

# Policy Forum on Development

## 1st interim meeting, Brussels – 10-11 May 2012

### Background

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 process and in broader political, social and economic dialogue.

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. It 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 the EU development cooperation.

The Final Statement of the SD also known as the *Budapest Declaration* calls upon all parties to take forward, to the extent possible, 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 9<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 on issues linked to the follow-up of the SD, on EU main policies and initiatives and on more global policy issues linked to the international development agenda.

**A first interim meeting of the Policy Forum on Development was then organised in May 2012 (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May) with the same stakeholders.**

### Programme

The first interim meeting consisted of four sessions, in addition to the Opening and Closing sessions, and also included a joint information session from the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) covering relevant EU development aspects, such as the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and the new geographic programming guidelines and thematic programmes. The agenda and PowerPoint presentations are available at CISOCH<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy\\_forum\\_on\\_development](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
10 <sup>th</sup> May morning	10 <sup>th</sup> may afternoon	11 <sup>th</sup> May morning	11 <sup>th</sup> May afternoon
Joint DEVCO_EEAS information session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020.</li> <li>▪ New geographic programming guidelines.</li> <li>▪ The Future of thematic programmes.</li> </ul>	The forthcoming Communication on CSOs in development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information about the preliminary outcomes of the consultation (CSOs governance related roles)</li> <li>▪ Discussions around CSOs roles in Inclusive and sustainable growth (effective multi-stakeholders partnerships in service delivery).</li> </ul>	Aid and development effectiveness (Post-Busan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Main outcomes of Busan 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum</li> <li>▪ The Global Partnership for Effective development Cooperation</li> <li>▪ Monitoring after Busan</li> </ul>	Towards the set-up of the Policy Forum on development

### Opening session: 10th of May 2012

The opening session, chaired by Angelo Baglio, Head of Unit, **Civil Society and Local Authorities** (DEVCO D2), counted with speeches delivered by **representatives of**: the Member States, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the CSOs and the LAs.

In his opening speech, Charles Goerens<sup>2</sup>, MEP and Member of the **European Parliament Development Committee**, welcomed the main orientations of the current and forthcoming European Cooperation, namely differentiation and inclusive growth, as well as the focalisation of EU development assistance in three sectors. He also voiced the need for more accurate figures and better information on the comparative advantage of other aid actors, and encouraged the EC and MS to engage in enhanced collaboration with a view to make the EU aid more visible and less fragmented.

Trine Rask Thygesen, representing the **Danish EU Presidency**, added that the Consultation paper on CSOs in development contained relevant questions and signalled the right way of thinking. She stressed that the Presidency had elaborated strong conclusions on various items<sup>3</sup>, on which CSOs' further engagement should be central, and concluded that the Policy Forum could become an inspirational platform for that.

Félix Fernandez-Shaw, Head of **Division for Development Cooperation Coordination in the EEAS** confirmed EEAS's interest in the forthcoming EC Communication on CSOs in development, which should appear in the second half of 2012. He cited the example of Myanmar where the EU needs to avoid a donor rush flooding the country and rather work strategically with CSOs on the ground, together with the government.

From the CSO side, Klaus Niederlander, Director of **Cooperatives Europe**, was mandated to open the meeting, expressing that cooperation systems should be adapted and partnerships deepened.

<sup>2</sup> MEP Goerens' report on Agenda for Change: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2F%2FEP%2F%2FNONSGML%2BCOMPARL%2BPE-485.931%2B01%2BDOC%2BPDF%2BV0%2F%2FEN>

<sup>3</sup> Covering the Agenda for Change, differentiation, ODA, policy coherence, EU delegations, budget support and transparency

Relating to the Agenda for Change (2011)<sup>4</sup>, he specified that the focus of the private sector should not lie on Corporate Social Responsibility but rather on the ownership of local enterprises by local communities because “development is about people and the creation of sustainable jobs, as well as about education and health in order to achieve inclusive growth”. Referring back to the SD process, he mentioned that it has been a positive process that brought down barriers. On behalf of CSOs, he wished a joint agenda setting in the future Policy Forum as an expression of a true partnership. He also underlined that the Policy Forum should have clear and time-framed objectives (“be results-oriented”), and should not become the only forum for exchange.

As a representative for the **Local Authorities**, Pierre Schapira emphasized that a long-term perspective is needed for the Policy Forum, with decision-making at various levels (including local and sub-regional). He further, underlined LAs’ financial and technical responsibility at the level of the territory, and encouraged the EC to develop a specific Communication for Local Authorities to better spell out this key role.

Finally, in his welcoming words, Angelo Baglio briefly introduced the Agenda of the meeting, and reiterated once more its relevance in relation to the ongoing work in DEVCO. After communicating that the request to have a new Communication on Local Authorities in Development would be honoured in DG DEVCO's 2013 work plan, the Chair also highlighted that the European investment bank (EIB), the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of Regions (CoR) had sent delegates to this 1<sup>st</sup> interim meeting of the Policy Forum on Development.

### Session 1 – Joint DEVCO-EEAS Presentations (morning 10th of May)

Angelo Baglio, chairing the session, gave the floor to Félix Fernandez-Shaw (EEAS), who mentioned the need to ensure coordination at different levels, as well as between the EEAS and DG DEVCO for the EDF programming and analysis of Policy contexts.

In the first presentation on the **New Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) for the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the European Development Fund (EDF)**, Luc Bagur, Head of Unit, General Coordination (DEVCO) emphasized a number of concepts, including the differentiated approach, the adapted architecture of financial instruments and the simplification of the programming exercise. A second presentation by Félix Fernandez-Shaw (EEAS) addressed the **Geographic programming Instructions (2014-2020)**. Emphasis was put on the programming principles (i.e. ownership and alignment; comprehensive and coherence; synchronisation and flexibility; differentiation; coordination; blending for growth and concentration). Franco Conzato from the Quality of Delivery Systems Unit (DEVCO B1) elaborated further on the three-step programming process, from Assessment and Alignment on National Development Plan, to joint programming (or alternatively country or regional strategy paper) and drafting of the multi-annual indicative programme.

The third presentation by Javier Raya from the General Coordination Unit (DEVCO) and Augustin Oyowe from the Civil Society and Local Authorities' Unit (DEVCO D2) covered the **role and scope of the new thematic programmes and instruments. The speakers provided a quick overview of the new programmes under DCI** (including Global Public Goods and Challenges and CSOs and LAs) and instruments (including the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Instrument for Nuclear safety Cooperation and the Instrument for Stability) as well as the conditions and complementarity requirements.

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<sup>4</sup> This development policy proposal published by the European Commission in October 2011 emphasizes the notion of inclusive and sustainable growth for human development, alongside democracy, governance and human rights. Together with the enabling vectors, notably a stronger business environment and deeper regional integration, and the sectors that have a strong multiplier impact on developing countries’ economies and contribute to environmental protection, the Agenda considers social protection, health and education as essential for building the foundations for inclusive growth.

A question and answer session followed the presentations, whereby stakeholders had the opportunity to react to the new programming instructions and both geographic and thematic orientations. Regarding differentiation it was explained that this relates to countries graduating from geographic programme and those still eligible. All countries though will have access to the thematic programmes.

Finally the session concluded with a presentation by Peter Craig McQuaid, Head of Unit International Development Dialogue (DEVCO A4), who spoke about the **OECD DAC peer review**<sup>5</sup>. The recommendations of the Study are in line of reaching more policy coherence for development (PCD) and put emphasis on some principles (e.g. consultation) and thematic actions (e.g. gender mainstreaming). All in all, efforts on Aid Effectiveness are acknowledged and Division of Labour is seen very positively and crucial for aid implementation. Continuous efforts are therefore needed, as could be noted in the case studies of the report (i.e. Chad and Peru) to articulate the added value of EC aid. This recommendation was particularly well received by the audience.

For this session, three PowerPoint presentations are available on CISOCH<sup>6</sup>: [Session 1 - PPT new MFF for DCI and EDF](#); [Session 1 - PPT Civil Society Programming Guidelines](#); Session 1 - PPT Thematic programmes .

### **Session 2 – Preparing the future policy of the EU with regard to support to CSOs in partner countries, EC Communication on CSOs in Development (afternoon 10th of May)**

The session, chaired by Virginia Manzitti, Deputy-Head of Unit, Civil Society and Local Authorities (DEVCO D2), started with the presentation of the preliminary results of the online consultation. This consultation was mainly launched after the SD to open up to new actors and to invite local partners in South/East to express their views on 'sensitive' topics in view of the drafting of the CSO Communication.

The presentation stressed that over 320 contributions were received, mostly from CSOs (more than 90%) and from outside Europe (around 75%). It also underlined how the preliminary results broadly confirm and even take forward the outcomes of the Structured Dialogue, stressing the need for an enabling environment; the contribution CSOs can make to policy making; and the need for a flexible mix of support modalities. It was also mentioned that the consultation has generated a wealth of concrete examples and good practices as well as views and ideas on 'emerging' issues; to be used by the EC in the forthcoming Communication, as well as other relevant policy and operational documents.

The presentation of the preliminary results of the consultation was followed by the intervention of four panellists, who were invited to comment on the issues of Enabling Environment; Participation in public policy and Domestic Accountability; Capacity development and Internal Governance. The session also included time for questions and answers.

The first discussant, Katsuji Imata, Acting Secretary-General at **CIVICUS**, shared some food for thought on an **Enabling Environment (EE) for CSOs, by referring to the 2011 CIVICUS State of CS report**<sup>7</sup>. The report provides reference material on the health and state of civil society globally. Amongst other things, it documents and provides creative analysis of the growing pattern of attacks on civil society organisations, and the variety of tactics used to limit freedom of assembly and association. The speaker also referred to the EE measurement work CIVICUS is currently engaged in (i.e. preparation of a global EE index); and concluded his intervention by stressing the correlation that exists between indicators on EE, democratic ownership and development results.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3746,en\\_2649\\_34603\\_50149170\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3746,en_2649_34603_50149170_1_1_1_1,00.html)

<sup>6</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy\\_forum\\_on\\_development](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.civicus.org>

The second discussant, Jan Dereymaeker on behalf of the **International Trade Unions Confederations (ITUC)** addressed the topic of **Participation in public policy and in Domestic Accountability**. The presentation particularly emphasized the lessons learnt from social dialogue processes; including: the required conditions for dialogue (i.e. freedom of association; enforcement of ILO conventions; existing policy frameworks; policy coherence for development; etc.); the issue of ownership and its multi-stakeholder and rights-based nature; the need for a monitoring framework; the question of capacities and the linkages from the local to the global level and issues of capacity, amongst others.

The third discussant, Assel Tastanova, on behalf of the **International Federation of the Red Cross of Kazakhstan**, focused on successful Capacity development models. Main ideas included: the need for good strategies and strong leaders; the need for sound partnerships and the *sine-qua-non* condition of a certain level of capacities to start, at all levels (from the individuals to the organisations and the systems). The issue of resources was also stressed, as capacity development requires financial support. As a good practice, she cited the peer coaching approach and assistance by consultants.

Finally, Amy Bartlett (Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness) gave an introduction to the **Open Forum**<sup>8</sup>. Due to time constraints, she limited her intervention to the announcement that an Open Wiki would be launched shortly where tools can be added to showcase best practices.

After the break, Alessandro Bellantoni, Policy Analyst for Public Governance and Territorial Development (**OECD**) offered a short presentation on the role of Civil Society Organisations in **social service delivery and in promoting sustainable growth**.

The speaker stressed how the work on Citizens' engagement started in response to a growing demand from member countries for more inclusive policy making, considering the limitations of both the monopolistic State and private sector models for service delivery. Certainly, recent years have seen an increasing interest in different collaborative arrangements for service delivery, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, building on the conviction that development challenges require the effective and collective engagement of multiple actors. Two specific OECD projects are underway: a first one on governance issues ('open government partnership') and a second one on service delivery co-produced by citizens (the so called co-production schemes<sup>9</sup>). In connection to the key success co-production actors, the speaker highlighted tailored processes adapted to the context and culture; strong leadership; adapted partnerships and learning mechanisms and adequate resources. Finally, the speaker also referred to the work on public innovation done by OECD<sup>10</sup>.

In the following session, participants were divided into two groups to discuss around the opportunities and challenges in the area of service delivery and sustainable growth, with a view to shape EU support to CSOs in line with the broader EU policy framework as outlined in the Agenda for Change. Though time for discussion was limited, a number of conclusions were reached:

#### **Conclusions from the working group on social service delivery:**

Participants agreed that social services such as education, health and water are public goods and ultimate responsibility is with the state (including LAs). CSOs can play a role in service delivery when the state is absent or unable or can also play an important role in monitoring, social accountability and informing policy. While it was also highlighted that contexts differ and may require different approaches, citizens should be at the center, the objective being to effectively meet their basic needs and the role of EU CSOs could be to support South-South cooperation, experience sharing, knowledge management, etc. Key ingredients for partnerships include: ability and willingness of all

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/-home,091-.html?lang=en>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/24/14/46119235.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/57/0,3746,en\\_2649\\_37405\\_49086969\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/57/0,3746,en_2649_37405_49086969_1_1_1_1,00.html)

actors, transparency and accountability. There was a strong feeling that it is important to be honest about what works and what doesn't and to avoid talking about service delivery and advocacy as 'either...or'.

### **Conclusions from the working group on CSOs and sustainable growth:**

It was clearly stated that entrepreneurship requires ownership at local level (communities to be involved in environmental questions, work conditions, infrastructure) and that local economic development requires work at different levels (from macro to micro) and by different actors. The role of International CSOs can be to (i) advocate for PCD and challenge unfair international market practices ; (ii) enhance entrepreneurial skills through N/S exchanges with local CSOs and - e.g. with Diaspora (iii) advocate for EU market access for products from developing countries. In this process, LAs can be supportive, e.g. by providing facilities for incubators and other infrastructure (water, roads). The EU (including the EIB) can (i) provide financial instruments; (ii) encourage local procurement (iii) ensure EU market access for producers from developing countries.

For this session five PowerPoint presentations are available on CISOCH<sup>11</sup>: [Session 2 - PPT restitution-consultation-final](#) ; [Session 2 - PPT Learning lessons from social dialogue practices](#) ; [Session 2 - PPT Assel-CSO capacity development](#) ; [Session 2 - PPT CSO accountability\\_ABartlett](#) ; [Session 2 - PPT OECD - Co-production](#)

### **Session 3 - Aid and Development effectiveness**

The session was moderated by Vincent Grimaud, Head of Unit, Aid and Development Effectiveness and Financing (DEVCO A3) and its purpose was to present and exchange views on the **Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation and global monitoring framework** which were negotiated at the same time by the Post-Busan Interim Group.

In his opening remarks Vincent Grimaud provided an analysis on the **main Busan outcomes** including increased inclusiveness, endorsement of new global governance structure, focused and deepened aid effectiveness commitments and the conceptual shift from aid effectiveness to aid and development effectiveness. Jean-Pierre Elong-Mbassi, on behalf of the **United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)**, in turn, emphasised the importance of Busan outcome document recognising the role of local governments and authorities in aid and development effectiveness agenda as they are in the best position to bring shared Busan principles close to the public service delivery.

In his presentation on the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation Vincent Grimaud focused on the proposed functions and structure of the Global Partnership as well as the steps towards the final endorsement of its mandate by the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness by the end of June. In his presentation Luca de Fraia from **ActionAid** emphasised the changed aid landscape and global structures, including the one consisting of civil society organisations. He pointed out that aid effectiveness agenda has been perceived too technical and the focus should be to maintain political engagement in this agenda. Civil Society Organisations' proposals on the governance structure of the Global Partnership include increasing the inclusiveness of the Steering Committee,

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<sup>11</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy\\_forum\\_on\\_development](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development)

organising the Steering Committee meetings at least twice a year and providing a technical level platform/working groups for exchange of information and experiences.

In the session on Busan monitoring, Kristiina Kuvaja (DEVCO A3) presented some of the **key elements of the proposal under negotiations with the Post-Busan Interim Group**: monitoring approach will rely on country level accountability frameworks as well as existing global datasets. The key challenge is to provide simultaneously comparability at the global level and flexibility at the country level. While participation in monitoring is voluntary, the involvement of all stakeholders, including South-South providers, is encouraged. Gideon Rabinowitz, representing the **UK Aid Network**, in turn, presented a study conducted on the importance of the country level accountability frameworks. The results of the study highlighted the importance of strong global monitoring framework to strengthen mutual accountability frameworks at the country level. While mutual accountability frameworks are crucial to pursue donors' behaviour change, further work is needed to strengthen and establish them.

Specific Busan indicators were still under negotiation by the Post-Busan Interim Group during the Policy Forum and short working group session was organised to discuss potential indicators addressing inclusive ownership and partnership, results, capacity development/use of country systems and accountability. Issues related to country level monitoring were also discussed.

At the end of the aid and development effectiveness session Timo Wilkki (DEVCO A3) gave a short update on **EU Transparency Guarantee** and Alex Gerbrandij (EEAS VI.B 2) on **EU Joint Programming**. Both EU Transparency Guarantee and Joint Programming were EU deliverables in Busan.

For this session, five PowerPoint presentations are available on CISOCH<sup>12</sup>: [Session 3 - PPT Intro to Main Busan Outcomes VG](#) ; [Session 3 - Presentation on Global Partnership VG](#) ; [Session 3 - Presentation on Monitoring after Busan KKK](#) ; [Session 3 - Presentation on EU Joint Programming](#) ; [Session 3 - Presentation on EU Transparency Guarantee TW](#) .

#### **Session 4 – Towards setting-up the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) (afternoon 11th of May)**

Angelo Baglio started this session by reiterating the importance that the EC attaches to the future Policy forum on development. In his opening words, the chair briefly referred to the discussions that took place during the first follow-up meeting of the SD (November 2011), and the conclusions reached around 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 fostering 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) on EU main policies and initiatives and; (iii) on more global policy issues linked to the EC and the international development agenda. Also a brief presentation of DEVCO work-plan was offered, duly highlighting potential roles for the PFD.

Gustavo Hernandez (**ALOP**) then took the floor to present the **Cebu Consensus**<sup>13</sup>, an important milestone in the process of setting-up a Global Partnership of CSOs. The speaker stressed the

<sup>12</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy\\_forum\\_on\\_development](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development)

<sup>13</sup> On the 21-23 February 2012, CSOs from the global facilitation groups of BetterAid and Open Forum met in Cebu, Philippines, for the Post-Busan Global CSO meeting. Following the historic participation of civil society at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid effectiveness, the purpose of the meeting was to define CSO strategies and tasks to make the most of the gains and address the hurdles of the new Busan Partnership. The outcome Cebu Consensus is a first step towards defining the priorities of the global CSO community post Busan. It includes CSO development effectiveness among the agreed key work areas and privileges a 'country-heavy global-light'

principles of political will, ownership and consensus and briefly referred to the current work done by the so-called “G13”; a taskforce working on the set-up of the new structure merging Open Forum/Better Aid. Some of the relevant areas of work in the setup of this global partnership include: the challenge to work out links between the local-national and global level (i.e. so as to ensure a global level dynamism which is not too reductionist, only focusing on High Level Fora) and the questions of inclusivity (i.e. participation of all sectors and groups and maybe also of other relevant actors, such as the private sector, academia, youth organizations which have not been on board from the beginning; etc)

After Gustavo Hernandez’s intervention, Salima Chitalia (DEVCO.D2) took the floor to present the outcomes of the consultation process launched by the EC to shape the PFD. The presentation, which was structured around the three key building blocks (goals and objectives; working modalities and membership criteria), highlighted the areas of consensus (on the basis of the comments sent by stakeholders to the working document circulated by the EC) as well as the questions requiring further debate.

In connection to the **scope of the PFD** (goals and objectives), the debate focused on whether the PFD should include the follow-up of the SD recommendations and/or technical issues, or not. (e.g. funding modalities of the SD). Some stakeholders reacted that it would be good to also debate Policy Coherence and that dialogue with EU institutions should therefore go beyond the EC and EEAS. This focus would avoid a sector and thematic angle. Also themes around inclusive growth and the human rights based approach would be appreciated (as both have been committed to by the EU, namely in Agenda4Change and in Busan). Issues of complementarity with other existing fora and potential risk of duplication were addressed. Some comments were also made on the format, which should allow true exchanges and not a series of information-sharing presentations (e.g. the information session on programming guidelines could have been more consultative, and is a potential topic for the future, alongside political discussions).

On **working modalities**, emphasis was put on the size of the group, as well as on the question of financial support. It was clarified that the EC would take on the duty of organizing the PFD (i.e. logistics and infrastructure) and providing for travel arrangements. Contracting of experts could also be envisaged. In their reactions, stakeholders strongly underlined the issue of financial support as it determines the opportunity to dialogue. In general funding should be made available at country level (e.g. EUDs should receive an envelope to facilitate meetings), whilst the regional level should also be looked at.

Finally, **with regards to membership**: considering the inherent complexities of CS structuring, while at the same time recognising the dynamics of the actors (their representational organisation at different level), the EC requested written inputs and suggestions from participants on the criteria and principles to apply. The discussion also highlighted issues that would need to be taken into consideration while setting up the PF, including (i) the place of EU CSOs - close to and familiar with their own institutions; (ii) the value of individual expertise; (iii) regional criteria being equally important as actor-based and thematic criteria (e.g. women’s rights) and; (iv) legitimacy not coming from a constituency alone. It was also agreed that the continuation of the interim phase implied the continuation of the SD participants and that, in the structuring of the Policy Forum, room for experimenting should be foreseen and that procedures and participants could be subject to change after some meetings.

For this session, two PowerPoint presentations are available on CISOCH<sup>14</sup>: [Session 4 - DEVCO Areas of Interest PF](#) ; [Session 4 - Restitution working document PF](#) .

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approach. Implementation of the International Framework and the Istanbul Principles therein remains a priority and enabling environment becomes a cross-cutting theme to underpin all CSO work in development. More info on: <http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/global-cso-meeting-post-busan-the,615.html?lang=en>

## Conclusions

Virginia Manzitti made the **concluding remarks** of the first interim meeting of the Policy Forum on Development with a request to the stakeholders to act as disseminators and distribute the information received as much as possible amongst their constituencies and homologues. She also confirmed that the outcomes of the two working groups (on social service delivery and sustainable growth) would be used to feed the ongoing CSO communication drafting. In connection to the online consultation, she reiterated once more its positive effects in triggering discussions and reflections at the level of the EU Delegations beyond the usual scope of action of the EU.

Finally, the European Economic Social Committee reconfirmed its interest in the Policy Forum on Development and announced the "**Assises of Decentralised Cooperation in Development**" in 2013, after a successful 2<sup>nd</sup> edition<sup>15</sup> last year, in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy\\_forum\\_on\\_development](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development)

<sup>15</sup> <http://lra4dev.cor.europa.eu/portal/fr/Pages/AssisesonDecentralisedCooperation2011.aspx>