

## Flash note on the third global meeting of the Policy Forum on Development



The third meeting of the global Policy Forum on Development (PFD) was held on 17 and 18 March 2015, in Brussels. It mobilized more than 120 representatives from civil society organisations (CSOs) and associations of local authorities (LAs) from different regions of the world, EU Member States, the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Region (CoR), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission. The two major topics on the agenda were the latest Communication from the Commission on “**Global Partnership for poverty eradication and sustainable development after 2015,**”<sup>1</sup> for which **Commissioner Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development,** provided the

key note address, and the issue of an “**Enabling Environment for CSOs and LAs.**” Both topics provided for two days of lively and intensive discussions and allowed all participants to exchange views and gain a better understanding of the issues at stake.

**Ms Lotte Knudsen**, Director of Human Development and Migration, DG DEVCO, presided over the inaugural session, commenting on the wide diversity of actors represented in this unique and innovative space.

In his welcome speech, Mr **Fernando Frutuoso de Melo**, Director General of DG DEVCO and PFD Chair, reminded participants that 2015 is a crucial year for development as governments and leaders will converge later this year to agree on a new development agenda. He underlined the important role CSO/LAs play as actors in development and guardians of democracy. He underlined their role in the implementation of this new agenda and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as actions will ultimately take place at local level. He went on to highlight the need to support CSO/LAs in order for them to be able to fully play their role and referred hereby to steps taken by the Commission since the last PFD meeting in October 2014, such as the signing of strategic engagements (FPAs) with 5 representative associations of local authorities and the further rolling out of EU roadmaps, enabling strategic engagements with local civil society organisations in all beneficiary countries. Finally he reminded the audience of the European Year of Development (EYD) 2015 initiative, which provides a unique opportunity to showcase the European Commission's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide.



**Ms Liga Andersone**, representing the Latvian EU Presidency, pointed out the key priorities of the EU presidency, which include Post-2015 and gender equality. Along the same lines, **Mr Stephan Auer**, Director, Multilateral Relations and Global issues, EEAS, expressed the importance of 2015 as a crucial year for development. “Money alone cannot do the trick,” he said. He also referred to governance, human rights and democratic principles as important elements of the non-financial Means of Implementation. Mr Auer also highlighted the importance of the coordination among EU actors. **Ms Jacqueline Moustache Belle**, Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), PFD LA Co-Chair, underlined the need for a new vision for human development that will make poverty history. Ms Moustache Belle stressed the fact that sustainable development will only be possible with an integrated approach including all current international processes (climate and finance). She also expressed her concerns and hope that the SDG Goal 11, ‘Inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements,’ will remain part of the future development agenda. Finally she welcomed the concept of global partnership for development but emphasized the need to have a multi-layered approach and build the partnership at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. **Mr Jorge Balbis, Executive Secretary,** Asociación Latinamericana de organizaciones de promoción al desarrollo (ALOP), PFD CSO Co-Chair ended the inaugural session by expressing the importance of 2015 as an historical and critical year representing a unique

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<sup>1</sup> [COM\(2015\)44 final](#)

opportunity to establish the grounds for the type of development that “we want.” He recognized the difficulty of coordinating the different international agendas as well as the multiple actors. Finally, Mr Balbis expressed his hope that the PFD will enable consensus building among the different actors and ensure that nobody is left behind.



In the **first session on “Global Partnership for poverty eradication and sustainable development after 2015,”** Commissioner for Development **Neven Mimica** laid out the new Communication, setting out the Commission's vision on global partnership and means of implementation needed to deliver on the post-2015 agenda. Comprehensiveness, universality and multi-stakeholders' engagement are the main elements of the Communication. Even if the EU remains the largest donor in the world, it also wants to be the most efficient and effective one. Aware of the complexity of the current situation, Commissioner Mimica expressed his wish to consider development cooperation in inventive ways taking into account: innovative sources of financing; new kinds of

partnerships and adequate measurement and monitoring systems. This speech was followed by a panel discussion moderated by **Mr Bruce Byiers** (ECDPM) with the participation of **Mr Pedro Silva Pereira, MEP**, Rapporteur on financing for development, **Ms Tove Ryding** (Eurdodad) and **Mr Hans Janssen**, Rapporteur on Post-2015 for the CoR/Spokeperson for CEMR/PLATFORMA. Panellists were given the opportunity to react to the Communication and, together with the participants, to engage in a frank debate with Commissioner Mimica. The discussion highlighted priorities to be taken into consideration during upcoming discussions and negotiations (such as job creation and decent work, respect of human rights, territorial approach and use of resources; role of the private sector and governance).

Ms Knudsen concluded the morning session by underlining the importance of hearing the participants' viewpoints and concerns and the need to continue this dialogue also after the September Summit. She said the EU has heard the repetitive call for EU leadership and referred to the Commissioner's statement "that the EU will remain a strong development partner throughout the SDG discussions, aiming for a transformative agenda that requires all to contribute their share to succeed".

As a lead into working group discussions on “Means of Implementation,” actors shared their views and positions on the subject. Key themes for the means of implementation included: decent work; social dialogue; investment; strong regulatory and legal framework; policy coherence; innovative sources of finance; participatory approach; indicators; and accountability. Speakers stressed the need to ensure that financial resources are effectively directed to those most in need. Finally, a short feedback on the dialogue with the **Private Sector** event organised by the Directorate Sustainable Growth and Development held the day prior to the PFD was given by **Mr Frederick Muia** from the International Employers Organisation, where means of implementation were also discussed. Working group discussions allowed participants to further focus the discussion on the topics of infrastructure of public goods and social services, innovative sources of financing, and partnerships for development, with the objective of exchanging best practices, understanding bottlenecks and elaborating messages for the post-2015 related discussions. Those mainly focused on (i) implementation, (ii) predictability (in terms of respecting political commitments and taxing), (iii) frameworks (accountability, monitoring and regulatory) and the role of the state.



**The second day of the PFD was devoted to the enabling environment (EE)** for CSOs and LAs. Chaired by **Ms Izabella Toth**, European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs (CONCORD), and **Mr Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, UCLG Africa, the session gave an overview of the vision of enabling environment from the point of view of civil society organisations (Mr. Mabala) and local authorities (Mr. Bah) respectively.

The EU Commission showcased its own work promoting enabling environment through the Roadmap process for engagement with CSOs, followed by experiences from the Arab CSO Network, the CPDE (CSO partnership on development effectiveness) and the Task Team on CSO effectiveness. The CONCORD report on mutual engagement between EU Delegations and CSOs was presented.

Participants split into small groups to exchange experiences and recommendations on how to work together to improve an enabling environment. The session confirmed the shared interest between LAs and CSOs, both in global processes and at local level. They agreed that in order to advance collaboration between LAs and CSOs, it is vital to build confidence and mutual accountability between them and with central governments, and to promote local coalitions for sustainable development.

Participants also had the opportunity to hear a presentation on **PROSPECT**, the online application system for grants proposals. Finally DEVCO B2 reported on the consultation on the MAPP 2015-2017 working document.

**Ms Rosario Bento Pais**, Head of Unit, Civil Society and Local Authorities, DG DEVCO, closed the 3<sup>rd</sup> PFD, highlighting the importance of the Forum as a relevant platform for dialogue and exchange for the Commission and pivotal actors like CSO and LA. To advance further the collaboration between actors, Ms Bento Pais reiterated the importance of mutual trust and accountability, which the Commission will continue to reinforce. She recognised the challenges and the complexity for all actors of the different negotiations strands taking place in 2015 but looked also further ahead by mentioning the need to continue the dialogue post-2015 for the implementation of the agenda. She ended by saying that "The PFD offers a unique setting that we should jointly use for tackling together the coming challenges ahead of us in the framework of the Post 2015."



The next Regional PFD meeting will be in Bangkok on 24-25 June 2015.

**All presentations are available on CISOCH**

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