



**NEWSLETTER 4
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Perspectives: Why is the PFD important?

Hear the views of PFD members



Ms Lotte Knudsen, Director of Human Development and Migration, DEVCO

The multi-stakeholder dimension of the PFD is a unique space where CSOs (including the NGOs, trade unions, cooperatives and foundations), local authorities and the private sector work together with the EU institutions and bodies around a common agenda. Indeed, the PFD has a vital role to play in joining the EU/European Commission in shaping our new development agenda, contributing to the future of the EU's partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (Post-Cotonou negotiations) and in our reflection of the 2030 Agenda. The adoption of "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" is a major step towards eradicating poverty and ensuring that the most vulnerable live in dignity. I am proud to say that the EU, collectively, has played a significant role in shaping it. With the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the momentum towards a successful conclusion to the climate change discussions in Paris later this year, I am convinced that we will reach our common objective. This is where our continued dialogue with civil society and local authorities in every part of the world will take a significant importance and where the PFD has a clear added value. We must look back and be proud of what it has achieved to date and join forces on the tasks that lie ahead. I very much look forward to welcoming the Global PFD for its annual meeting in Brussels in March 2016.



Ms Tetet Nera-Lauron, Asia Pacific Resource Network

Civil society participation in national, regional and global development discussions remains severely limited. In most cases, CSOs are granted consultative status only; in others, CSO participation has yet to translate into meaningful joint decision-making. The political landscape remains uncertain in many fragile settings, making it challenging for CSOs to advocate for effective development cooperation, particularly when it comes to protecting human rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability. The Policy Forum on Development's added value is in its inclusive nature and unique governance model, which brings a diverse group of development actors together as equals, to discuss and learn from each other. The Policy Forum on Development, in only two years of existence, has strived to make this goal for inclusive partnerships, which is key to realizing inclusive development, into a reality. The period ahead presents a number of challenges and opportunities to realize the potential of the PFD - to make it an even more effective space not just for policy dialogue, but as a vehicle for influencing policies that uphold human rights, democratic ownership, transparency and accountability – in order to positively and sustainably impact on the lives of people and planet.



Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance-Africa

Before the PFD platform was launched in 2013 with its precursor structured dialogue forums, few people, including some African Co-operators and other members of the CSO family, regarded Co-operatives as being active members of the civil society movement as such. Additionally, private sector actors hardly understood or welcomed co-operative enterprises in their league. Thanks to the PFD platform, the attitude is now changing, and both insiders and outsiders of the Co-operative movement in Africa and across the globe now appreciate the double nature of co-operatives and are embracing it. However, this recognition is only the starting point. The African Co-operatives family needs to take its rightful place from local level platforms up to global levels in all socio-economic forums. This can only be achieved through continued interactions such as the one provided by the PFD, other capacity building mechanisms and exposure. As the Co-operative movement in Africa, we sincerely thank the European Commission / Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development for facilitating the exchanges and supporting the PFD. The time spent attending the meetings and workshops were not in vain and have resulted in many contacts which have been beneficial to the African Co-operative movement.

PFD update: The Asia Pacific regional PFD meeting – June 2015

The second regional meeting of the PFD took place in Bangkok during the last week of June. This regional meeting provided an opportunity for follow-up to the first multi-stakeholder meeting of the PFD, which was held in the Asia and Pacific region in 2013 in Bali. More than 60 representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) and associations of Local Authorities (LAs) from the Asia and Pacific region, the private sector, regional institutions and representatives from the European Commission, the European Union (EU) Delegation to Thailand and EU Member States met during the 24th-25th of June. The participants had the opportunity to discuss key issues of global importance, such as: the EU's policies and programmes concerning CSOs and LAs; the Post 2015 Development Agenda; and climate change, as well as the EU's regional programmes. The discussions held during the meeting reflected high commitment and energy from the different regional actors in shaping the Post 2015 agenda. The meeting also gave the opportunity to CSOs and LAs to build joint messages on common challenges to be reiterated in different global events taking place this year and next. For the complete messages and more details, please read [the full meeting report](#)¹.



Key messages (summarized):

1. Ensure mutual accountability in a Post 2015 framework	6. Build capacity in countries (including in government administrations) to support development policies and proper data collection
2. Urge private sector compliance with tax obligations and contributions to decent working conditions	7. Ensure that the EU's Aid for Trade policy strategy is coherent with international Human Rights standards
3. Encourage the replication of laws and regulations that promote sustainable development	8. Encourage the autonomy of governments to maintain policy space to promote pro-development laws
4. Pursue the harmonisation of donors' practices and monitoring mechanisms	9. Ensure gender equality and protection against gender-based violence in all policy and programming
5. Protect the institutionalized space for CSOs and support CSO activity at different levels	10. Consider thematic meetings of the PFD as a way to further the important work taking place via this forum

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PFD Highlight: Voices from the Asia-Pacific Region

The PFD meeting in Bangkok was a unique opportunity for the actors of the region to express their views on the challenges and opportunities of the Post 2015 Agenda in front of all the PFD representatives. In the regional panel, speakers focused on the importance of: a unified position of civil society in the region in reaction to the Zero Draft; states' accountability; country ownership; the role of financing for development including private finance; and the need for a human rights based approach to development. They also took the opportunity to bring back the theme of "Development Justice²" and to raise it as the motto of the meeting. The regional actors, grouped in sub-regions (South Asia and South-East Asia), worked also on concrete proposals responding to: how CSOs and LAs can work together; what the EU can do to support them in the region; and how the PFD can champion their work. Among the proposals, the regions suggested several concrete actions, such as: the creation of a common platform for CSOs and LAs, the design of dedicated campaigns so the government can support LAs and CSOs working together; joint capacity-building activities; collaborative projects; and information sharing systems. The region was viewed by international participants as an example to emulate in the preparation of inputs into the Post 2015 Agenda. For more details, please read [the full meeting report](#).



1 <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/document/meeting-report-2nd-regional-meeting>

2 **Development Justice** is a concept defined around 5 key pillars: i) Redistributive justice aiming at redistributing resources, wealth, power and opportunities to all human beings equitably; ii) Economic justice aiming at developing economies that enable dignified lives, accommodate for needs and facilitate capabilities, employment and livelihoods available to all; iii) Gender and social justice, aiming at eliminating all forms of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion that pervade our communities; iv) Environmental justice for collective, harmonious development and ending harmful extraction of all forms; and v) Accountability to peoples, requiring participatory, democratic governance

EU Updates

Ongoing public consultation on the future of the EU's partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

The current EU-ACP Partnership Agreement signed on 23 June 2000 in Cotonou (Benin) and concluded for a 20 years period, will expire in 2020. The Cotonou Agreement has framed the EU's relations with 78 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and was revised in 2005 and 2010, in accordance with its provisions. It includes a political dimension, an economic cooperation and trade dimension, as well as development cooperation, which is, in turn, linked to a financial instrument called the European Development Fund. On 6 October 2015, The European Commission and the European Union External Action Service launched a **Joint Consultation Paper on the future ACP Agreement**³ and a broad public consultation on the key questions pertaining to the partnership. Different stakeholders and interested parties should be consulted on more than 40 questions, going far beyond development cooperation and trade issues. Questions like sustainable and inclusive growth, migration, political cooperation and many others are on the agenda for consultation and reflection. PFD Stakeholders are encouraged to broadly share and contribute to this consultation, which will run until 31 December 2015, via:

- Link to **public consultation**⁴
- Full information including the **present Cotonou agreement**⁵

Agenda 2030

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Summit in September is a major achievement. Together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda agreed earlier this year, the 2030 Agenda showed that the international community has agreed on a new approach. Both agendas include: the three dimensions of sustainable development, a focus on poverty eradication, as well as issues related to human rights, gender equality and good governance. Effective implementation will not happen automatically and all countries and other stakeholders need to play their part in the implementation of the new Agenda. The EU and its Member States are committed to playing their full part, both through internal and external policies and actions. In the Commission, internal work is on-going to consider the best response. With the adoption of the Commission Work Programme for 2016 on 27 October, the College has already agreed an initiative on sustainability that will take into account the review of Europe 2020 and the internal and external implementation of the SDGs. While no final decision has yet been taken on concrete modalities, it is likely that the process will involve a broad public consultation, as well as specific dialogues with key stakeholders, including the Policy Forum for Development. A decision will be taken soon on whether to prepare a complementary initiative for development and international cooperation.

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet

"I am pleased to see that the Tunisia's National Dialogue Quartet has been awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize," said Neven Mimica, International Cooperation and Development EU Commissioner (read more on Commissioner Mimica's blog post⁶). The EU's external aid instruments, including, amongst others, the thematic line for Civil Society Organisations, have provided €25 million to over 50 civil society initiatives in Tunisia since 2009. During the same period, the EU also supported the members of the Quartet. Initiatives range from support to social dialogue in the areas of growth and employment to observation of the electoral process, which have largely contributed to keeping Tunisia's transition to democracy on track.

3 <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/document/joint-consultation-paper-post-cotonou>

4 https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EU_ACP_New_partnership_public_consultation

5 http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/public-consultation-eu-acp-new-partnership_en

6 http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/mimica/blog/nobel-peace-prize-awarded-tunisian-national-dialogue-quartet_en



UPCOMING EVENTS:

The next Global PFD Meeting in Brussels, 14-16 March 2016

Civil Society Forum in Brussels, 17th and 18th March 2016

News from Members

- 
"Joint Global Taskforce declaration at UN Summit warns Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development will fail without local governments"⁷ by UCLG, September 2015
- 
CDPE marks the 5th year anniversary of the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness⁸. Recalling the Istanbul Principles, CPDE reaffirms that CSOs are key actors of Development, by CPDE, October 2015
- 
TUDCN at the 3rd Conference on Financing for Development⁹, Addis Ababa, by ITUC-CSI, 13-16 July 2015
- 
Trade Union reaction to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁰, by ITUC-CSI, September 2015
- 
"Building Inclusive Enterprises in Africa - Cooperative Case Studies"¹¹. The document showcases 21 best practices from diverse African cooperatives and their impact on the development of this continent, by CEDP, July 2015
- 
"Building People-Centered Enterprises in Latin America"¹². The document showcases 20 cooperative best practices in the region, by CEDP, September 2015

Where to get more information



For more information, contact:

European Commission, EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General, Unit DEVCO B2 - CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

E-mail: europaaid-b2@ec.europa.eu

or visit: <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/dashboard>

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

⁷ <http://www.uclg.org/en/node/24614>

⁸ <http://www.csopartnership.org/news/cpde-marks-first-five-years-of-istanbul-principles-continues-advocacy-for-cso-effectiveness-despite-shrinking-civic-spaces-globally>

⁹ <http://www.ituc-csi.org/tudcn-ffd3-outcome>

¹⁰ <http://www.ituc-csi.org/2030Agenda>

¹¹ <https://coopseurope.coop/development/whats-new/notifications/building-inclusive-enterprises-africa>

¹² <https://coopseurope.coop/development/whats-new/notifications/building-people-centred-enterprises-latin-america-second-report-cooperatives>