



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Intervention by Mr. Andrea Matteo Fontana, Head of Delegation

Panel Discussion: "How does the EU Support international development goals through key policies and actions? A look at key EU policies"

Policy Forum on Development, 03 October 2017, 10:00 -11:00 at Moevenpick Hotel – Dead Sea

"EU Global Strategy and European Consensus on Development: Confronting Global Challenges Together"

First of all, I would like to thank our colleagues for all their fruitful efforts in organizing such an important multi-stakeholder meeting. The Policy Forum on Development is a unique chance to bring all stakeholders together, to discuss cross-cutting issues, and to interact with civil society and local authorities from across the region.

1) EU Global Strategy and support to international development goals

In June 2016, the EU High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini presented a new **Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy**: "Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe". The strategy is the result of an open and transparent process: extensive consultations took place with the EU Member States, the European institutions, and the European civil society at large.

It clearly lays our objectives and interests as well as the principles and values which guide our external actions. And this helps reinforce the level playing field for cooperation with our partners. And indeed, at the recent General Assembly of the United Nations, our HRVP strongly reiterated **the European Union's engagement as a force for positive change, in support of multilateralism and a rules-based global order.**

The EU has the greatest influence when it **stands united** on the global stage. Setting up barriers with the rest of the world is not a solution; instead we create **stable partnerships** – not only with states, but also international actors, civil society, and the private sector. We **need to be steered by a strong sense of responsibility** in order to effectively respond to today's crises. During these challenging times, we have no choice but to come together in order to address global challenges

The EU Global Strategy is a vision that we need to turn into action. The EU will pursue **five priorities** in its External Action:

The Security of our Union

While NATO remains the primary framework for most member states, a more credible European defence is essential for our internal and external security. This includes fighting terrorism, hybrid threats, economic volatility, climate change, and energy insecurity.

State and Societal Resilience

The EU invests in the resilience of states and societies to ensure their recovery from conflict and crises; as well as to increase their resilience to upcoming crises. We support different paths to resilience, for example via the EU Enlargement Policy, the European Neighbourhood Policy and through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syria crisis - The "Madad Trust Fund".

An Integrated Approach to Conflicts and Crises

The EU engages in a practical and principled way in peacebuilding. Human security is at the core of all our actions, and wherever we can, we act early to prevent conflict and save precious human lives. We also stay engaged in the aftermath of conflict to ensure that peace is deeply rooted in society.

Cooperative Regional Orders

Regional governance makes it easier to manage security concerns, reap economic gains, and project influence. This is what underpins the EU's own peace and prosperity. We work with regional organisations around the world because we are stronger when we act together.

Global Governance for the 21st Century

The EU believes in the rule of law, human rights and sustainable development. A strong UN is the foundation of the multilateral order, and the Sustainable Development Goals will drive reform in development policy, as well as give us a common reading grid for progress achieved and

persisting challenges.

The external action of the EU for development is manifold and touches upon many fields from trade to humanitarian assistance. This is why we have developed our own **Policy Coherence for Development**, in order to take account of development objectives in all of its policies that are likely to affect developing countries, create synergies and increase the effectiveness of development cooperation in all external and internal policies. Conversely, the full strength and value of the EU security and defence policy is fulfilled only when they are deployed alongside other external policies – such as: enlargement, development and trade, and policies with external aspects, including on migration, energy, climate, environment, culture and more.

Let me give you an example of these **interlinkages and synergies**. As I mentioned trade, our simplified **Rules of Origin** scheme with Jordan (agreed upon in July 2016 as part of the Jordan Compact), has been designed in a way to also address the refugee crisis, thereby decreasing humanitarian needs and fostering job creation for both Jordanians and for Syrian refugees.

This approach underpins our **European Consensus on Development**, which is a shared vision and framework for action for development cooperation for the European Union and its Member States. It contributes to the objectives and principles of EU external action as laid down in the Lisbon Treaty, and supports the EU Global Strategy. Through the Consensus the EU and its Member States seek to create **partnerships with**

a broader range of stakeholders, including civil society, and partner countries at all stages of development. They will further improve their implementation on the ground by working better together and taking into account their respective comparative advantages.

In terms of areas of action, the Consensus is also fully aligned with the **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals (SDGs)**. In order to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth, the Consensus focuses on

- youth;
- gender equality;
- mobility and migration;
- sustainable energy and climate change;
- investment and trade;
- good governance, democracy, the rule of law and human rights;
- innovative engagement with more advanced developing countries;
and mobilising and using domestic resources.

Our actions are thus supportive to the attainment of the SDGs. Let me give you a few examples from Jordan. On SDG 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy", we have very successfully supported Jordan's efforts to implement its Green Agenda and increase sources of sustainable energy, so that now Jordan is a leader in the region. Likewise we are supporting access to education and vocational training both to Jordanians and Syrian refugees, thereby taking on the challenge of providing quality education for all (on SDG 4 "Quality Education").

2) Fostering Resilience

The overarching priority of the European Consensus on Development is to support resilience with a multi-dimensional approach, as development risks are often interrelated and compounded, creating situations of extreme vulnerability. To prevent fragile situations from turning into new wars, new humanitarian disasters, and new refugee crises: we have worked to strengthen the resilience of states and societies to our East and South, involving not only governments and public authorities, but also civil society organisations and private actors.

The Syria crisis is taking a heavy toll also on the neighbouring countries, and especially Jordan. We continue to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and generosity demonstrated by the government and local residents towards refugees. A dedicated Trust Fund "Madad" was created in December 2014 to address the crisis and its impact. We are working hand-in-hand with the government, local authorities and civil society in providing humanitarian assistance, education, municipal services, water and sanitation, **creating livelihoods and targeting both host communities and Syrian refugees.**

3) Support to CSOs and LAs

A key partner in building up resilience are CSOs as they keep together the social fabric and have the local knowledge of issues faced

by different groups.

We strive to systematically involve civil society in all of our programmes and projects. Our support to civil society is manifold. The funding and capacity building we provide enable non-state actors to implement activities throughout Jordan. With a special **focus on women and youth**, we encourage the development of a lively and engaged civil society, and our funding has opened up a window of opportunity for many non-state actors, and particularly to community-based organisations to partner across governorates, coach each other and deal with the challenges that Jordan faces.

By doing so, we aim to support **a real exchange and dialogue to take place between civil society organisations, think tanks, youth initiatives, local authorities and government representatives.**

This commitment to civil society is for instance reflected in:

- Our newly launched **Programme on Democratic Governance** contains a component on CSOs whose aim is to enhance their capacity to participate in the policy-making process.
- Our recent calls for proposals - one under the **European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)**, with the objective of strengthening the role of Jordanian civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform; and another

under the **Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Instrument**, with the purpose of supporting the role of Jordanian civil society in local economic development, local governance and gender equality. This local outreach has also been a component of our support to the on-going decentralisation process.

Our actions in Jordan and in the region come in line with the EU Global Strategy. We are stronger when we stand together, stronger when we face the challenges ahead of us together with a clear vision, a clear sense of direction. So I would like to invite you to be part of this, to create solutions for a better and safer world. As mentioned earlier, we need to be steered by a strong sense of responsibility in order to effectively respond to the challenges of today's world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to leave the floor now to my colleague Irène Mingasson to speak more about the EU Neighborhood Policy.

It has been a real pleasure to be present here today among my colleagues, local and regional CSOs, trade unions, local authorities and private sector. I wish you a two-day successful and beneficial meeting.