

Policy Forum on Development: 2020 virtual events

Overview

The PFD will host a series of virtual discussions to ensure that the views of the multiple PFD stakeholders are shared and taken on board as the EU responds to COVID-19, reinforces its commitment to the Agenda 2030 and Paris agreement, externalises its overarching priorities (Green Deal, Digitalisation, Sustainable Growth and Jobs, Migration and Governance Peace and Security) and starts the new programming cycle. As people everywhere recover from the current health crisis and attempt to 'rebuild better,' the PFD is planning to host a series of virtual discussions at regional and global level to offer insights of the next phase of EU programming.

The 2020 Global PFD scheduled for March was cancelled due to restrictions to contain the coronavirus. Considering that the selected themes for the original global PFD agenda have become even more relevant in the light of the Covid19 crisis, the PFD virtual discussions will explore how to ensure that they are taken into consideration in the current programming exercise, together with the input received from a PFD consultation taken by more than 360 PFD members and member affiliates in April-May 2020. In this vein, the PFD virtual discussions should be seen as part of a broader consultation process that will stretch beyond the 2 hour sessions and make use of other means - emailing of written contributions, online collaborative documents etc.- so as to capture the wealth of insight coming from the PFD networks.

Themes

In this framework, some aspects that have been longstanding concerns for PFD members must be addressed from a regional perspective so as to identify those themes and modalities that are most relevant to PFD constituents worldwide.

1. Rising inequalities in light of the current health crisis and national reactions to the emergency. The initial results of the 2020 PFD consultation offer various on-the-ground perspectives as to the immediate effects of the health emergency on sustainable development goal (SDG) implementation, the enabling environment and the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships. While impacts on different SDGs were highlighted, notably livelihoods, poverty, food and nutrition security, education and gender equality, the exacerbation of inequalities noted by most respondents in the current situation compounds negative effects and risks pushing many further behind. This discussion will highlight the need for rebuilding better, for an economy that works for people and how these can be addressed in EU international partnership policy and programming. Participants will also look at how multi-stakeholder

partnerships can play/fulfil a role in addressing inequalities.

2. EC priorities that have been further legitimised during the current crisis: Green Deal, Digitalisation, an economy that works for the people. The EC priorities have gained increased relevance in light of COVID-19. Multiple survey respondents highlighted emphatically the need to hold the course and lead in accelerating a Green Deal, while others noted that restrictions on movement and assembly have reinforced the potential negative and positive impacts of digitalisation. At a time when we are becoming more dependent on technology, how can we ensure equitable and affordable access for all? How can green deal(s) with partner countries can pave the way to social fairness and prosperity? How can democratic institutions ensure that development actors operate in an enabling environment that protects human rights? How can multi-stakeholder partnerships contribute to a shared understanding on how to build 'an economy that works for people? How can EU's development cooperation with partner countries support such a shift, with a particular focus on decent work creation and business accountability as tools to fight inequalities?
3. The EU is about to launch its programming exercise for 2021-27 in parallel to the negotiations on the next Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) and the proposed Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). Despite the COVID pandemic and its consequences, in particular on inequalities, the overall EU priorities for the next programming period, which reflect the EU's interests and values and flow from the European Commission's political priorities, remain valid as the strategic orientations and benchmarks for the EU's engagement with its partners. Regarding the EU external financing instrument, the proposed NDICI foresees dedicating at least 25% of its expenditure to Climate Change and 10% to migration issues. It also foresees at least 20% of its ODA expenditure for human development. It should also ease leveraging sovereign and private investments for sustainable development through increased blending and guarantees. The EU and the Member States will work better together under an enhanced Team Europe approach with joint programming and joint implementation. The programming process will be accompanied by intensive consultations with partner countries, civil society, youth, local authorities, private sector, trade unions, and other stakeholders at global and at country level, in order to ensure inclusive multi-stakeholder and participatory dialogue with CSOs and LAs in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU development cooperation policies. We will discuss how to enhance the role of CSO and LA regional and global networks in complementing, coordinating and reinforcing the developmental impact of their national members.

Calendar

17-24 July

Regional discussions with PFD regional members.

PFD TA moderating one meeting of approximately 2 hours each in: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and Europe and Neighbourhood (combined)

Launch of the process for written contributions

September

Collection, compilation and editing of written contributions

PFD meeting with the DG (tbc 15 September)

A virtual discussion highlighting the themes above with a focus on incorporating what we know of the “new normal” into the next phase of programming

September– November

Follow up discussions and inputs (to be scheduled)

Methodology

Regional discussions of 2 hours maximum with moderation. Participants will be sent background information to frame the debate and to allow them to start preparing their written contributions. Questions will be finalised based on conversations around inputs from the programming perspective:

1. What are the recommendations and key issues that you would incorporate in EU programming, including the most relevant thematic issues for your region?
2. What aspects of EU priorities such as the economy that works for the people, green deal, digitalisation are especially relevant in moving forward and “rebuilding better”?
3. How do you see the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in addressing this increase in inequalities (share specific examples where possible) and further the priorities of the EU? What are the implementation modalities that the EU could promote for increasing multi-stakeholder cooperation?

Given the breadth and depth of the topics to be discussed, the PFD regional discussions will mostly serve to set the scene and will be complemented by the participants written contributions. All the input collected around these questions will be processed and structured around a set of PFD recommendations for EU programming that will take into consideration unique aspects of each region.

Written inputs will be accepted until August 21st.

Participants: PFD members in each region (and potentially members of their networks if more participants needed). Limited in size (20 max) for discussion, moderated by PFD team. Those PFD members taking part in the regional discussions can involve their networks into providing their input through written contributions.

Global panel discussion of 2 hours in September with moderation and remote interpretation (FR and ES). Participants will include DEVCO Director General Koen Doens, PFD civil society and local authorities co-chairs, DEVCO representative on programming and PFD regional representatives (feedback from regional discussion groups).

The full PFD membership would be invited, so speaking slots following the panel will need to be pre-assigned and the methodology for taking questions for panellists agreed by all. This could be recorded and shared widely (even posted on cap4dev).