

## I. PFD recommendations and key issues to incorporate in EU programming

### Background

The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) is engaging in a capitalisation process between April-November 2020 with two complementary aims: first, to compile the knowledge and positions from the PFD longstanding dialogue and, second, to make recommendations into the EU programming cycle so as to foster the multi-stakeholder dimension of the EU development policy. Since the cancellation of the PFD global meeting foreseen for March 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis, this is being done via a series of virtual discussions alongside written consultations. The initial PFD written consultation was taken by more than 360 PFD members and member affiliates in April-May 2020, after which two summaries were shared: one on COVID-19 responses of PFD members; and one focusing on SDGs, Enabling Environment (EE) and Multi-stakeholder Partnerships (MSP). Virtual PFD regional meetings took place in July, after which written inputs from PFD networks were received. This note is a **summary to date of the highlights of the written input and those regional meetings related to EU programming**.

The next step in the process is a global virtual discussion to be held on 15 September 2020, for an exchange of views on EU programming with Koen Doens, Director General for International Cooperation and Development.

Following this meeting, additional virtual discussions on specific thematic priorities are foreseen during the period up to November. Written input will continue to be shared and refined as the virtual discussions continue so that, at the end of the process, the consolidated and summarised contribution to programming from PFD members can be distributed amongst all PFD members, including EU institutions.

### Summary points

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed **systemic weaknesses** in our societies and economies all around the world, deepening poverty and inequalities and hampering progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Our health, our economies, and the natural environment are all interlinked. We need a **paradigm shift toward sustainable production and consumption that challenges the current narratives of infinite growth** and that economic growth trumps all else.

With the joint adoption of the 2017 **European Consensus on Development**, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council committed to **mainstreaming the reduction of inequality** in their development cooperation. This should be taken forward in programming and complemented by targeted action to address inequalities. Considering that this programming cycle coincides with the launching of Covid-19 stimulus & recovery packages, it is crucial that **traditionally side-lined stakeholders** such as cooperatives, trade unions, inclusive businesses, SMEs and smallholder farmers **become fully engaged in building back better**. The **European Green Deal** can offer a framework for the EU to draw up the NDICI priorities in a way that helps tackle social inequalities, the climate and environmental breakdown, and the need to improve long-term resilience.

The **disappearance of the budgetary line for local authorities** (LAs) is of great concern precisely in a moment in which the Covid-19 has shown the importance of local and regional governments (LRGs) in providing key services such as health and education to citizens worldwide. It is imperative that the EU continue **supporting decentralised cooperation**. This includes **building the capacity of LRGs to deliver** what they were elected for, as well as promoting the engagement of LRGs and their national associations in a **regular dialogue with the EU Delegations** in country and national governments.

Similarly, the increase in geographic funding, despite its worthy purpose of bringing decision-making the closest possible to final recipients, comes at the expense of well-established thematic programs that ensure a global outlook. Decreasing this form of support could prove detrimental, especially when the EU remains one of the last global actors committed to multilateralism.

In the current context, it is crucial for the EU Development Policy to **further and deepen the engagement of key development actors** in the design, implementation and follow-up of its support to partner countries, while promoting policy and regulatory frameworks that recognize the needs and specificities of the great diversity of actors within development and cooperation. This will require specifically:

- **Institutionalising inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue** at all levels, both using existing EU mechanisms –such as the EU Delegations 'Roadmaps for Civil Society and the EU Policy Forum on Development– and exploring ways of reinforcing a multi-stakeholder dimension into DEVCO's means of implementation.
- Addressing **the issue of shrinking civic space** for civil society in a holistic and comprehensive manner, given that this is now a worldwide trend and limits the effective involvement of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- **Simplifying the design and delivery of EU external assistance** by lifting administrative and financial barriers for CSOs that cannot carry high risks and costs related to programming.
- Increasing **accountability and transparency mechanisms for private sector engagement** in development cooperation in the NDICI framework.
- Supporting **Just Transition** processes in the design of recovery plans in the wake of Covid-19.

## Overarching themes

### 1. Gender Equality

Ensure that women's rights and gender equality are integrated in all aspects of the new programming, both through the mainstreaming of gender equality in all programs and through the design and implementation of dedicated programs.

### 2. Policy coherence

Ensure **policy coherence** regarding EU commitments to the SDGs and its Trade for All Policy's commitments to fair and ethical trade. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should remain the overall framework for international cooperation.

### 3. Transparency of EU funding and anti-corruption

Attention should be given to identifying, exposing and disrupting the mechanisms, key transnational processes and networks that enable illicit financial flows, while ensuring that the perspective of developing countries is reflected into international discussions to find solutions to these problems.

### 4. Citizen Engagement

The modalities and topics addressed by development education initiatives must be built on and respond to the concrete context of a community's values and needs. Greater public awareness is needed for a better understanding of development goals, but, perhaps more urgently, active democratic participation and impetus to participate in decision-making processes.

## II. Recommendations emerging within specific EU Priorities

### 1. Green Deals

1. Ensure **policy coherence of the European Green Deal** in line with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Programming should seek to maximise the coherence between EU geographic and thematic priorities.
2. **Commitment to human rights<sup>1</sup> and just transition includes contributing to human development and social inclusion.** The NDICI must not support any environmentally and socially harmful activities such as fossil fuel production, overfishing and unsustainable animal farming, industrial agribusiness, or commodity production and imports which cause deforestation, biodiversity loss, or land and water grabs.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Development programmes and projects should ensure full respect of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).

<sup>2</sup> To fulfil the "do-no harm" principle enshrined in the EGD, the programming instructions should include clear guidance on how to conduct environmental and climate screenings (encompassing mitigation and adaptation) and a rights-based assessment for any programmes financed under NDICI.

3. **Ensure inclusiveness of indigenous communities.** This can only be achieved by recognizing the important role of Indigenous People and local communities (IPLCs) as nature custodians in safeguarding most of the planet's remaining biocultural diversity.<sup>3</sup>
4. **Recognise local and regional governments as a partner in delivering the transition** and equip them with sound financial resources and capacity to achieve the Green Deal's ambitions.
5. **Regular dialogue and meaningful consultations with Civil Society** throughout the programming process - and beyond - should be ensured.
6. **Women have a crucial role to play**, as they bear knowledge and expertise to build resilient and affordable solutions e.g. in the fields of energy or agroecology, that benefit them and their communities.

## 0.1. Climate change<sup>4</sup>

In order to meet its commitment and support partners in delivering on their commitments, the EU should:

1. **Take a leading role.** This means being ambitious, meeting GHG emissions reduction targets or going beyond those targets; driving the process and strengthening multilateralism.
2. Strengthen **adaptation and resilience to climate change impacts**
3. Better integrate **climate mainstreaming** across all sectors through the geographic programmes. **Climate action across sectors** means identifying more programmes and projects where climate and environment can act as a 'principal' or 'significant' objective (using the Rio Markers) and through stronger alignment of programmes with strategic climate objectives (decarbonisation and adaptation); and more thorough use of **climate-proofing principles and tools**. Delivering on climate also needs to **contribute to human development and social inclusion**, to improve health, particularly nutrition and the right to food, and public education outcomes
4. **All programmes and projects need to be 'climate-proof'**: compatible with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C and to protect and restore ecosystems; support adaptation and are climate-resilient. Programming instructions must include an obligation to check project and programming compatibility with international human rights standards, social safeguards, and criteria excluding fossil fuels and environmentally harmful activities in line with the forthcoming NDICI regulation.

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<sup>3</sup> An estimated 65% of the world is under some form of community governance and/or management (RRI, 2015); some estimate this coincides with areas holding 80% of the planet's biodiversity. However, IPLCs hold effective legal rights to only a fraction of the lands and territories they have used and conserved for generations. The Climate, Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA) showed in its 2018 report, "Missing Pathways to 1.5°C", the key role that local communities and indigenous people play in ecosystem protection and the need, therefore, to secure their land rights.

<sup>4</sup> Please note that this priority does not appear as such among those outlined for the EU External Action, most likely because of possible overlaps with the work of DG CLIMA, but given the importance awarded to policy coherence by PFD members their recommendations in this regard have been included into this section and can be considered as preconditions for effective Green Deals.

5. **Implement a Just Transition towards sustainable economies.** Take into account strong environmental, social and human rights safeguards throughout the NDICI programming process.
6. Prioritize partner countries' **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, a key tool. In this context, the EU should support the revision, enhancement and implementation of partner countries' NDCs through inclusive, bottom-up approaches, embedding strong governance principles to ensure gender-sensitive and inclusive development outcomes.
7. Support the network of **Alliances for Climate Action (ACA)**.
8. Strengthen support for **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)** for Climate change.

### 1.1. Circular Economy

1. Contribute to awareness raising in Europe about the **reduction of the EU's material footprint**.
2. Expand and strengthen **Switch to Green programmes** while promoting multi-stakeholder approaches. This should be done both at country and regional level, to support companies, particularly MSMEs, develop circular, regenerative business models which help to create and share value across the economy, support new employment opportunities and reduce poverty.
3. Facilitate the **thriving of business models that are fair and circular**. Continue to support **innovative financial mechanisms and access to finance for MSMEs**, and smaller scale actors including cooperatives and informal workers who often play a leading role in waste prevention and material reuse.
4. **Use public procurement** to avoid non-reusable and non-recyclable products, improve waste and water management, encourage green approaches towards the implementation of public works and services, etc.

### 1.2. Biodiversity

1. Promote the implementation of the **Convention on Biodiversity** and other multilateral environmental treaties and **fully integrate biodiversity concerns into key sectors**.
2. The **priority of agroecology** needs to be included in EU policy formulation and in **policy coherence** on environmental due diligence and trade agreements between EU and partner countries.
3. Scale up efforts to **fight wildlife crime and high-risk wildlife trade** by working across the whole wildlife trade chain to stop poaching, trafficking and buying of endangered wildlife.
4. Promote **integrated and inclusive landscape approaches** that ensure ecological connectivity to deliver multiple benefits for local communities and biodiversity.
5. Support **well managed and sufficiently funded protected areas**.
6. Provide financial and technical assistance to partner countries to **protect the last remaining ecologically intact areas** of forests and other ecosystems.
7. Encourage **diversified local production** as opposed to monocultures for exports; and protect and promote farmers/indigenous varieties.

8. Support the role of **voluntary certification schemes** (for forests, fisheries etc.) that enhance biodiversity protection, promote reforestation and sustainable agricultural practices, such as Fairtrade.<sup>5</sup>
9. **Prioritize protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests and other important ecosystems** through inclusive governance and human-rights based approaches.<sup>6</sup> This includes fighting deforestation and illegal logging, scaling up landscape restoration and reforestation, promoting transparent and inclusive forest governance, and supporting partner countries in **implementing sustainable and fair forest-based value chains**.
10. Promote **equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women** in climate and forest conservation decision-making at all levels in line with UNFCCC and CBD Gender Work Programmes and Action Plans.
11. Assist producer countries in **tracking progress** in the implementation of policy objectives, including commitments related to deforestation, the forest-related components of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)s, legal and sustainable commodity production and related trade.
12. Further **develop capacity at local and regional levels**, including for exchange of expertise between partner countries and European municipalities and regions, above all on **resource mobilisation for increased investment in biodiversity action at subnational level**.

### 1.3. Green and smart cities

1. Support cities and local governments with **appropriate legal frameworks, capacity and financing**, and where appropriate include them in decision-making processes, such as via the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency within the UNFCCC. Promote **sustainable public procurement** aligned with SDG12.
2. Assist in the development and management of **smart city data systems** to create baselines and track progress, as well as to support comparisons between cities.<sup>7</sup>
3. Support and encourage **integrated urban planning with nature-based solutions** at the heart of more inclusive and resilient cities.
4. Explore and promote different **adaptation measures to improve the well-being and health of city dwellers**, and ensure local economies are resilient.
5. Foster programmes that support **public awareness and engagement of urban citizens**, including to address cities' ecological footprints and promote equity

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<sup>5</sup> Sustainability certification schemes such as Fairtrade have requirements in their standards to protect biodiversity among producers of key commodities, such as coffee, cocoa, cotton, rice etc. Those are often located in biodiversity rich areas and depend directly on biological diversity for their livelihoods. In addition, certification schemes act to halt deforestation and forest degradation while contributing to sustainable economic growth.

<sup>6</sup> Including via strengthening the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreements

<sup>7</sup> WWF supports cities to conduct their data collection and reporting on the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System as part of the One Planet City Challenge. Their data is later assessed to see how closely the cities align to the Paris Agreement and provide feedback on actions cities can take to become aligned. However, data availability (e.g. from energy providers, from transport operators, etc.) remains a major challenge for local authorities

#### 1.4. Sustainable energy

1. **Boost investments in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**, ensuring that investment in energy promotes inclusive access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in accordance with SDG 7. This includes focusing energy provision more on **decentralised micro-generation** – small-scale renewable energy technologies that deliver energy needs locally; increasing **access to credit for community-led projects favouring renewable energy sources**; and supporting local CSOs to **create renewable energy cooperatives**.

#### 1.5. Food systems: from farms to fork

1. Support **holistic climate and environment solutions that prioritise ecosystem resilience and restoration**, nature-based solutions, agroecology<sup>8</sup> and agroforestry, taking into account the rights, needs and aspirations of local groups and communities. Support activities that **avoid any further natural habitat conversion**.
2. Support **diversified, ecologically and socially sustainable and nutritious food systems**. **Promote small and subsistence farming**, land rights and farmers' rights to seeds and other genetic resources for agriculture in line with the UN Declaration on the rights of Peasants. All efforts to address livelihoods and food and nutrition security must be **community-driven and gender-responsive** and informed by available data. **Secure land and tenure access for women and marginalised groups**.
3. Adopt and implement policies that **target food loss and waste reduction**.
4. Support sustainable production and implementation of **transparent, sustainable value and supply chains**, while promoting and respecting smallholders and farmers rights.
5. Promote and harness **technology and digital innovations** that enhance nutrition and food security. Invest in digital technology, including better weather information, traceability of supply chains, early warning of pest and disease outbreaks.

#### 1.6. Water and oceans

1. Mainstream **water-focused climate adaptation** projects and invest in scaling up
2. Prioritize **river connectivity** through free-flowing rivers, removal of obsolete dams and favouring non-hydro renewable energy
3. **Improve governance, management and sustainable use of water resources with key stakeholders**, private sector and communities. **Accelerate coastal community-led conservation**

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<sup>8</sup> Such as Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration, which have shown numerous benefits and effects on food security, including: more consistent crop yields; diversified food options; improved nutrition; increased quantity and availability of food; improved access to food; increased availability of fodder needed for livestock production; and improved soil fertility.



4. **Promote corporate water stewardship** in the private sector

## 2. Digital and data technologies

### 2.1. Governance (regulatory frameworks)

1. Ensure that **universal access to digital services in the Global South** is safe, by setting up legal frameworks aimed at protecting consumers' online safety (similar to GDPR). This includes promoting **intergovernmental cooperation on legislation and frameworks** that protect consumers and producers and that protect privacy and data ownership on the basis of the highest standards of existing legislation (e.g. GDPR).
2. **Ensure Net neutrality** by mandating Internet service providers supported by EU funds to treat all data on the Internet in the same way.
3. Ensure a **balanced approach to cybersecurity** and the fight against fake news and data-driven electoral manipulation, which does not enable the persecution or silencing of dissent.
4. Support the **inclusion of girls and women in the creation of digital content and digital technologies**.
5. **Support civil society in advocating for inclusive legislation and policies** on digital technologies, focused on openness, freedom, equal access and net neutrality. Strengthen the capacity of local civil society to understand, research, advocate and litigate on these issues, and ensure civil society has a seat at the policymaking table.
6. Unequivocally **condemn any internet shutdowns** as an infringement on the right to information and freedom of press and expression.
7. Raise awareness on fundamental rights protection within the digital era, in particular for children.

### 2.2. Digital connectivity

1. Support **open, secure and affordable access** to the internet (including mobile data) and also promote gender sensitive and inclusive digital infrastructure planning.
2. Support **the expansion of operational and successful digital technologies playing a major role in socio-economic development and social cohesion**.
3. Support the already existing **digital hubs across the cooperative sector**.

### 2.3. Digital skills and entrepreneurship

1. Support equal access, use and creation of digital technology, with a view to **bridging the digital divides including the digital gender and age gaps**
  1. Encourage girls and young women to take part in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) subjects



2. Allocate funds for trainings of groups and (agricultural) communities, particularly in rural areas and towards vulnerable groups, to guarantee access to information and communication.
3. Promote and strengthen the development of alternative digital platforms – platform cooperatives
2. **Support lifelong learning and re-qualification** as it will become not only common practice but also a necessary requirement for working citizens given how rapidly technology develops
  1. **Include digital literacy in school curricula**
  2. Support civil society and government authorities in the provision of digital literacy programmes
  3. Support the **development of online tools and resources** to gain computer skills collectively, including the organisation of webinars and virtual meetings;<sup>9</sup>
3. **Support local authorities in the development of a conducive environment for start-ups** (among entrepreneurs) and facilitating a critical and knowledge-acquisition mindset (among citizens)
4. Support local SMEs and start-ups to deliver social innovation to real/identified development and political needs.

#### 2.4. E-services, including e-governance

1. Provide **technical support to governments to define rules** for a fair, innovative and inclusive digital economy and on public sector capacity to deliver digital services (eID, eHealth, eGovernment etc).
2. Include **algorithmic transparency** as a necessary component to meeting the EU's commitments to human rights and democracy.
3. Promote **open government data, open contracting and freedom of information** as crucial tools to improve the quality, efficiency and accountability of public services.
4. Ensure **inclusion of persons with disabilities** (and full accessibility) in all e-governance processes.
5. Explore opportunities to create, share and analyse more and better data for more **tailor-made policies and solutions to complex problems**, from mobility or housing to disaster reduction.
  - Provide and facilitate technical assistance and **knowledge exchange between EU member states and partner countries** on the roll-out and maintenance of effective digital ID systems
  - Support the use of **digital technology for more transparent and effective taxation**
  - Promote the use of **cryptology and blockchain technology** to strengthen government processes against corruption.

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<sup>9</sup> WECF together with WEDO, have developed an online tool on the organisation of virtual meetings, based on our own experience of organising such meetings with feminist networks (Women's Major Group, Women and Gender Constituency...) as the COVID crisis broke out. The tool is available [here](#).

- Support the expansion of operational and successful digital technologies playing a major role in socio-economic development and social cohesion, such as early detection and prevention of all forms of violence, peace-building mechanisms, improvement of health diagnostics and services to reduce child and maternal mortality, etc.

## 2.5. Data protection

1. Facilitate experience and **best practice sharing between European data protection authorities and those of partner countries**, with the participation of privacy-focused civil society.
2. Support **civil society and parliaments in their role as watchdogs** in order to ensure that digital ID systems do not result in excessive tracking and surveillance by governments. Empower civil society and activists with digital security trainings.
3. Strengthen **privacy rights activism** and stop the export or funding of mass surveillance technologies and biometric ID schemes particularly in countries where checks and balances on state power are weak. Support organisations which push for transparent, open, participatory, inclusive and accountable governmental institutions and processes.

## 3. Alliances for Sustainable Growth and Jobs

### 3.1. Sustainable investment and de-risking (including key enabling infrastructure)

1. **Support the real economy:** micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the world economy, as their workers account for more than 80% of employment in many countries.
2. The EFSD+ should primarily focus on **supporting local economic actors and inclusive business models**, such as cooperatives and social enterprises, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and promote decent jobs creation for women and young people in particular. **Privilege bottom-up approaches** whereby communities define their infrastructure needs. **Provide youth-led initiatives with access to funding and training.**<sup>10</sup>
3. **Support long term investments in health and universal social protection.**
4. **Priority must be given to activities that are both human rights and tax compliant**, as well as green activities that are consistent with the Paris Agreement, environmental objectives and the “do no harm oath”.
5. In order to ensure policy coherence, **pass laws requiring European companies to implement human rights due diligence (HRDD)**

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<sup>10</sup> Through the ICA-EU Partnership (#coops4dev), several activities were developed around the topic of youth entrepreneurship such as the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE). Inspired by a Cooperatives Europe's CoopStarter 2.0 Erasmus+ funded project, the GCE is an experimental mentoring program aiming at providing support to youth ambassadors interested in setting up a cooperative building on a 3-steps methodology for mobilizing youth to solve together community needs. Another action on youth entrepreneurship and skills is the Global Youth Forum on Cooperative Entrepreneurship 2020 (#GYF20), a capacity building initiative for young entrepreneurs consisting on a wide range of interactive training sessions to provide the young participants with the necessary professional skills to better understand the cooperative business model and its benefits. (<https://gyf20.coop/>)

### 3.2. Creation of decent jobs

1. **Support job creation and entrepreneurship which contribute to preserving or restoring the environment** in existing industries or new green sectors. **Support sustainable production and consumption programs** and voluntary standards.
2. **Promote social dialogue as a key tool for a new social contract.**
3. **Promote occupational health and safety.**
4. Provide more robust support to workers' organisations, trade unions and cooperatives.<sup>11</sup>
5. **Push for better wage policies and living income<sup>12</sup> through policy dialogue with partner countries**, especially the application of minimum wages that would be compatible with the needs of workers and families.
6. Provide **support to women's groups to advocate for the enactment of gender sensitive labour laws** that are in line with international agreements. Redistribute the disproportionate **burden of unpaid care work on women and girls.**
7. **Economically empower persons with disabilities** and ensure that they can access the labour market.

### 3.3. Education and skills

1. **Support universal and inclusive public education for girls and boys.** Address harmful practices and customary laws which constitute **barriers to women's and girls' education.** **Invest in inclusive and disability-friendly education**, from early childhood, in order to ensure no one is left behind in the access to education and skills.
2. Support governments to adjust their educational systems to **better accommodate disadvantaged and rural groups.** Involve civil society organisations in the definition of terms and indicators relating to the quality of education.
3. Establish a **dialogue with companies, business associations, employment agencies** through which to define professional training courses, reformulating the programmatic contents according to the needs expressed by the companies themselves. Build

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<sup>11</sup> Cooperatives have proven their ability to both create and sustain jobs. Employment in or within the scope of cooperatives concerns at least 279.4 million people in the world, or 9.46 per cent of the employed population. Of these, 27.2 million are directly employed by cooperatives, a substantial portion of the global workforce. Cooperatives can foster economic growth and productive improvement by providing affordable financial services and training opportunities for their members which enable them to make investments, upgrade technologies and diversify their income sources.

<sup>12</sup> A living income is defined as sufficient income to afford a decent standard of living for all household members – including a nutritious diet, clean water, decent housing, education, health care and other essential needs, plus a little extra for emergencies and savings – once farm costs are covered. EU policy support towards the concept of living incomes as a core component of decent jobs would ensure the over 570 million smallholder farmers and cooperatives operating 75% of the world's agricultural land are better able to achieve the aims of SDG1, 2, 8 and 12 among others.

4. synergies and promote an **integrated approach to more effective training courses and insertion activities.**

### 3.4. Business environment and investment climate

1. Acknowledge the different actors within the private sector and **ensure engagement in policy dialogue** with all of them.<sup>13</sup>
2. Take the needs and interests of small-scale and sustainable and inclusive businesses into account when negotiating trade agreements and avoid putting them in situations of unfair competition.
3. Promote local environments that are conducive to a fair and inclusive economy. Financial Packages such as the EFSD+ that will come through different financial instruments should support investments and financing for cooperatives and other sustainable inclusive businesses (including MSMEs) to ensure decent job and domestic resource mobilization that boosts local development.
4. Promote business accountability in supply chains and in development cooperation.
5. Shape tender processes to **favour sustainable and inclusive businesses through public procurement practices and legislation**, in the EU and partner countries; for example, by applying weighted criteria in tender documents.
6. Facilitate **cross-border cooperation between different sustainable and inclusive businesses** to allow them to expand their business and further increase their resilience.
7. **Support local authorities in the design and implementation of policies and strategies for economic and business development.** This includes: engaging in **policy dialogue** with local authorities for a more favourable investment environment; providing **technical assistance** for the passing of local laws and regulations that govern business activities; and assisting in brokering **institutional arrangements** to frame the interaction between local councils and the local business sector. Often referred to as ‘public-private dialogue’ (PPD), this interaction influences the ways local governments engage with and respond to local businesses.

## 4. Migration Partnerships

### 4.1. Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, including development benefits of migration

1. **Decriminalise migration** and see it as an opportunity.

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<sup>13</sup> Cooperatives have a dual identity as member-based and democratically owned enterprises. They are recognised within the ‘Agenda for Change’ and the EC communication on ‘A stronger role of the private sector’ (2014) as an important actor of the local private sector while the communication ‘Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations’ (2012), recognizes the particularities of cooperatives embedding the critical features of civil society organizations, such as being member-based and not-for-profit oriented.

2. Commit to **holistic and coordinated action to address forced displacement** such as conflicts, state fragility, insecurity and marginalization, poverty, food insecurity, inequality and discrimination.
3. **Support the activities of diasporas** and enable them to contribute to the development of their countries of origin.
4. Support national government efforts to better adhere to SDG8's aims of decent work including for migrant workers<sup>14</sup>.
5. Support the development and adoption of **strong, humane and rights-based migration policies/protocols** at sub-regional, regional and international levels so that certain acceptable standards are guaranteed where the treatment of migrants on the move anywhere in the world is concerned.
6. **Invest in smallholder producers and family farmers in rural areas** so as to help rural communities to become catalysts of an inclusive and equitable rural transformation that, in turn, can support sustainable urbanization.
7. Support to grassroots and women-led **climate adaptation and resilience initiatives**, and their participation in policy processes
8. **Promote a comprehensive decentralisation framework**, with clear core powers and responsibilities and a transfer of corresponding financial resources, should ensure that local and regional governments in partner countries can carry out their responsibilities effectively.
9. Provide support and **exchange best practices, lessons learned and shared solutions** to the migration challenges, in the framework of decentralised cooperation.
10. For the sake of policy coherence, the EU must ensure EU MNCs adhere to the **UN Global Pact on Business and Human rights** and are made accountable to ensure migrant workers in production lines are not subjected to human rights violations.

#### 4.2. Migration management, including border management, return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, and legal pathways

1. **Strengthen links with countries of origin through development interventions** that can boost local economies, support peace processes and promote a more effective reintegration process for migrants who voluntarily return and often suffer stigma from their communities of origin.
2. Address specifically the plight of **children on the move**, ensure adequate solutions and approaches for children, whether they are accompanied or not.

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<sup>14</sup> as per the case of Haitian workers engaged in banana value chains in Dominican Republic, sourcing a large proportion of EU bananas. See more details here: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_ent/---ifp\\_seed/documents/publication/wcms\\_550100.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---ifp_seed/documents/publication/wcms_550100.pdf)

3. Focus on **safety of women and girls** beyond migratory routes and refugee camps and acknowledge that human trafficking and gender-based violence occur in many different sectors.<sup>15</sup>
4. Focus on the specific needs of **refugees and migrants with disabilities**.
5. **Reassess military expenses** for wars and other forms of armed conflict (leading to forced displacement and migration), as well as governmental support for extractive industries that grab land and lead to forced displacement, wars that lead to sexual- gender-based violence.

#### 4.3. Durable solutions for refugees

1. Programme strategies should **create the space for meaningful participation of refugees, host communities and local institutions** in developing solutions-oriented approaches and adequate measures to ensure voice and accountability during their implementation. Opportunities should also be created for communities and key stakeholders, including national and local humanitarian and development organisations, to engage in collaboration, design and implementation of solutions-focused programming.
2. **Early engagement of government** in the programme design phase, and investment in strengthening the capacity and willingness of government to lead durable solutions planning and processes.
3. **Generate evidence of what works in terms of advancing solutions.** Building an evidence base on solutions-oriented approaches within different sectors will help to inform the future design of solutions-oriented programmes.
4. Programming should be **informed by ongoing solutions analysis**, which helps us to better understand progress towards durable solutions, as well as the barriers and opportunities that exist.

### 5. Governance, Peace and Security

#### 5.1. Human rights and democracy

1. **Prioritize, strengthen and protect an open civic space by focusing** EU programming on actions which promote civil society participation at all levels. Considering the importance of social networks in civic organising and public debate, the digital aspects of civil society support will need to be integrated.
2. **Protect democratic space** for contestation in which a broad spectrum of critical political opinions can be voiced. This includes a level political playing field and an independent judiciary as fundamental elements of development action in general.

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<sup>15</sup> Thème soutenu par l'AIMF dans la région des Grands Lacs en Afrique où se nouent des conflits autour des frontières, du commerce transfrontalier et du rôle des femmes dans ces processus, comme actrices de ces échanges transfrontaliers mais aussi comme victimes potentielles d'abus de toutes sortes. Les autorités locales de la région et l'AIMF ont mis en place un cadre de concertation avec les associations de femmes commerçantes transfrontalières dont l'action est aujourd'hui reconnue.

3. Develop **National Human Rights Institutes** in partner countries (this objective is also linked to a specific target of SDG 16).
4. Strengthen pluralistic and independent oversight and accountability actors, particularly **media and civil society organisations**, as well as **inclusive and transparent political parties** that empower and represent well-informed citizens in political and decision-making processes.
5. Consistently **condemn violations of human rights** and attacks against human rights defenders and establish swift and effective mechanisms to protect activists involved in EU-funded actions.
6. Promote action towards **ending violence against women and girls** and ensure bodily autonomy. Provide **active support and protection of women human rights defenders and their organisations**.  
Pursue a proactive and coordinated approach from European institutions to **address the impact of European business operations on Human Rights** and the environment via mandatory regulation. Set up effective prevention and protection systems against the repression of Environment and Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs). Support the negotiations around the UN Binding Treaty for Business and Human Rights, as well as for the development and enforcement of an EU legislation on mandatory human rights due diligence for corporations.
7. **Support inclusive policy processes** - involving lawmakers, researchers, human rights defenders, organised CSOs, the tech sector and political parties - **as essential in fostering inclusive and future-proof legislation on digital technologies**. Given that tech policy and surveillance technologies already play a major role in autocracies globally and algorithmic decision-making is taking up an ever-present role in governments, legislation on these sectors will be critical for the future of democracy.
8. **Foster democracy through geographic programming**, going beyond the traditional focus on election observation and working with partner countries to build accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions. **Continue to support the integrity of elections**, allowing for safe, inclusive, accountable and fair electoral processes, but also **to promote participatory decision-making processes**.
9. Address the **phenomenon of polarisation** by opening spaces for (policy) dialogue among otherwise confronted actors and counter the confrontational dynamics resulting from electoral competition.
10. Support and promote a rights based approach as instrumental to **strengthening human rights standards** in partner countries.

## 5.2. Rule of law and accountability

4. Support robust, independent and accessible judicial systems with high professional standards, capable of ensuring the rule of law. **Support oversight systems** in posing credible prospects of imposing consequences on powerholders who abuse their position.



2. Develop **strong accountability measures enabling the communities** in partner regions to have their fundamental rights met, ensuring full inclusion and participation of all, including persons with disabilities and other marginalized populations. Ensure **equal influence** by guaranteeing all concerned stakeholders the same opportunities to influence laws, policies, plans, and investments. Beyond enforcing transparent lobbying and scrutiny of interest declarations, this also means fostering consultations inclusive of wider ranges of social and economic groups, while tracking their footprint on decisions.
3. Support national partners in their efforts towards **infusing integrity in political systems**, that is by more systemically building safeguards that protect power from capture or misuse:
4. Adopt a **two-lever approach to enhance democratic accountability**: vertical (the means by which the state is held to account by citizens and their associations) and horizontal (the means by which one state actor has the formal authority to demand explanations or impose penalties on another body as part of intra-governmental checks and balances). **Empower national CSOs to exert demand-side pressure on horizontal accountability mechanisms by cooperating with oversight institutions** to scrutinise duty-bearers.

### 5.3. Conflict prevention, sustaining peace and building resilience

1. Foster **greater inclusivity** in peacebuilding processes: endeavour to involve all the members of the community.
2. **Support education and training** to foster peacebuilding. Civic education and training should be made available to all community members so that they better understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.
3. Funding for the **humanitarian-development nexus must be programmed for**, and not left to the (unprogrammable) rapid response pillar, particularly in protracted crises and conflict contexts.
4. The **systematic introduction of crisis modifiers** in EU development activities would very concretely help nexus implementation by giving those implementing the strategies more flexibility for adapting quickly to changing circumstances on the ground, as would a theory of change-approach, rather than a logframe approach.

### 5.4. Fight against terrorism and organised crime

1. **Close the loopholes in the international financial system** and improve the supervision of the financial sector.
2. Support active and specialized civil society organisations and journalists able to **investigate, monitor, report** and ask the right questions on highly technical and risky issues.
3. **Fight corruption**, particularly related to the customs, police and the judicial system, to ensure that criminals cannot operate freely and do not remain unpunished.

4. EU (and international and national) fight against terrorism and organised crime should **not unduly restrict the space for civil society and philanthropy** (by impeding financial transactions).