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## **Perspectives:**

# **The national implementation of the Agenda 2030, what is the role of the PFD?**

*Hear the views of PFD members*



*Michel Laloge, Head of Sector, Local Authorities, Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit, Directorate General International Cooperation and Development, European Commission*

*Its multi-stakeholder nature and the combination of experience, expertise and commitment of its members makes our forum a unique platform, well placed in the international scene for open discussions on development matters in general and the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in particular. Over the past months, the PFD has been actively engaged in debating the agenda's implementation, not only through its global and regional meetings, but equally important, through national research studies that are looking at how various countries are gearing up to the implementation of the SDGs. These studies will highlight good practices as well as deficiencies at local and regional level which the PFD will endeavor to widely disseminate in a collective effort to contribute in the achievement of the SDGs worldwide. Undoubtedly, the nature of the PFD guarantees an open dialogue space for Civil Society Organizations and Local Authorities able to produce statements and recommendations on the implementation of the SDGs. It is here, in my view, where one of the key added values of the forum lies: a well-placed, collective voice, delivering strong messages on global issues or debates related to Sustainable Development. It is up to the PFD and its members to stand up to the challenge!*



*Izabella Toth, Senior Corporate Strategist, CORDAID-CONCORD*

*Agenda 2030 has set the scene for the future of international cooperation. Its universality principle is strongly underlining the interconnectivity of the world we live in: we cannot achieve sustainable goals without giving appropriate attention to meaningful achievement of progress on all content, anywhere on the globe. And we cannot do this individually, one actor or another. This is where multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Policy Forum on Development come in. The power of the PFD lies – amongst others – in the power of the collective: civil society, local authorities and institutions, working jointly towards better understanding of each other, of the world around us and our role and value added in collaboration. Implementation of the Agenda 2030 will take place at country level and must follow principles of inclusivity of multiple stakeholders, including civil society as well as local authorities. The PFD can contribute through empowering its members to be prepared in a timely manner to participate in country level processes of that implementation. Be prepared to contribute in the form of co-implementing with national governments, but also through organizing with national stakeholders around national processes in dialogue and consultations with duty bearers, monitoring and accountability actions. The European Commission, as partner and major stakeholder in both the PFD, as well as in the implementation of Agenda 2030, can firmly support local actors in taking up their role in national dynamics. All this in order to support truly inclusive and accountable implementation of national sustainable goals.*



**Edgardo Bilsky, Director of Research, UCLG World Secretariat.**

*The PFD could help catalyse a multi-stakeholder approach and 'localize' the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Building on its experience, the PFD can act in different ways: 1) fuel the dialogue between CSOs and Local Authorities at global, regional and national levels to advocate jointly for a strong involvement of all stakeholders in regional and national implementation strategies of the 2030 Agenda; 2) influence EU policies to strengthen a multi-stakeholder approach and support the 'localization of the SDGs' in Europe and in partner countries; and 3) support the capacity of the PFD members to participate in the follow-up and reporting processes at different levels. For Local Authorities, both dimensions – multi-stakeholder approach and "localization" of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda – are critical to creating effective ownership at the national and local levels. National dialogue and multi-stakeholder platforms can contribute to SDG integration in national development strategies, ensure shared cross-sectoral policies, maximize the contribution and the role of different levels of governance and stakeholders and contribute to identifying and including the most vulnerable. Based on their previous commitments with CSOs and LAs, the EU should support and monitor the empowerment of these stakeholders and promote an enabling institutional environment. The PFD can contribute to fostering and monitoring this process.*



**Cornelius Hacking, Task Team GPEDC.**

*The PFD offers a unique opportunity for promoting both the role as well as the importance of civil society when it comes to the implementation of the Agenda 2030. More than ever, sharing and learning will contribute to the effectiveness of interventions by CSOs, not only at the implementation level of projects, but also at the higher but equally important level of working together on protecting an environment in which they can operate. In order to achieve that I would welcome a stronger participation in the PFD of fellow Member States and have, for example, not only discussions on Joint Programming of our bilateral aid, but also on how to join forces in creating and protecting that enabling environment that is so much needed for CSOs' work, be it in development or in human rights. To achieve that, the setup of the PFD might need to change slightly: away from large panel discussions (however acknowledging the political importance of these) and more towards joint work. This is even more relevant when looking at the importance given in the SDGs to multi-stakeholder partnerships; the PFD seems ideally positioned to work on realizing these partnerships.*

## **PFD update: 4<sup>th</sup> Global PFD meeting**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Global PFD Meeting took place in Brussels on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. This session gave the opportunity to about 160 representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and associations of Local Authorities (LAs), the private sector, regional institutions and representatives from the European Commission and EU Member States to meet and discuss issues of global importance in the context of implementation of the newly agreed development agenda. The meeting programme included a number of key subjects such as: the revision of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA); the upcoming global events of Habitat III and the Second High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC); the enabling environment for a new global Agenda 2030 and the revision of the EU's development policy. During the meeting, participants also had the opportunity to exchange thoughts on the review of the PFD itself, which is currently taking place. The 4<sup>th</sup> Global PFD meeting ended with remarks on the evolution observed of the PFD since its creation but also on its perspectives. The PFD has clearly played an important role in improving interaction amongst the different stakeholders of the Forum and it should expand its engagement towards an even greater level of political dialogue. Other PFD meetings will take place later this year (multi-stakeholder meeting in the Latin American region and a regional meeting in Africa), which will provide additional opportunities for PFD members to meet and discuss. Please read the full [meeting report<sup>1</sup>](#) and watch the [meeting videos<sup>2</sup>](#).



<sup>1</sup> <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/document/4th-global-pfd-meeting-report>

<sup>2</sup> <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/minisite/media/videos/global-pfd-meeting-2016>

## Key Messages of the Meeting

<p>1. 2015 has been an exceptional year in terms of global governance with unprecedented agreements (Agenda 2030, Financing for Development, COP 21). The shared priority of the participants of the PFD is to ensure that the commitments made are put into action at national level.</p> <p>2. The implementation of the SDGs will be a gradual process which will require: coordinating interlinked policies; timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and integrating current challenges, mainly (but not exclusively) related to migration and human security.</p> <p>3. Implementation of the SDGs requires active participation, adequate financing and developed capacity at the local level.</p>	<p>6. The relation and balance between trade and development remains a controversial element mentioned in the different processes that have been discussed during the global PFD (Cotonou, Habitat III, HLM2 and the review of EU Development Policy).</p> <p>7. The quality of both data and monitoring systems are key to proper information and ensuring progress; therefore, the necessary capacity building to integrate adequate data collection and monitoring in the work of all actors is fundamental.</p> <p>8. Beyond the governance architecture and participation of different stakeholders in the dialogue process, it is imperative to find sources of finance that, bearing in mind the magnitude of the challenges, will ensure the implementation of Habitat III and the SDGs. Mobilizing the needed financial resources is an essential prerequisite for the development community</p>
<p>4. A new Cotonou Partnership Agreement needs to focus primarily on content, including agendas, trends and challenges which characterise the world today, such as migration, climate change and the SDGs. Equally, it needs to ensure a wider space for political dialogue with all stakeholders (LAs, CSOs, private sector, etc.), which have an essential role to play in the process.</p> <p>5. While there is still plenty of debate about the future shape of a new EU-ACP partnership, one of the key aspects is whether it is essential that it is a legally binding agreement.</p>	<p>9. Global goals demand improved forms of coordination from all actors involved in international cooperation. These need to take into account the relevant role and contribution of different stakeholders (governments, private sector, CSOs, LAs, trade unions, etc.) and the use of instruments (joint programming, use of country systems, etc.) that are more adequate for the requirements of the implementation of the new global agenda.</p> <p>10. Multi-actor spaces are proving to be a useful tool to find common ground and advance together; building consensus around collective development goals. Good examples of those should be replicated in the PFD and beyond.</p>

## PFD Highlight (1): PFD research, Netherlands country study completed

The PFD began to carry out comparative country-level research on the role of national strategies in promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in late 2015. The first study is now complete and available [here](#)<sup>3</sup>. Research on the Netherlands provides a unique angle as the country is both a donor in the international development community and an implementer of the SDGs in accordance with Agenda 2030. The Netherlands provides examples of strong local cooperation amongst CSOs and LAs, as well as a vibrant and active civil society. The report looks at recent changes in politics and effects on funding, as well as examples of strong multi-stakeholder partnerships that could be continued in the implementation of the SDGs. While the national strategy to implement the SDGs is still being finalised, the report offers insights into what this might look like, and includes perspectives from all stakeholders. Specific recommendations drawn include:

- More explicitly take up a coordinating role for the implementation of the SDGs and continue facilitating and supporting collaborative arrangements among different stakeholders to enable dialogue and exchange on the inclusive implementation of the agenda.
- Broaden the political leadership on the agenda from the minister for foreign trade and development cooperation towards other ministers.
- Use the SDG focal points at the different ministries to inform and involve actors outside the development sector.
- Use the SDG agenda for policy coherence for (sustainable) development. The Netherlands already has a track record in this field, which makes it a credible champion on this topic.
- Combine existing monitors of the Dutch governmental research institutes (PBL, CBS, CPB and SCP) to create a comprehensive monitoring system for the SDGs.

Read more in the [executive summary](#)<sup>4</sup> and the [full report](#)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/blog/pfd-research-netherlands-country-study-completed>

<sup>4</sup> <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/document/pfd-research-national-strategies-supporting-implementation-agenda-2030-netherlands-executive>

<sup>5</sup> <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/document/pfd-research-national-strategies-supporting-implementation-agenda-2030-netherlands-report>

## PFD Highlight (2): Thinking on the private sector positioning in the Policy Forum on Development

by Amath Ba, Conseil National du Patronat (CNP) Sénegal; Catalina Peraffán Londoño, Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia – (ANDI-OIE); A. Wahab Bakar, Malaysian Employers Federation – International Organisation of Employers (MEF-IOE); Rodion Kolyshko, Federation of Employers of Ukraine (FEU)

The 2016 global meeting of the Policy Forum on Development was held from 14 to 16 March 2016 in Brussels. It marked a turning point in the evolution of this space of exchange between the European Union and its partners - representatives of civil society, local authorities and the private sector, as the perception of the private sector within the PFD was the subject to recurrent mention in the areas of:

- Positive role in wealth and job creation,
- Responsibility for environmental degradation and the spread of corruption,
- Impact on the development of cities and the organisation of national communities,
- Contribution to the definition and conduct of public policy, and
- Fostering of human rights and human capital development



On these issues, the private sector was questioned as a leading player of social responsibility, but in a generic way, as if it were unified and indivisible. And yet, depending on whether the topic is about creating jobs and wealth, contributing to the community in terms of good governance and environmental protection or about contributing to financing for development, the private sector should be seen as multi-faceted and inclusive of its various components: handicrafts, small and medium enterprises, large public or private national companies, and multinational corporations, all of which have different means, objectives and strategic interests.

Thus, the speeches where the reference was to the private sector as a whole, often sounded as if they were primarily addressing multinationals. Yet today, there is a real consensus that local development will be ensured by promoting and structuring handicrafts and by strengthening the fabric of SMEs and their competitiveness.

## EU Updates

### Public consultations on the European Consensus on Development and the EU Global Agenda

Public consultation on the European Consensus on Development is underway. This is your opportunity to contribute! The EU and the Member States are determined to implement the 2030 Agenda through internal and external actions. In this context, a renewed EU development policy should take into account changing global conditions and trends, to ensure that development cooperation and other external actions remain fit-for-purpose across the time-horizon to 2030. The EU is committed to playing its full part in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to continuing its longstanding leadership on development issues at global and domestic level. In order to better do so, the fundamental changes in the global framework for sustainable development need to be reflected in the EU development policy, the major orientations of which are set out in the 2005 European Consensus on Development and the 2011 Agenda for Change. The revised Consensus should highlight the links with other areas of EU external action (including foreign and security policy, human rights, trade, research and innovation cooperation, crisis response and humanitarian aid) and the external aspects of relevant EU policies such as environmental policy, enhancing consistency between them.

You can contribute to the revision on the European Consensus on Development in the link below (open until the 21<sup>st</sup> August):  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ConsultationEuropeanConsensusDevelopment>



## Policy Forum on Development



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**PFD Africa Regional Meeting,  
3-4 October 2016, Senegal**

**Habitat III, 17-20 October 2016,  
Ecuador**

**Second High-Level Meeting of the  
Global Partnership:  
28 November-1 December 2016,  
Kenya**

**5<sup>th</sup> Global PFD: 22-23 March  
2017, Brussels**

## News from Members

-  See the RED CROSS recent initiative on migrants: "Rights of Migrants in Action". More information is available on [the project's webpage<sup>6</sup>](#) hosted by the Red Cross EU Office website. By [RED CROSS EU office<sup>7</sup>](#), May 2016.
-  Read the study on local and regional government association in EU partner countries: [Dialogue and capacity building of local and regional authorities in EU partner countries in the fields of development and local governance<sup>8</sup>](#), by [Platforma<sup>9</sup>](#), 2015.
-  Read [here<sup>10</sup>](#) about the informal hearings for Local Governments in the Habitat III process. Follow the actions of the global taskforce of local and regional governments at: [www.gtf2016.org](#). To include a local perspective in the New Urban Agenda and join the campaign on Twitter, please use the hashtag [#Listen2Cities](#) and [#Habitat3](#), by [UCLG<sup>11</sup>](#) and [Platforma](#), May 2016.
-  See the [new resolution<sup>12</sup>](#) on development cooperation adopted by the last [Congress of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas \(CSA\)<sup>13</sup>](#), in São Paulo, by [CSA<sup>14</sup>](#), April 2016.
-  Read the [report<sup>15</sup>](#) on the inaugural Financing for Development ECOSOC Forum and an [opinion piece<sup>16</sup>](#) from Matt Simonds, TUAC/ITUC: "After a year of commitments and agenda-setting, the time in 2016 is for implementation," by [ITUC-CSI<sup>17</sup>](#), April 2016

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6 <http://www.redcross.eu/en/What-we-do/International-Development/Migration-and-Development/Rights-of-Migrants-in-Action/>  
7 <http://www.redcross.eu/en/Home/Welcome/>  
8 <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/document/dialogue-and-capacity-building-local-and-regional-authorities-eu-partner-countries-fields-d>  
9 <http://www.platforma-dev.eu>  
10 <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/blog/local-governments-call-un-listen-cities-habitat-iii-local-authority-hearings>  
11 <https://www.uclg.org>  
12 <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/document/new-resolution-development-cooperation-adopted-last-congress-trade-union-confederation-amer>  
13 <http://www.csa-csi.org/HomelIIICongreso.asp>  
14 <http://www.csa-csi.org>  
15 <http://www.ituc-csi.org/trade-unions-at-the-inaugural>  
16 <http://www.ituc-csi.org/matt-simonds-reports-on-FfD>  
17 <http://www.ituc-csi.org/?lang=en>

## 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:* [europeaid-b2@ec.europa.eu](mailto:europeaid-b2@ec.europa.eu)

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