

The Asia Pacific regional PFD meeting – June 2015

Introduction and welcoming remarks

On the 24th and 25th of June 2015, more than 60 representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) and associations of Local Authorities (LAs) from the Asia and Pacific region, the private sector, regional institutions and representatives from the European Commission, the European Union (EU) Delegation to Thailand and EU Member States met in Bangkok, for the second regional meeting of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD).

This second regional meeting provided an opportunity for follow-up to the first multi-stakeholder meeting of the PFD, which was held in the Asia and Pacific region in 2013 in Bali.

Throughout the two-day gathering, participants had the opportunity to discuss key issues of global importance, such as: the EU's policies and programmes concerning CSOs and LAs; the Post 2015 Development Agenda; Climate Change and COP21 and the EU's regional programmes.

Mr Michel Laloge, Head of Sector for Local Authorities and Decentralization, at the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), chaired the opening session and warmly welcomed the participants as well as the PFD Task Team members who travelled from other regions. He reminded the audience as to why a regional PFD was organised now in the Asia and Pacific region and the objectives of the meeting. He thanked the PFD members of the region for coordinating the organisation of this meeting with the EU.

Starting with her opening speech, Ms Luisa Ragher, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, welcomed all participants to Thailand and expressed her

strong hopes that this meeting would bring interesting outcomes, including policy recommendations on how the EU can help to promote a just and transformative development agenda for the Asia and Pacific region.

Ms Maria-Theresa Nera-Lauron, Member of the PFD Task Team on behalf of CSOs, said “even the Asia and Pacific region, considered an engine of global growth and centre of emerging economies, is still facing challenges of inequality, poverty, environmental destruction and impacts of climate change.” In that regard, she reminded everyone that 2015 is a crucial year to bring about a just and transformative development agenda for the peoples of the region.

Mr Hussain, Member of the PFD Task Team on behalf of LAs, focused his welcoming remarks on the challenges that LAs still face, which are limiting their ability to contribute to sustainable development and thus impeding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This situation will have to be taken into account in achieving the Post 2015 agenda and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Before formally opening the session, Mr Laloge took the opportunity to introduce the European Year For Development, EYD 2015, under which the 2015 events of the EU are framed.

What follows is a synthesis of the debates that took place during the meeting, including key messages emerging from the discussions.

You may also want to [consult the agenda, presentations and background documents here.](#)

Key messages

1. Ensure **mutual accountability** in a Post 2015 framework. This includes favouring accountability mechanisms to observe environmental and human rights violations, and supporting accountability mechanisms for corporations, such as the Business and Human Rights mechanism
 2. Urge **private sector** compliance with tax obligations and contributions to decent working conditions.
 3. Encourage the replication of laws and regulations that promote sustainable development
 4. Pursue the **harmonisation of donors' practices and monitoring mechanisms**. Beyond Official development assistance (ODA), this should also include: investment and finance agreements, loans and policy positions in multilateral negotiations, including climate and human rights
 5. **Protect the institutionalized space for CSOs** and support **CSO activity** at different levels: 1) promoting participation in national/international level policies and implementation, 2) recognizing their role in all stages of development planning; and 3) investing in them through capacity development schemes
 6. **Build capacity** in countries (including in government administrations), particularly at the local level, to support development policies, regulations and practices; as well as **proper data collection**
 7. Ensure that the **EU's Aid for Trade policy** strategy is coherent with international Human Rights norms and standards to play its role in achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development
 8. Encourage the autonomy of **governments to maintain policy space** to promote pro-development laws, independent of preferential trade agreement conditionalities
 9. Ensure that **gender equality** and protection against gender-based violence are incorporated into all aspects of policy and programmatic planning and implementation
 10. Consider **thematic meetings** of the PFD as a way to further the important work taking place via this forum
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Session 1. The EU's engagement with CSOs and LAs

Session 1.1. The policies

This first session presented the policies and instruments for the EU's engagement with CSOs and LAs. **Mr Michel Laloge** started with a presentation of the **Communications on CSOs in Development and Local Authorities in Development**. He introduced his presentation with some historical steps, showing a real paradigm shift at the international and European levels since the MDGs were announced in 2000 and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be formally announced in September. **A more political focus on development cooperation** has gradually emerged during the last 15 years. The EU's current engagement with civil society and local authorities started with the Structured Dialogue in 2010, in which policy and operational priorities as well as EU financial support, as set today, were defined in order to unlock the development potential of both CSOs and LAs. In both cases, EU engagement includes: i) a **strong focus on empowerment** based on capacity building, exchange of experience and transfer of know-how; ii) **funding adapted to local contexts**, including innovative funding modalities, improved access to funding, etc.; and iii) **more coordinated action**, taking into account a better understanding of CSOs and LAs, institutional organisation and decentralisation processes, among other things.

Ms Salima Chitalia, DG DEVCO, presented the EU country Roadmaps for CSO engagement. She explained the background and objectives of the Roadmap process, launched **jointly in 2014 by the Directorate General DEVCO and the European External Action Service (EEAS)**. As of June 2015, more than **80 roadmaps** have been finalised for the period 2014-2017. She then gave the example of the **Philippines' Roadmap**, finalised in October 2014 and shared with all participants. Based on this concrete example, Ms Chitalia presented the structure of the Roadmap document: i) context assessment; ii) long-term vision and priorities, and iii) a list of actions and indicators. She also highlighted some key trends and lesson learned in the region, emphasising that *“the process of developing Roadmaps is equally important as the end-product itself.”* She ended her intervention by showing the work achieved for the Asia and Pacific region and directing participants who would like more information to the dedicated internet website on Capacity4Dev <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-governance-civilsociety/>.

Ms Pansy Ton Thein, Executive Director of the Local Resource Centre in Myanmar, reviewed the remarkable progress made by CSOs in Myanmar during the last decade, particularly in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, from emergency self-help groups to the consolidation of development organizations and a more fluent dialogue with the national government. The lessons learned from Nargis brought the local and international community together to develop a joint humanitarian and development plan, which included CSOs. Ms Ton Thein said: *“It is amazing how far CSOs in Myanmar have travelled...from zero opportunity to current engagement with stakeholders.”* CSOs in Myanmar now meet on a regular basis with key stakeholders, including development partners, and this engagement should be built upon during the Roadmap process.

Mr Neil Maharaj, PIANGO, introduced both the experience in the Pacific and the Fiji Roadmap, explaining the general process through which several CSOs in the Pacific (including PIANGO) and specifically 19 selected CSOs in Fiji were consulted. After reminding participants of the EU Roadmap priorities for the Pacific and Fiji, he highlighted the main outcomes of the EU and CSOs consultation: i) the need to focus on established, structured platforms for participation with government and each other; ii) the need for an enabling environment for CSOs to be more engaged in the policy-making process; iii) the need to identify priorities; and iv) the need for rapid implementation of the 10th

European Development Fund (EDF) of the Non-state Actor (NSA) programmes. For Fiji, the outcomes included: i) concerns about the lack of space for CSO dialogue; ii) the absence of an effective networking body to represent the voices of the sector; iii) CSOs working in isolation and a sense of competitiveness; and iv) greater support needed for an enabling environment.

Mr Michel Laloge then presented the EU's Territorial Approach to Development (TALD) and reminded participants that the TALD has been integrated into the European Commission's policies since 2013. It is based on a **bottom-up approach**, whereby global and regional seminars for European Union delegations (EUDs) are organised to conform the concept to the realities on the ground and to discuss the meaning of a TALD in each specific regional and country context.

Session 1.2. The CSO-LA Multi-Indicative Programme (2014-2020), presentation and state of play

Mr Michel Laloge ended the first session by presenting the CSO-LA Multi-Indicative Programme (MIP) for 2014-2020. As a matter of comparison, key figures and trends from the past Programme (2007-2013) were shared, such as the programme budget allocation in the different sub-regions (Pacific, Asia, Central Asia, Middle East) as well as the number of contracts per actor in the region or the average size of contracts in the region per actor. He highlighted the fact that the new MIP, covering the period 2014-2020, presents a budget increase of 22% compared to 2007-2013 and concentrates on three priorities: i) Focus on country level CSOs' and LAs' contributions to governance and development; ii) Reinforcing regional and global CSO and LA networks; iii) Development Education and Awareness Raising initiatives fostering citizens' awareness of and mobilization for development issues.

Participants took the opportunity to ask the European Commission questions about the CSO-LA Multi-Indicative Programme 2014-2020, including procedural issues as to how to take part in the Programme. Some participants welcomed both the presentation and the new features. Others, however, highlighted the technical difficulties that many organizations, particularly small and medium sized CSO networks, face in terms of capacity to participate and develop proposals.

Session 2. The Global Scene

Session 2.1. Update on the 2015 process

The second session, co-chaired by **Mr Rayyan Hassan, NGO Forum on ADB** and **Ms Violeta Seva, Senior Advisor, Makati City Government**, started with an update on the 2015 process with the objective of better understanding the state of play of the Post 2015 agenda process and addressing some of the challenges of implementation.

Mr Riccardo Mesiano, UN ESCAP, introduced the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations (UN) dealing with inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Asia and Pacific region. He explained that ESCAP also leads the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism and as such he was able to provide a detailed overview of the Post 2015 process and state of play. The Post 2015 Development Agenda is about **"transforming our world by 2030"** he said, and it is a Member State (MS) driven process whereby the MS lead informal consultations. The main outcome published so far is the Zero Draft of the agenda including: a preamble containing 17 goals and 169 targets; a focus on human rights as the centre of governance and peace; Means of Implementation (MoI) defined for each goal; and a follow-up and review mechanism proposed at national, regional and global levels. The Zero Draft seeks to address systemic issues. Mr Mesiano reminded the audience that *"we all have the chance to contribute to the Zero Draft."* Major groups and other stakeholders could contribute until June 22-25 when a first review of the Zero Draft took place in New York. The next step will then be

the adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda in September this year at the United Nations Summit in New York. Mr Mesiano mentioned that regional groups could participate in the review process before September via the online consultation tool.

Following Mr Mesiano's presentation, the audience had the opportunity to share comments such as: the need to have a more balanced approach between economic, social and environment pillars; the responsibility of the States to deliver on social rights; and the contribution of the Association of South East Asian Local Authorities to Goal 11 "Sustainable cities and Human Settlement." Finally participants reiterated their strong commitment to the review of the Zero Draft with their participation in the consultation process and in the UN Summit in September.

This session continued with the EU position on the Post 2015 agenda. **Mr Michael Ellis, DG DEVCO** (by videolink from Brussels) provided an overview of the main points that describe the EU's approach to the process, including support to the goals and the overall agenda, as well as a number of key elements that need further consideration in terms of implementation, monitoring and accountability to make sure that the agenda succeeds. He recalled the [Council Conclusions](#) of May 2015 "[A new global partnership for poverty eradication and sustainable development after 2015,](#)" which set out the guiding principles and main components necessary for the implementation of the Post 2015 development agenda: i) enabling and conducive policies; ii) capacity building; iii) domestic public finance; iv) international public finance; v) private sector; vi) trade; vii) science, technology and innovation; and viii) migration. Mr Ellis stressed the fact that there should be one overarching monitoring, accountability and review (MAR) framework for the whole post 2015 agenda operating at local, regional and international level. This framework should be inclusive and transparent, involving all stakeholders.

Mr Ellis invited participants to address key questions: ***What do you see as main challenges to implementation?; How can we turn this into a truly transformational agenda?; How can the EU best work with you both to strengthen your voice and to strengthen our own approaches by listening to you?*** Some participants reacted to the questions by highlighting the fact that the main challenge to implementation lies in the universality of the agenda, which implies that all stakeholders have responsibilities and all stakeholders should be accountable, even if levels of accountability differ amongst stakeholders.

Session 2.2. Panel Discussion: Voices from the region on issues, challenges and opportunities of the post-2015 Agenda

An interactive panel moderated by **Ms Maria-Theresa Nera-Lauron**, where different viewpoints, from CSOs, including NGOs and cooperatives, LAs and the private sector, contributed to enriching the discussions with aspects such as: the need for a unified position of civil society in the region in reaction to the Zero Draft; states' accountability; country ownership; the role of financing for development including private finance; the need for a human rights based approach to development; the cooperatives model as a future business model; the increasing role of LAs in development; the role of the private sector and its accountability. Finally, the panellists brought back the theme of **development justice**, discussed during the preparatory day and including the following 5 key pillars: i) **Redistributive justice** aiming at redistributing resources, wealth, power and opportunities to all human beings equitably; ii) **Economic justice** aiming at developing economies that enable dignified lives, accommodate for needs and facilitate capabilities, employment and livelihoods available to all; iii) **Gender and social justice**, aiming at eliminating all forms of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion that pervade our communities; iv) **Environmental justice** for collective, harmonious development and ending harmful extraction of all forms; and v) **Accountability to peoples**, requiring participatory, democratic governance.

This lively presentation gave rise to a number of comments and remarks from the participants such as: How to reconcile large scale trans-boundary projects and the development justice model?; Doesn't the inclusion of cooperatives already reflect the principles of development justice? Panellists included: Ms Kate Lappin (APWLD), Ms Erin Palomares (ROA-AP), Mr Harsh Jaitli (VANII), Mr Balu Iyer

(ICA-AP), Mr Kesarralal Gunasekera (Deputy Mayor of Dehiwela Mt. Lavinia, Sri Lanka) and Mr Abdul Wahab Abu Bakar (Malaysian Employers Federation).

Session 2.3. Climate change and COP 21

The last session of the first day focused on Climate Change and COP21. It was moderated by **Ms Aizhamal Bakashova** (PA Shazet) and gave the opportunity to the EU and two regional actors to present their views on the current state of the agenda for climate change.

Mr Gregory Tsouris, DG CLIMA (by video link from Brussels), provided a comprehensive presentation on the main aspects that characterize the EU's position in this area and described other relevant aspects, including how incorporating knowledge and innovation as well as energy efficiency standards provide tangible results. He also noted progress across all actors of the economy and recalled the EU's priorities for the Paris conference:

- Addressing mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, capacity-building, transparency of action and support in a comprehensive way
- Keeping global average temperature increase below 2°C vs. pre-industrial levels
- Broadening participation
- Establishing nationally determined contributions to be included in the form of mitigation commitments that have legal force
- Further strengthening multilateral rules through monitoring, reporting and verification, accounting and compliance
- Establishing a mechanism to regularly 5-yearly review and strengthen level of ambition
- Catalysing action by all types of stakeholders

He concluded his intervention by stating that: *“A conference does not reduce emissions. Government's commitments are credible if the real economy delivers. Paris can create a framework for action by all: transparent commitments, collaboration and solidarity.”*

Ms Azra Sayeed, Roots for Equity, presented the reality and consequences of climate change from the perspective of a developing country and stated that *“The gravest threat to humanity is the climate crisis.”* She recalled the different commitments made this year by the EU or the USA but asked *“are these commitments binding?”* and *“are they mandatory commitments or promises?”* From her point of view, if the world wants to stay below 2°C of global warming, which is considered a minimum, the pledges are not enough. She criticised how the instruments created by developed economies follow a market based approach and noted the contradictions between those and the achievement of the proposed development goals, particularly for developing countries. Ms Sayeed finally called for **Climate Justice and Development Justice** and for an Equitable Climate Agreement in COP 21.

Mr Nilo Villanueva, Mayor of the Municipality of Mabini, ended this session with the experience of LAs in the Philippines and how every member of the League of Municipalities is required to report to the national government on their achievements on climate change. He also repeated the concerns of other speakers by saying that the EU should encourage multi-national companies operating in the region to respect and promote environmental standards and include mitigation and adaptation in the forefront of their responsibilities.

Session 2.4. Group discussions

Group discussions were organised to elaborate on the issues raised on day 1. Four mixed groups of CSOs and LAs were organized around participant priorities, according to each pillar of Sustainable Development (economic, social and environmental) and an additional one that examined the Means of Implementation. Participants of each group reflected on 3 key questions: i) Success stories or positive experiences amongst members/participants; ii) Key factors that determine or impede advancement of the issue; iii) What needs to happen to encourage these factors or turn the factors into practice. A large number of proposals and messages aroused from the working groups and presented into key messages in plenary. The following is a summary of all the proposals:

Key Messages¹

Economic pillar of Sustainable Development

- Economic Justice requires planned economies that prioritise both the people and the planet through participatory democracy
- Governments must have policy space to pass pro-development laws without constraints of loan or preferential trade agreement conditionalities
- Regulation of the private sector should ensure tax revenue (progressive tax reform ensuring fair contributions from multi-national corporations) and decent work
- Harmonisation of laws and regulations for sustainable development and social accountability
- International agencies should assist central and local governments to access and use advanced technological facilities
- Harmonisation of donors' practices must be pursued (ODA, Investment and finance agreements, loans, position in multilateral negotiations including: climate, human rights, general assembly, FfD, etc.)

Social pillar of Sustainable Development

- Creation of space for CSOs' participation in both the design and the implementation of national and international policies
- Provision of more flexible funds for the CSOs by the EU, including the creation of a National Trust Fund
- Capacity building and education of government officials and CSOs should be incorporated in international negotiations
- Recognition of CSOs as partners¹ in all stages of planning, implementation and evaluation

Environmental pillar of Sustainable Development

- Capacity building in developing countries to design an economic pillar that supports the environment
- Decision making processes of economic and environmental policies should be democratised at all levels (national, regional, international level) with meaningful participation of grassroots and peoples organizations
- Accountability mechanisms (Business and Human Rights Mechanism) that would hold corporations accountable for environment and human rights violations must be enforced
- Revision of the Extra-territorial obligations of the EU
- Developed countries should help developing ones in focusing on adaption
- The Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) principle in addressing climate change should be respected

Means of implementation of the post-2015 agenda

- Capacity development/support for CSOs and LAs to plan/design, implement and monitor development programs and projects
 - Revision of the role of the EU in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development to ensure that it lives up to the commitments made
 - Trade policy should be revisited to ensure that it is coherent with international HR norms and standards and that aid is not marginalized by trade commitments
 - Adherence to UN Guidelines on Business and Human Rights
 - Transparency and full disclosure of multinational operations
 - Multilateral development banks need to adhere to their own policies on accountability and transparency
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¹ See the complete reports in Annex 3

Session 3. The EU in Asia and the Pacific-Regional programmes

The third session of the forum concentrated on the role of **the EU and EU regional programmes in Asia and the Pacific**. **Ms Jenni Lundmark** from the EU Delegation to Thailand provided an overview of EU programmes in the region. She started her intervention with the new EU global development policy framework: the Agenda for Change. She pointed out the 2 main pillars of the Agenda (democracy, human rights and good governance; inclusive and sustainable growth for human development) and the objective of having aid focused on countries most in need and where impact is the greatest. She then highlighted the main EU funding instrument and the funds allocation per region and stressed that the DEVCO programmes are also complemented by other programmes under different General Directorates (DG), such as DG ECHO dealing with humanitarian assistance. Ms Lundmark's presentation gave rise to some questions from the audience such as the level of success observed so far from the EU interventions in the region.

Continuing on **Ms Lundmark** gave a comprehensive presentation on EU cooperation with the ASEAN region. "*ASEAN and the EU, same or different?*" she asked as an introduction. On the basis of concrete examples such as the ARISE (Support to ASEAN Economic Integration), SUPA (Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN) and E-READI (Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument) programmes, she presented the framework of cooperation 2014-2020 based on 3 focal sectors (economic support, environment management, dialogue facility). She explained that cooperation is not an easy exercise due to the extreme disparities, in terms of economic and social development, of the countries in the region. The EU's development policy and cooperation priorities need then to be adapted accordingly.

Ms Sunkyong Lee, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), contributed to the session with her own experience working with CSOs in the region in the context of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) process. Initiated in 1996, this began as an informal dialogue process including 51 countries from Asia and Europe plus the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. Different types of meetings are organised under ASEM at official (i.e: Ministerial meetings, Senior Officials' meetings, Summits) and non-official levels (i.e.: Business Forum, Peoples' Forum). ASEM enables exchanges and promotes a better understanding between Asians and Europeans in different areas such as: culture, education, economy, governance, public health and sustainable development.

Ms Sutthiya Chantawarangul, EU Delegation to Thailand, presented the SWITCH-Asia Programme, designed to promote sustainable consumption and production in the region. It contains different components: i) Grant projects (Eco labelling products, greening supply chains, etc.); ii) Network facility, via the Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) and iii) Policy support via assistance to national and sub-regional policy frameworks. The last version of the SWITCH-Asia Programme started in 2014 and will run until 2020 with a dedicated budget of €120 Million.

The next presentations were made via videoconference from the European Commission's Headquarters in Brussels by **Ms Nuria Rodriguez-Aller and Mr Jean-François Miche**, DG DEVCO, on the EU Blending Facilities. They outlined the features and conditions of this financing mechanism, which consists of using a grant provided by the EU combined with loans or equity from partner financial institutions to mobilise additional financing for development from private and public financiers. It was stressed that the Blending Facilities also target specific goals such as: improving the sustainability of a project; supporting reforms in line with EU policies; and increasing aid effectiveness via increased coordination between aid actors. Finally they showed that from 2007-2014, an estimated €2.0 billion in EU Grants has leveraged €44 billion of additional financing. In the Asian region, the EU has set up two facilities: the Central Asia Investment Facility (IFCA) and the Asian Investment Facility (AIF). This presentation gave rise to a number of comments from the audience, including the geographical coverage of the blending mechanisms and further analysis of the grant to investment ratio. Other comments of participants focused on the possibility for local authorities to

participate in blended projects.

As an information point, **Ms Chloé Allio**, DG DEVCO, presented the ongoing preparatory work for a possible EU Garment Initiative, an initiative to look at responsible supply chain management in the garment sector. The main objectives of the initiative would be to encourage all actors to step up efforts, to achieve better coordination, collaboration and exchanges between them, improve communication and to raise awareness on the main challenges in the garment sector among European consumers. She invited the participants to learn more and share comments via a dedicated email: EuropeAid-GARMENT-FLAGSHIP-INITIATIVE@ec.europa.eu. Participants reacted positively and raised the issue of the living and sanitation conditions for workers employed in the garment sector in Asia as an area of concern (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Philippines).

The third session of the Forum ended with the organisation of **working groups**, in which participants divided themselves by subregions (South Asia and South East Asia) and made suggestions about how to work better with the EU in the region. Two representatives from Pacific (Fiji) and Central Asia (Kyrgystan) worked together in addition to the two Working Groups of South Asia and South East Asia. The full report can be found in Annex 4.

In particular, participants concentrated on the following three questions: 1) how can CSOs and LAs work together on the changes identified in the morning; 2) what can the EU do to support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region; and 3) how can the PFD champion the work of CSOs and LAs in the region? As a result of the working groups a number of findings and recommendations were shared with the rest of the participants in plenary, as summarised below.

Key Messages²

	<i>South Asia</i>	<i>South-East Asia</i>
How can CSOs and LAs work together on the changes identified in the morning?	<p>Initiate a common platform (a legislative space) from where both parties can design, implement and monitor development processes at local and national level</p> <p>Promote a culture of transparency by sharing information in the SA countries</p> <p>Encourage CSOs to campaign and advocate so the government can influence LAs to work together with CSOs</p>	<p>Institutionalize (through policies, legislation) CSOs and LAs participation/involvement at all levels – planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation – incorporating a multi-stakeholder approach</p> <p>Shape/Change the mindset of LAs and CSOs (through awareness raising activities) in regards to a sense of shared responsibility in the different processes in developing communities.</p> <p>Develop and implement a framework for administrative reform.</p> <p>Joint capacity-building activities (especially for CSOs) so they have informed and more meaningful participation in the decision-making processes.</p>
What can the EU do to support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?	<p>Build the capacity of LAs and CSOs at the local level (to understand development, human rights etc.) with technical and digital support as well as funds for projects to develop a working relationship</p> <p>Ask the EU to influence governments in the region to create a structured platform so that CSOs and LAs can work together</p>	<p>Support collaborative projects (piloting or adopting/actualizing best practice) that will be undertaken by the CSOs and LAs: separate dedicated funding for CSOs and LAs.</p> <p>Allocate funds to promote the institutionalization of CSOs participation, awareness raising, capacity-building and dialogues with government of CSOs and LAs</p> <p>Provide technical assistance/training for studies and project proposal making</p> <p>Require European companies to adopt/implement home standards when they operate business abroad (ILO core labour standards, CSR)</p>
How can the PFD champion the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?	<p>PFD is an important avenue to bring LAs and CSOs together, by sharing knowledge and best practices.</p> <p>Joint funding for LAs and CSOs together</p> <p>Share regular/periodic information with all parties about both the EU and their interventions in projects in the region</p>	<p>Promote human-rights based approaches in the ASEAN Economic Community</p> <p>Reach out to grassroots or community level</p> <p>Promote decentralised operation among LAs</p> <p>Work for the recognition of the PFD at national and regional governmental discussions/processes</p>

² See the complete reports in Annex 4

Concluding remarks

Prior to the closing session, Ms Tetet Nera-Lauron read a joint message from CSOs and LAs in the meeting. The message welcomed and acknowledged the value of the PFD, as a space for policy debate, consultation and exchange of information, and highlighted how this Regional Policy Forum has helped them to realize once again their common shared challenges. Attending CSOs and LAs requested EU support in areas such as: creating an enabling environment for CSOs and LAs; coordinating better financing mechanisms with other donors; and supporting accountability and transparency mechanisms, including for corporations. (see the complete message in Annex 2)

The concluding remarks of Mr Antonio Tujan, Member of the PFD Task Team, on behalf CSOs and Ms Bernadia Tjandradewi, UCLG ASPAC, on behalf of LAs closed the 2nd regional meeting of the Asia and Pacific region of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD).

Mr Tujan highlighted one key emerging theme during this forum: development justice, encompassing the following themes:

redistribution; inequality; gender, social, economic, and environmental justice. He also called upon the EU to support the development of a high level forum to monitor SDG implementation.

Ms Tjandradewi reiterated the importance of the PFD for hearing the viewpoints of different actors and reminded everyone that we are making history in the work and energy that is currently shaping the Post 2015 agenda. She echoed Mr Tujan's highlighting of development justice as a key theme of the conference.

Lastly, Mr Michel Laloge closed the Policy Forum, noting that the discussions of the meeting reflected well the three pillars of the Agenda for Change and that we are on the right path. He restated the EU's commitment to support development efforts in the region on an on-going basis and encouraging continued dialogue, particularly in the context of the different global events taking place both this year and next.

[You can also check out the agenda, presentations and background documents here.](#)

Annex 1. Preparatory Day

Prior to the 2nd Regional Meeting of the Asia and Pacific region of the Policy Forum on Development, a preparatory day was organised for all the participants dedicated to learning about the EU institutions and the Policy Forum, as well as hearing an update on the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Mr Carlos Buhigas Schubert, PFD Technical Assistance team, made a thorough presentation on how the EU works. He divided his presentation into 4 key parts aiming at: i) familiarizing the participants with what the EU is and how it works; ii) understanding the landscape of the EU and its institutional structure; iii) providing an initial introduction to the role of the EU in Foreign Affairs and iv) examining EU's Development Cooperation in the context of current agendas (Post 2015, etc.).

Ms Salima Chitalia, DEVCO, continued the session with a detailed presentation of the Policy Forum on Development starting with the origin of the initiative recommended during the Structured Dialogue. She reviewed the main goals of the PFD, the working modalities and the membership rules, all found in the [PFD charter](#).

Ms Kate Lappin, Regional Coordinator of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), started her intervention with a presentation of the key issues and challenges in achieving Development Justice (DJ) via a new development model. Ms Lappin first highlighted the issues of "Development Injustice" that necessitate a new model: "The richest 85 people in the world are more wealthy than the poorest 3 billion." "In an entire year a garment worker will make less than the Wal-Mart Family makes in 1 single second." General inequality (such as wealth and gender) is increasing day by day. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a new development model based on more equity and justice. That model, representing a unified civil society position of more of 400 organisations in the region, is based around five pillars: i) Redistributive justice aiming at redistributing resources, wealth, power and opportunities to all human beings equitably; ii) Economic justice aiming at developing economies that enable dignified lives, accommodate for needs and facilitate capabilities, employment and livelihoods for all; iii) Gender and social justice, aiming at eliminating all forms of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion that pervade our communities; iv) Environmental justice restoring collective, harmonious development and ending harmful extraction of all forms; v) Accountability to peoples, requiring participatory, democratic governance. After the Q&A session, Ms Lappin presented the key points of the Post 2015 Development agenda. She started with the presentation of the Post 2015 Zero Draft Document prepared for the UN Summit which includes four main parts: 8 introductory points; 17 SDGs and 169 targets; Means of Implementation related to the 17 Goals and the Global Partnership; and the follow-up and review processes at national, regional and global levels. She concluded by raising what is missing in the Zero Draft document and highlighting next steps, including technical proofing of targets and civil society strategies post-adoption.

- ⇒ See the key issues on each of the 17 SDGs and the main document related to the Post 2015 Agenda in the **mobile phone application** title "[Post2015](#)."
- ⇒ See a **video** on development justice [here](#).

Annex 2. Joint CSO and LA Statement

Joint CSO and LA Statement on the Occasion of the 2nd Regional Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development in Asia Pacific

June 24, 2015

We, 50 CSOs and LAs from Asia and the Pacific, gathered together at the 2nd Regional Policy Forum on Development on June 24-25 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Coming together, we have realized that CSOs, LAs, and their constituents, face some common issues and challenges in the field of development, which could be addressed with support from EU, through the following measures:

- Support the enabling environment for CSOs and LAs through measures such as:
 - CSO and LA participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of policies and projects, at all levels (national, regional, and international).
 - Capacity building for CSOs and LAs to improve their own development effectiveness and accountability.
- Coordinate financing mechanism with other donors so as to avoid duplication and enhance synergies using need-based approaches, and moving from project-based to program-based funding.
- Capacity development for the implementation, monitoring and data collection, and evaluation of development policies.
- Supporting accountability mechanisms for corporations, such as the Business and Human Rights Mechanism
- Support more public-public and public-people partnerships in development cooperation.

We welcome and acknowledge the value of the PFD, as a space for policy debate, consultation and exchange of information and experiences on the EU's main policies and initiatives in the development field. In order to continue working together, more efficiently and effectively, deeper trust needs to be developed among the different actors involved to recognize their common vision and challenges, while respecting the differing contexts where they are coming from. More trust-building exercises are needed, and these will take a lot of time, commitment, openness, and resources.

In the spirit of moving forward, we recommend the continuation of the PFD with regularity, and with more structure through adopting thematic-based meetings, with the participation of relevant directorates of the EU, to address the different aspects of EU's development policy. This will entail greater harmonization and synergies among the units of the EU, which handle different concerns and themes.

The upcoming evaluation of the PFD presents a good opportunity to reflect on its experiences for the past two years, and revisit its mandate to make it into an effective space for policy influencing.

CSOs and LAs will continue working together with the EU with the common objective of making development work for the people and the planet.

Annex 3. Thematic Working Groups

Economic pillar of Sustainable Development

Key Messages	Economic Justice requires planned economies that prioritise people and planet developed through participatory democracy. Reducing inequality between people; between states and between men and women can be advanced by the following:
Key Factors	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure governments have policy space to pass pro development laws without constraint of loan or preferential trade agreement conditionalities2. Regulation of private sector to ensure tax revenue (progressive tax reform ensuring fair contribution from multi-national corporations) and decent work. Harmonisation of laws and regulations for sustainable development<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Universal Living wagesb) Protect freedom of association and social dialoguec) Organise communitiesd) Establish Rate payers charterse) Public – public and public – people partnerships rather than public – privatef) ensure equal pay for equal work, maternity protection and redistribute unpaid care through public investment in care3. Capacity development (Technological know-how, Skills)4. Universal social protection5. Corporate social accountability6. Harmonisation of donor’s practices (ODA, Investment and finance agreements, loans, position in multilateral negotiations including: climate, human rights, general assembly, FfD...)

Social pillar of Sustainable Development

Success Stories

- Myanmar: after Cyclone Nargis:
- Bangladesh: Rana Plaza brings change (in thinking) for decent working environment and minimum Wage
- National Gender Policy (2013), Law on prevention of violence against women (2015)
- Indonesia: Social protection on health and workers rights
- All the women workers of 3 different parties came together on the right of women workers
- Philippines: Pension and 20% discount to the poor senior citizens; allowance to the poorest of the poor
- Philippines: Socialized housing for the urban poor
- Bottom-up budget process
- Assessment-based national dialogue for social protection
- Magna-Carta of women
- National disaster risk reduction (DRR) and Management Act 2010
- Thailand: Universal Healthcare, subsidized transportation (electricity and water taken away after change in government)
- Malaysia: 3 months maternity leave after government office, it is being implemented in private sectors also (6 months in Bangladesh, Myanmar)
- Malaysia: Ownership of families on water in Selangor
- India: Food for everyone (public stockholding and subsidized selling)
- Declaration on strengthening the social protection in ASEAN countries in 2014
- Nepal: legal protection of menstruating girls
- Free public education for 9 years
- Cambodia: Universal Healthcare
- Government facilitating the elderly association
- Water and Sanitation for all (urban areas)
- Reproductive tract infection (RTI) and Sexual and Reproductive education in schools

Key Factors

- Good governance and political will
- Trade is more powerful than the government (Bangladesh min wage) and Government need to have control on pricing (in Thailand, wage is increased but the price of essential commodities also increased)
- Sustained people's active participation; Institutionalization of people's participation in all processes at different level
- Monitoring of government policies and its implementation, Government should have their own mechanism but beside CSO should monitor
- NGO/CSO played an important role to policy change, even if the government doesn't initiate the dialogue, CSO can do that
- Capacity building of both government and CSO/LA
- Change of mindset of both government and CSO including community people to claim rights?
- Policy of National Trust Fund to facilitate CSO to work on public issues

Turning the factors into practice

- Capacity building of both government and CSO through regular and systematic knowledge sharing
 - Ensuring access to information (ICT, Forum, Infrastructure etc.)
 - Change of mindset of both government and CSO including community people to claim rights
 - Policy of National Trust Fund to facilitate CSO to work on public issues/
Establishing global & regional social protection fund
 - Tax reforms at global, regional and national level
 - Government need to create space for CSO, TU to come along (OGP -Open
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government Partnership in Myanmar), institutionalize the spaces, yet to have a legislative forum

- Government to be the main player to achieve the SDGs, CSO need to play the devil's advocate role, to push the government
- Promoting social development champions into the government and private sector

Key Messages

- Creation of space for CSO participation in national/international level policies and implementations
 - Provision of more flexible funds for the CSOs by EU including creation of National Trust Fund
 - Capacity building and education of the Government Officials and CSO on the international negotiation
 - Recognition of CSOs as partners in all stages of planning, implementation and evaluation
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Environmental pillar of Sustainable Development

Success Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thailand:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Balanced living between agriculture and other business, ex: Huang Ka Keeng National park in Thailand : The farmers living near by the park stop exploiting lands of the national park.– Using ecosystem based for marine conservation area• Bhutan: protection of forests amidst the need for economic development• Philippines: Protection of marine areas and providing livelihoods for fisherfolk• Pakistan: Resolving urbanization challenges• Vietnam: put more adaptation in to climate change action plan
Success Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change from top down approach to area based and ecosystem with stakeholders' meaningful participation (adopt rights based approach)• Capacity building and knowledge for local communities and authorities• Make sure multiple stakeholders participate in decision making process• Ensure gender participation actually demonstrated into planning, implementing, monitoring
Factors impeding the advancement of the pillar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global development model that promotes economic growth based on rampant resource extraction and inequality between developed and developing countries• Change we want: Economic paradigm that is both pro-people and supports environmental sustainability
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic pillar should be designed to support environmental pillar• Ensure good governance in decision making .• Build capacity of the countries to design economic pillar to support environment, which will need technical facilitation governed by open source intellectual property rights (IPR)• Democratize decision making processes of economic and environmental policies at all levels (national, regional, international level) with meaningful participation of grassroots organizations.• Enforce accountability mechanisms (Business and Human Rights Mechanism) that would hold corporations accountable for environment and human rights violations• Look into the European tools for social policy (ETOs) of the EU• Climate Change• Developing countries focus adaption and developed countries should help developing countries on that. CC fund should put more for adaptation than mitigation• Commit to the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) principle in addressing climate change.

Means of implementation of the post-2015 agenda

Success Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mechanism that allows communities/partners to launch complaint for an ADB project. (The ADB has to acknowledge the complaint in 7 days and respond to the complaint in 21 days, but follow up process does not function very well)• Private Sector: Vodafone in Fiji<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Has nearly 25,000 or so membership with youth– The CSO umbrella structure has been allowed to reach out to their consumers with capacity building messages in applying in the job market
Key Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impediments:• On follow-up on MDG progress:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Weak capacity of CSO for data collection– No uniform system/mechanism for data collection– Shadow reports from CSOs presented in a different space than the official space;
Turning the factors into practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity Building of CSO/LAs to gather data;• Have uniform mechanism for data collection;• Have structured institutional space for CSOs/LAs to be part of official processes in designing, planning and implementing development programs.
Key messages	<p>Enabling Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU positioning or policy guideline vis-à-vis repressive/undemocratic states• Capacity development/support for CSOs/LAs to plan/design, implement and monitor development programs/projects• Redesign EU engagement mechanisms to enable CSO/LA at grassroots level• Example- call for proposal system – accessible and applicable to local groups; predictable, open platform- structured process for engagement of CSO/LAs with EU officials at the national level;• HQ Brussels – country and regional delegations coordination/information <p>EU Role in Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need for capacity building of CSOs/LAs for strategic planning in the context of the SDGs at the country• Implementation of country roadmaps re: CSO/LA engagement• Agree on concrete timetable for delivering/fulfilling the unmet ODA commitment on 0.7% GNI and raising the level of ambition given the ambition of SDGs;• Continue concrete support for middle income developing countries taking into account the significant rate of poverty and inequality in these countries <p>Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade for Aid: EU Role in achieving Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development Aid for trade policy strategy needs to be revisited to ensure it is coherent with international HR norms and standards,• EU agriculture policies be based on the food sovereignty model i.e ensure access and control over resources in the hand of communities which include seeds, land and other productive resources• Energy policies that are locally grounded• Not override aid commitment over trade agreements <p>Private Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adherence to UN Guidelines on Business and Human Rights• Transparency and full disclosure of multinational operations• Global partnership to prevent a ‘race to the bottom’ on social, environmental and fiscal policies b/w countries to attract FDI but to work

towards establishing national level regulations that prevent the extra-territorial infringement of HRs by the business sector

Transparency and Accountability

- Multilateral development banks have to adhere to their own policies on accountability and transparency
 - Meaningful consultation with CSO, communities and LAs
 - Free prior informed consent for all CS
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Annex 4. Regional Working Groups

South Asia

1. How can CSOs and LAs work together on the changes identified in the morning?
 - Initiate a common platform (a legislative space) from where both of the parties can design, implement and monitor the development process at both local and national levels
 - Promoting transparency by providing and asking for information as the SA countries have real time information on effects (proactive disclosure of information)
 - CSO can have campaign and advocacy so that the government influence the LA to work together with CSO
 2. What can the EU do to support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?
 - Build the capacity the LA and CSO at the local level to understand what is development, human rights etc.
 - Technical and digital support
 - Fund for projects to develop a working relationship
 - EU can ask (influence) the government for a structured platform so that CSO and LA can work together
 3. How can the PFD champion the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?
 - PFD is an important venue which brings LA and CSO together, by sharing the knowledge and best practices, success stories replications
 - Joint funding for LA and CSO together
 - Sharing regular/periodic information with either party on EU and their interventions and projects in the region
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South East Asia

1. How can CSOs and LAs work together on the changes identified in the morning?
 - Institutionalize (through policies, legislation) CSOs and LAs participation/involvement in all levels – planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation – adopting multi-stakeholder approach
 - Shaping/changing the mindset of LAs and CSOs regarding the need to be involved in the different processes and a shared responsibility in developing communities. This can be done through constant dialogues, awareness/consciousness raising activities, and participatory research initiatives.
 - Developing and implementing framework for administrative reforms and putting in place an institutional structure to actualize the framework.
 - Joint capacity-building activities especially for CSOs so they will have informed and more meaningful participation in the decision-making processes.

 2. What can the EU do to support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?
 - Support collaborative project (piloting or adopting/actualizing best practice) that will be undertaken by the CSOs and LAs: separate dedicated funding for CSOs and LAs.
 - Allocate funds to promote institutionalization of CSOs participation, and awareness raising, capacity-building and dialogues with government of CSOs and LAs
 - Technical assistance/training for studies and project proposal making
 - Require European companies to adopt/implement same standards they follow in home countries in case the standards in countries where they operate business have lower standards. (ILO core labor standards, CSR)

 3. How can the PFD champion the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?
 - Promote human-rights based approaches in the ASEAN Economic Community and other ASEAN processes
 - Reach out to grassroots or community level
 - Decentralized operation among LAs (development cooperation is not only at the national level – local authorities)
 - Work for the recognition of PFD at the national and regional governmental discussions/processes so that issues or work of CSOs and LAs
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Pacific (Fiji) and Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan)

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| 1. How can CSOs and LAs work together on the changes identified in the morning? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More collaboration within CSOs and LAs in designing, implementation and monitoring of grass root activities;• Localization and adaptation of international models and concepts at country levels;• Joint advocacy activities by CSOs and LAs to bring policy changes;• Meaningful partnership and engagement of CSOs and LAs within each others' programs. |
| 2. What can the EU do to support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination with EU offices at countries and regional levels, for example PFD in Bangkok 2015 - to follow up opportunities back to the countries;• Capacity building of both LAs and CSOs, and promoting integrated approach of both;• Encourage governments to include CSOs in both implementation and monitoring on Post 2015;• Encourage private sector to be catalyst in implementation in Post 2015 and push private sector to be accountable and transparent. |
| 3. How can the PFD champion the work of CSOs and LAs in the region? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PFD can be collaborative voice of CSOs and LAs in the region to influence stakeholders to address the challenges of CSOs and LAs;• PFD can call EU offices at country' and regional levels to support needs of CSOs and LAs• PFD can be a space to ignite focus and changes in EU Country Roadmaps. |
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