

Title of session: The EU and Africa: towards a renewed partnership.

Objective(s): To discuss the main elements that will determine the future of the relationship between the EU and Africa, including the revision of the partnership between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states (presently regulated under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) and the review of the European Consensus on Development. Particular attention will be devoted to the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Local As in that renewed partnership, and how can they contribute to improve public policies.

Background:

2016 is an important year for the EU as a global actor. It has presented a Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy and, shortly after, it has initiated a consultation to review the European Consensus on Development. At the same time, it has committed to implement the SDGs both in its internal and external policies. In this regard, the European Commission is currently studying how to integrate the 2030 Agenda in the EU development and international cooperation policy during the next years.

In parallel, the discussions about the future of the ACP/EU partnership are underway. An evaluation of the CPA has been recently released taking stock of the experience so far, highlighting both positive factors and others where improvements need to take place. The CPA has explicitly acknowledged the key role that actors such as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Local authorities (LAs), the Private sector and Parliaments play in the development process. ACP countries and the European Union legally committed themselves to involving CSOs, LAs and the Private sector in all phases of the cooperation process and to providing funds for strengthening them as partners in development cooperation.

This session is very timely to discuss new challenges and opportunities important for PFD stakeholders in the context of a renewed partnership between the EU and Africa like, for example, how/what a new EU development policy should be, how to better integrate the conclusions of the 2030 Agenda in it, and how to improve PFD constituencies' consultation and involvement along these processes.

Methodology: 4 hours session with one panel and one working group (including 30 minute break and 45 minute plenary)

I. Panel (1 hour 30 min)

Moderator and speakers (see agenda)

Coffee break

II. Break out into groups by regions (1 hour 15 min)

The working groups will be divided geographically and they must reflect on the following three questions (methodologies will be provided to both the facilitator and the rapporteur):

1. How should the EU step up its efforts to achieve Policy Coherence for Development (or policy coherence for sustainable development)?
2. How should the EU strengthen its partnerships with civil society and local authorities to support the implementation of Agenda 2030?
3. What means could be used to capture LAs and CSOs opinions and experience when designing new development policies at regional, national or local level?

III. Plenary feedback and discussion (45 min moderated)

The rapporteur returns to form the final plenary panel, reporting on key points raised (five minutes each group; template will be provided to structure presentations) and opening for plenary discussion.

IV. Closing (5 minutes)