issued Communication should be considered a collective achievement, and that, as such, it raises relevant and demanding challenges to all relevant actors, from the EC to the EP and MS, but also to CSOs and LAs.

Session 1 - Towards a common European Vision on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (morning 18th October)

The session was moderated by **James MACKIE, ECDPM**, who briefly introduced the topic,

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and targets are derived from the Millennium Declaration which was signed by 189 countries at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2000. They reflect a global consensus on the most pressing challenges with regard to poverty eradication and human development. The MDG framework consists of the Millennium Declaration, 8 Goals, 21 Targets and 60 Indicators.

With a Special Event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals scheduled for fall 2013, the debate about what comes after 2015 has gained considerable momentum. The UN is organising

highlighting the relevance of reaching a common European vision, in view of the relevant changes in the global political and economic landscape. Growth in emerging economies has become the key driver of global growth, whilst disparities within and between developing countries have increased and the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of a few upper middle-income countries has outscored some European member states. Likewise, new actors have emerged in the development sphere, including private actors, and discussions on the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are taking place in the context of the Rio+20 Conference.

Commissioner Andris PIEBALGS gave the key note speech in which he reaffirmed the EC's commitment to the Millennium Declaration. According to the Commissioner, the Millennium Declaration remains relevant today but needs to be carefully updated and modernised, taking into account new global realities and trends, including political economy, major macroeconomic shifts, climate change and the depletion of natural resources, crises and volatility, population dynamics, governance issues and human development challenges, migration, and mobility, among others.

Commissioner Piebalgs also underlined some of the key elements of the EC's vision on the post-2015 development agenda, which will be the subject of an EC Communication in early 2013. The Commissioner was recently appointed as a member of the UN High Level Panel on post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda beyond 2015. They include the following: a continuous dialogue with local actors, in particular CSOs and LAs, as



testified by the first live exchange session organised in the framework of the PFD or the recently concluded public consultation on post-2015, whose preliminary results confirm the relevance of a human rights-based approach to development, the central place of accountability and transparency or the need for a stronger focus on the poorest and marginalised.

Secondly, a thorough review of what has and what has not worked when trying to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this regard, the EU has recently adapted its development strategy through the Agenda for Change with a view to increasing the impact of EU development policies and being in a position to contribute to the global agenda. The Commission is currently internally reviewing the EU's contribution to achieving the MDGs. The MDGs alone will not guarantee a decent life therefore drivers for prosperity, creating jobs and guaranteeing justice, equity and human rights will be important. Consideration will also have to be given to 'good stewardship' of natural resources and action to prevent their depletion. Insights from research and expert knowledge contribute to this process, including specific advice from the Scientific Advisory Board established by Commissioner Piebalgs on key challenges for development policy. Furthermore In the run-up to the MDGs review, and in view of contributing to the European and international debate on the global development framework beyond 2015, the European Report on Development 2013 will focus on identifying key elements of a post-2015 development agenda, - including contributions of the EU - which could support poor countries' efforts to overcome constraints and create opportunities for development.

Danuta SACHER, member of CS Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives and Executive Director, Terre des Hommes, Germany, took the floor next. She reflected on the on the current social, economic and political context and its differences in comparison to the context when the MDG were drafted. According to Ms Sacher, the new development agenda cannot simply be a "MDG+" agenda and requires thorough reflection, particularly with regards to some fundamental principles, which should underpin the new framework. They include the need to mainstream a human rights-based approach to development; the principle of "Do No Harm" as well as that of "common but differentiated responsibility", among others.

On behalf of LAs, **Jean-Pierre ELONG MBASSI**, Secretary General, Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique (CGLU), underlined the crucial dimension of human dignity and of the fight against poverty, together with other relevant elements, such as: the need to move from a sectoral approach to territorial policies with a view to localise the development agenda, the need to mainstream the environmental dimension along with the efforts to fight poverty and to pay special attention to fragile states, the importance of coherence and of understanding that development cannot be the sole endeavour of development cooperation, and the need for a multi-layered governance framework.

The last panellist, **Andrew Shepherd**, Director of the Chronic Poverty Advisor Network (CPAN), brought the academia's perspective, by reflecting on the implications of adopting a dynamic poverty perspective. The speaker touched upon a number of topics, including the nature of the poor today, compared to in 2000; the need for a global framework that requires country-based, tailored measurement systems or the changes that are needed also on the side of the developed world.

A rich and dynamic discussion followed the presentations, wherein stakeholders had the opportunity to express their views and react to the panellists' presentations. With regard to the vision that should underpin the post-2015 framework, several stakeholders underlined the need for a thorough revision of the development framework, by underlying the decent life concept, addressing the structural causes that prevented the 2015 goals from being accomplished, duly mainstreaming a human rights-based approach, as well as governance and environmental considerations, and reinforcing the collective capacity to implement, as well as account for, the new set of goals. Stakeholders agreed that the new framework should go beyond the "2015+" agenda, and be conceived as a global multi-stakeholder construction, requiring subsequent country-tailored translations as well as adapted implementation measures.

Session 2 - Future Communication on LAs in development; New Communication on CSOs in development & New Strategy for the thematic Programme on CSOs & LAs (afternoon 18th October & morning 19th October)



The session, chaired by **Angelo BAGLIO**, Head of Unit, Civil Society and Local Authorities (DEVCO D2), started with the presentation of the Issues paper on Local Authorities in Development by **Elena ASCIUTTI**, of the same unit and in charge of the consultation. The presentation briefly outlined the consultation process, which takes place at various levels (i.e. from the country level, led by EUD, to the regional level, in partnership with PLATFORMA, and the global level, through the PFD) and whose outcomes are expected to feed the forthcoming Communication on LAs in Development, to be drafted early 2013. The new Communication will build on the outcomes of the SD, the Busan Partnership Document, and the Agenda for Change, and will take stock of the recently issued Communication about CSOs in Development, to address a number of relevant issues, including: LAs' roles in current development debates at international level (i.e. post-2015 Agenda); the local level in governance; cooperation amongst actors and territorial approaches to development; support to decentralization; the role of LA

Associations; capacity development of LAs, the role rural and urban LAs facing population growth, and adapted EU mechanisms.

Ms Asciutti's presentation was followed by a short intervention by **Lucie GUILLET**, on behalf of Platforma, to present the undergoing consultation process at regional level. A brief question and answer session followed and LAs were particularly active in raising a number of questions and remarks. They included: the central role played by LAs in educating and sensitising citizens to development issues; the need to bring central governments into the reflections, considering the cornerstone importance of central-local government relations or the links between the new Communication on LAs and the Post-2015 debates, among others.

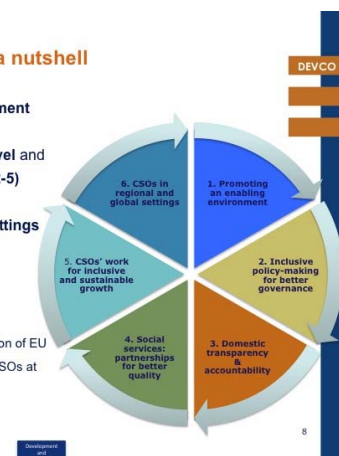
Virginia MANZITTI, Deputy Head of Unit, Civil Society and Local Authorities (DEVCO D2) next took the floor to present the core messages of the recently issued (and endorsed by the Council) Communication on CSOs in development³. She started by congratulating all stakeholders for their active involvement throughout the process of the SD and interim PFD, and called for their cooperation to explore together the implications of the new policy, which proposes an enhanced and more strategic approach in EU engagement with local CSOs. The Communication, which gives value to a dynamic, pluralistic and competent civil society and recognizes the importance of constructive relations between states and CSOs to build stronger democratic processes and accountability systems, puts forward three priorities for EU support: (i) to enhance efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs in partner countries; (ii)

to promote a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies of partner countries, in the EU programming cycle and in international processes; and (iii) to increase local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors more effectively. In her presentation, Ms Manzitti briefly referred to the principles of concentration and differentiation, underscoring that a more

strategic engagement with CSOs needs to be mainstreamed in all instruments and programmes and in all sectors of cooperation, through adequate dialogue and adapted support mechanisms. To this end road maps will begin to be elaborated at country level, with the support of MS, to ensure consistency and impact of EU actions.

The Communication in a nutshell

- Promoting an **enabling environment**
- **Strong focus on the country level** and empowerment of **local actors (2-5)**
- CSOs in **regional and global settings**
- **Shaping EU support**
 - Focus on capacity development
 - Funding adapted to local needs
 - Coordinated EU action: elaboration of EU roadmaps of engagement with CSOs at country level



³ The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations. See: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/civil-society/index_en.htm

A number of reactions and comments were made by the audience, touching upon diverse issues, with special emphasis on the enabling environment and the difficult conditions faced by CSOs in a number of countries.

Ms Manzitti then took the floor to present the first proposal (working hypothesis) for the new thematic programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities”. The programme, which will cover the period 2014-2020 and whose objectives and expected results will be detailed in the so-called Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP), is the successor to the thematic programme Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development (2007-2013) currently being implemented.

In the following session, participants were divided into three groups to discuss the working hypothesis of the new strategy, as set forward in the background document that was distributed in advance. Chaired and facilitated by members of DEVCO D2, discussions were structured along the following questions: (i) What were the strong points, weaknesses and issues requiring further adaptation



and elaboration of the strategy?; (ii) Clarification or fine-tuning, or missing issues? (iii) Given that context matters and considering the EU's commitment to differentiate between different country contexts (see the EU Agenda for Change), what kind of actions should be prioritised in different contexts (e.g. in fragile countries, middle income countries, least developed countries or countries where there will no longer be bilateral support)?; (iv) Considering that capacity development is a crosscutting priority for both CSOs and LAs, how should capacity development be supported through the different components of the programme?; and (v) How to best



support networks at regional and global levels? Participants were invited to consider all three components of the new strategy, including the Development, Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) dimension, which was the object of a separate consultation session.

Though time for discussion was limited, all three groups concurred on their global appreciation of the strategy, as well as on the need to further elaborate and fine-tune a number of relevant issues, as

shown by the presentation made by **Beatriz SANZ CORELLA**, Technical Assistance to the EC (TA) in the morning of the 19th of October. They are summarised in the table below⁴:

1. **Relevant notions require further clarification and/or elaboration**, such as Capacity Development; Territorial Approaches to Development or the Guiding Principles.
2. **The programme does not evolve in a vacuum** and needs to duly take into account: other relevant domains of action; other relevant EU programmes (both geographic and thematic); other on-going processes (e.g. Post 2015 agenda, Busan, etc.) and on-going CSOs and LAs efforts
3. **More emphasis is needed on the human rights-based approach to development** and governance should be mainstreamed across sectors (e.g. a human rights-based approach to pro-poor service delivery)
4. **The “centre of gravity” shifts to the country level**. A global framework is needed, but the programme needs to be tailored to the country context and key challenges should be addressed (enhanced role of EUD; translation of PD ambitions at country level, etc.)
5. **Cautionary words on the use and implementation of the differentiation principle**, as the gross domestic product (GDP) cannot be the only indicator used to cluster countries and there are risks in adopting a “black-and-white” position on service delivery based on countries’ categories
6. **Connections and linkages need to better acknowledged and deepened** between CSOs and LAs; between European actors and local actors; across networking efforts also at the national level, etc.
7. **Other relevant issues**, such as the Right of Initiative, decentralisation, gender, etc., as well as the issue of the allocation of funds and funding modalities.

⁴ See also ppt for more information at

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

CSOs and LAs, well beyond the European frontiers and traditional DEAR stakeholders, confirmed the high interest that exists around development education and awareness raising (DEAR) initiatives, which constitute the third component of the strategy of the forthcoming programme for CSOs and LAs. A number of issues were raised after the presentation by **Marcus PIRCHNER**, Civil Society and Local Authorities (DEVCO D-2), with regards to the main DEAR elements of the new thematic programme. These issues include the need for strategic results-based framework, allowing for better progress and impact measurement; the need to involve a variety of actors, including - among others - LAs, European and non-European CSOs, Member States Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs. The session also highlighted the increasing importance of development education in Europe, particularly due to the current crisis situation, but also in developing countries given the global nature of some of the major current issues, and the need to promote mutual understanding. The close link between development and development education was underlined.



All in all, the PFD offered a first opportunity for dialogue with CSOs and LAs, from the EU and the partner countries, on the strategy of the new Programme. Participants were invited to continue contributing to the new strategy on-line, through the capacity4dev website.

For this session the three PowerPoint presentations (LA Issues Paper; CSO Comm. and Working Hypothesis of the Strategy of the Programme CSOs & LAs and synthesis of the discussion) are available on CISOCH:

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

The consultation regarding the new strategy of the future thematic programme CSOs & LAS can be found at:

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/eu-pfd-consultation-cso-la/>

Session 3 - Presentation of the Annual Action Programme (AAP) (morning 18th October)

Nuria CALZADA, Civil Society and Local Authorities (DEVCO D-2) offered a comprehensive overview of the Annual Action Programme 2013 of the current thematic programme NSAs & LAs in Development. The presentation started with a summary of the performance of the programme between 2007 and 2010, highlighted some of the milestones in the evolution of the EC development policy (i.e. Agenda for Change; new Communication on CSOs in development; forthcoming Communication on LAs in development, etc.) and finally focused on the Annual Action

Programme for the coming year 2013.

From a financial perspective, 85% of the funds (amounting to more than 731 MEUR) have been allocated to CSOs, and the remaining 15% (129 MEUR) to LAs. In terms of regions, 45% of the funds have targeted ACP countries, 25% Asia, 20% Latin America and the remaining 10% has gone to ENP, the Middle East and Central Asian countries. More than 568 MEUR have been allocated to Objective 1.a (in country interventions), with 1753 projects funded. Objective 1.b (multi-country interventions) has received 150 MEUR, with 126 projects funded; objective 2 (DEAR) 120 MEUR with 181 projects funded, and objective 3 (coordination) 20 MEUR with 47 projects funded.

In what concerns the AAP 2013, it is foreseen that 203 MEUR are allocated to Objective 1; 36 MEUR to Objective 2; 4,2 MEUR to Objective 3 and approximately 1 MEUR to supporting measures. 82 countries will be covered by Objective 1.a, and country-based CfPs will be launched; as opposed to Objectives 1.b and 3, which will make use of the reserve list of the last call for proposals. For objective 2, a global call for proposal will be launched. A number of direct award grants are also foreseen covering the three objectives, as well as several service contracts to support the development of road maps and multi-country interventions, finance the DEAR support team, etc.

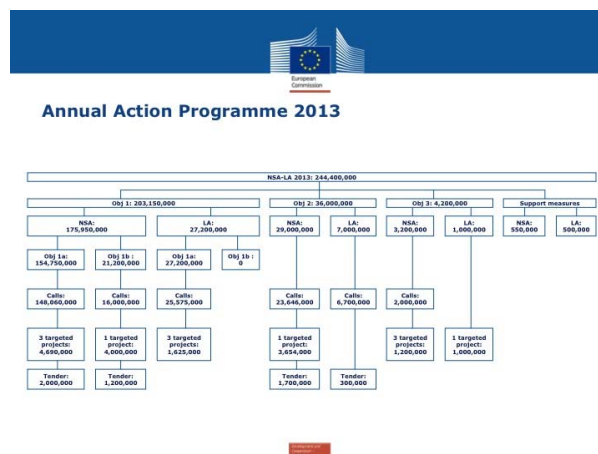
The presentation was followed by a question & answer session, wherein participants had the opportunity to comment on the performance of the programme to date and request further information regarding specific issues (e.g. the list of 80 countries for Objective 1.a; the number of concept notes received; etc.)

For this session one PowerPoint presentation is available on CISOCH:

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

Session 4 - Towards setting-up the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) (morning 19th October)

Angelo Baglio started this session by reiterating the importance that the EC attaches to the future PFD. In his opening words, the chair briefly referred to the discussions that took place during the first interim meeting of the PFD (May 2012) and the conclusions reached regarding the need to set up a high-level policy dialogue forum bringing together, at the EC Headquarters level (Brussels), relevant stakeholders working on development and cooperation issues, the objective being to foster



exchanges and discussions on: (i) issues linked to the follow-up of the Structured Dialogue (i.e. recommendations and further elaboration of selected themes); (ii) EU main policies and initiatives; and (iii) more global policy issues linked to the EC and the international development agenda. Mr Baglio then introduced the work done by the Working Group constituted in September 2012 to assist the EC in the setting-up of the PFD, and gave the floor to **Jorge BALBIS**, ALOP, and **Eleni MARIANIOU**, CRPM. They had been selected as rapporteurs by the members of the Working Group during the preparatory meeting held on the 17th of October to discuss on the outcomes of the regional consultation launched by the EC in August 2012.

In connection to the **scope of the PFD** (goals and objectives), consensus existed around: (i) The PFD primarily focusing on European development policies, also considering global development agendas; (ii) the PFD not becoming the only entry point between the EU and CSOs & LAs; (iii) the PFD covering cross-cutting issues directly related to the role of CSOs & LAs as relevant development actors; (iv) the PFD being a reciprocal multi-stakeholder space allowing for policy debate and exchange of information among relevant development actors across regions and levels; (v) like the SD, the PFD not being a negotiation space, but rather a consensus-building mechanism, which can issue joint recommendations to the actors involved; and (vi) the PFD covering the three dimensions proposed.

On **working modalities**, a proposed allocation of seats was made, duly taking into account the inherent complexities of structuring at each level (national, European and global), while at the same time recognising the dynamics of the actors. The proposal was the following: (i) at the regional level, each family of actors should have a determined number of seats (12 for LAs; 24 for CSOs and 4 for the

private sector); (ii) at the European level, all European institutions (EC, EEAS, EP, MS, European Economic and Social Committee, European Investment Bank, the Committee of Regions) and European CS & LA platforms should be represented (up to 12 seats in total for the European Platforms, leaving some flexibility to bring new platforms on board) and; (iii) at the global level, a total number of 6 seats allocated to global actors.

In conclusion:



Proposed **selection mechanisms** were also presented, namely the proposal that representatives shall be appointed/selected (on the basis of commonly agreed criteria) by **the representative regional platforms and networks** (auto-selection process). As the two rapporteurs commented, this process could be confirmed for LAs; Cooperatives; Trade Unions and the Private sector. As regards NGOs, however, a **regional tailored approach** was required, as follows: (i) Latin America: identification by well-established regional platform and sub-regional constituencies; (ii) Africa: identification by (sub) regional platforms/network (on-going process of structuring); (iii) Asia: use of current CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) systems to identify best options at sub-regional level; (iv) ENP South: identification by sectoral networks, which shall be coordinated to put together a joint proposal; and (v) ENP East: need to deepen the regional analysis of existing actors, processes and dynamics.

Finally, **with regard to membership**, the following criteria were announced: (i) Mandated representative of a properly constituted and recognised structure/platform and/or of an organisation affiliated to sectoral/national/regional networks; (ii) Expertise in the topics addressed at the PFD and proven track record (i.e. a minimum of years); (iii) Gender balance; (iv) In case of regional networks, proven regional representativeness and inclusiveness; (v) Institutional capacity to act as a facilitator of the process in two directions, globally and locally; (vi) Commitment to take part in the PFD in the short and medium terms, and availability; (vii) High level representation; (viii) Excellent communication skills (verbal and written) and good interpersonal skills; and (ix) Language skills (English and/or French and/or Spanish).

A short debate followed the presentation and it was agreed that stakeholders would send their comments, written inputs and suggestions on the principles, modalities and criteria to apply with a view to launch the process early next year so as to have a first PFD meeting around May/June 2013.

For this session one PowerPoint presentation is available on CISOCH:

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

Session 5 - Public Goods (afternoon – 19th October)

The last session of the PFD, chaired by **Kristian SCHMIDT**, Director, DG DEVCO, European Commission was devoted to the working hypothesis of the forthcoming Thematic Programme Public Goods, aimed at promoting inclusive sustainable growth.

The presentation, given by **Nick TAYLOR**, Lead Drafter, DEVCO D-3, started with a brief outline of the new policy framework (i.e. Agenda for Change, Post-2015 debates, etc.), and moved on to the

lessons learnt throughout the implementation of past and current thematic programmes, and challenges ahead. They include: (i) the need to address inclusive and sustainable growth while assisting partner countries in reducing vulnerability to global shocks; (ii) the need to overcome the fragmentation that characterises current thematic programmes, as well as their lack of flexibility; and (iii) the need for improved coherence between thematic programmes. The speaker also outlined in his presentation the proposed approach to programming (i.e. a holistic and joined-up framework to address key linkages in some of the areas of cooperation identified in the DCI) and presented the three key foci of EU support: (i) social protection, health and education, defined as sectors that build the foundations for growth and ensure it is inclusive; (ii) business environment and regional integration, defined as enabling vectors for inclusive and sustainable growth; and (iii) sustainable agriculture and energy, together with sustainable use of natural capital, defined as sectors that have 'a strong multiplier impact on developing countries' economies which contribute to growth generation, environmental protection and climate change prevention and adaptation. Other underscored ideas included: the strengthened complementarity to geographic programmes; the intended multi-stakeholder approach, bringing CSOs and LAs, as well as the private sector on board, in addition to national governments; strengthened governance and accountability systems and better flexibility. As Mr Schmidt clarified, the programme is not intended to become "a gap filler", nor a "compensation mechanism" for graduated programmes, and should aim at building and consolidating strategic alliances across relevant stakeholders in a number of relevant areas.



Approach to programming

A holistic and joined-up framework to address key linkages in the following areas of cooperation identified in the DCI:

- Environment and climate change
- Sustainable energy
- Food Security and Agriculture
- Migration and Asylum
- Human Development

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The presentation was followed by a question & answer session, wherein participants could react to the preliminary ideas for the new Programme. Several stakeholders requested more information on the consultation process that the EC intended to launch to continue formulating the future programme, as well as further clarification on a number of notions, including that of common goods and human development, as well as on the role that CSOs and LAs would play in the formulation and subsequent implementation of the Programme.

Mr Schmidt closed the session by confirming that the consultation process should continue, as the programme is still in a very embryonic stage of development.

For this session one PowerPoint presentation is available on CISOCH:

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Conclusions

Virginia MANZITTI Deputy Head of Unit, Civil Society and Local Authorities (DEVCO D2) made the concluding remarks of the second interim meeting of the Policy Forum on Development. In her last words, Ms Manzitti congratulated the participants for their active involvement as well as for the richness of the debates and confirmed that the outcomes of the discussions would be used to feed the on-going policy and strategy drafting processes. She also confirmed that the consultation process would continue, using different channels (e.g. on-line through capacity4dev, etc.) and made a request to all the stakeholders to act as disseminators of the PFD and distribute the information received as much as possible amongst their constituencies and homologues.