CONCEPT NOTE
CONSULTATIONS OF CSOs/ALAs ON THE EU REGIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (2021-2027)

Context

In continuation of its commitment to organize regular exchanges with development partners and recognising the importance of partnership in successfully reaching our development objectives, INTPA, in the framework of the Policy Forum on Development, is hosting an eight consultative discussion with civil society organisations (CSOs) and associations of local authorities (ALAs). Previous information and consultation sessions were organised in March 2021, December 2021, June 2022, April, July 2023, January 2024 and November 2024 to present the SSA regional programming exercise, its mid-term review and AAPs 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. This discussion will continue the dialogue and update partners on programming implementation.

This meeting has the following objectives:

1. Provide an update on the implementation of the regional multi-annual programming for SSA and share feedback on the contributions received from the previous meetings.
2. Hear the views of CSOs and ALAs on the Annual Action Plan 2026 (currently under preparation) and priorities for 2027 and beyond.

Participants: Representatives of CSO and ALA global and regional networks and platforms present in Europe and Africa.

Methodology

This 3-hour online moderated discussion will provide feedback on the input already gathered for the MIP and share the state of play of the AAP 2026 and indications for 2027, the last year of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

During the plenary session DG INTPA will present how the programming process evolved since the last meeting and give feedback to the participants on how the EC took forward

some of the recommendations shared during the last consultation. It will also be the opportunity to present the main outlines of SSA regional AAP 2026 (currently under preparation at INTPA level). DG INTPA will also provide an update on its Global Gateway strategy implementation in Africa. This presentation will be followed by a Q&A session, where participants are requested to look ahead beyond the current regional programme.

The plenary session will be followed by discussions in sub-groups (to be selected by participants at registration), which will cover the initiatives that are being presented in the AAP 2026. In each subgroup, it will be possible to discuss the implementation of regional Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) in relation to the topics of the group. They are the following:

1. Human development (including health, gender, culture, youth, and skills)
2. Democracy, governance, peace and security, migration and forced displacement (including civil society support, illicit financial flows, transnational crime, support to the African Union and Regional Economic Communities, etc.)
3. Green transition (including climate change, energy, agri-food, pastoralism, and ocean protection)
4. Sustainable growth and decent jobs, digital, science, technology and innovation - STI (including trade, circular economy, and product safety)

The following guiding questions on the role of CSOs/ALAs on the ground will be addressed in each group:

- What are the CSOs/ALAs views on the relevance of the regional action plan for 2026 considering the priorities of the regional multiannual indicative programme?
- What lessons can be learned from the formulation and implementation of the SSA regional MIP 2021-2027?

The plenary session will be in EN and FR with simultaneous interpretation available. For thematic groups, the moderators will be comfortable with both languages. For the wrap-up session and the conclusion, participants will meet again in a final plenary session setting. A rapporteur from each sub-group will share the main outcomes in plenary.

Agenda

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Presentations (feedback from the last consultation + AAP 2026); Global Gateway; Q&A
- Group discussions
- Report back to plenary (timing and style to be reviewed as it depends on number of groups)
- Wrap up and conclusions