



# The European vision to support Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) in partner countries

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European Commission, DEVCO  
B2 "Civil Society and Local Authorities"

# 1

## International Commitments concerning Development Cooperation

# A paradigm shift since 2000

International dimension

MDGs 2000

Paris, 2005

Accra, 2008,

Busan, 2011

Rio+20, 2012

European dimension

EU Consensus on  
Development, 2005

Lisbon, 2009

Structured dialogue, 2010-2011

Agenda for Change, 2011

Communication "A Decent  
Life for All", 2013

SDGs 2015

*Paris Declaration on  
aid  
effectiveness(2005)*

**FIVE PRINCIPLES: Appropriation, Alignment,  
Harmonization, Results-oriented management,  
Mutual accountability.**

*Accra Agenda for  
Action (2008)*

**RECOGNITION OF THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER ACTORS**

**Busan Outcome  
Document (2011)**

**FROM NATIONAL APPROPRIATION TO "DEMOCRATIC  
APPROPRIATION"**

# EU Agenda for Change (2011)

## A MORE POLITICAL FOCUS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

1. Support to “fundamental values” (Democracy, human rights, rule of law)
2. Main results to be achieved through EU support: (i) Good governance; (ii) Inclusive growth
3. Political Economy Analysis
4. Recognition of Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations as full-fledged development actors alongside central governments (multi-actor approach)



**A new political lighthouse for EU External Action**

# 2

## CSOs-LAs and the EU response

# "The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development: Europe's Engagement with Civil Society in External Relations" (September 2012)



# Topics in the Structured Dialogue – Concluding Document (2011)

**Enabling environment** for CSO

***Right of initiative of CSO and diversity***

**Political multi stakeholders dialogues**

**Democratic local ownership**

**Multiple accountability and actors internal governance**

**Partnership and complementarity**

Strategic **mapping** of CSOs at country level

**Division of Labour and harmonisation**

**Selection and support mechanisms**

**The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development: Europe's Engagement with CS in External Relations**

## What is a CSO ?

"The EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity.

They include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and LGBT organisations, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media. Trade unions and employers' organisations, the so-called social partners, constitute a specific category of CSOs."

## Vision, scope and focus

*One vision: « An empowered and competent civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and is an asset itself .... »*

*Focus on CSO-State relations and on CSO action in governance*

*All regions and instruments concerned*

*Local CSO at the forefront*

# The policy - 3 priorities in all regions

**Facilitate constructive  
relations between states  
CSOs in partner countries**

1) Promoting a conducive environment  
for CSOs

2) Promoting meaningful and structured  
participation of CSOs in:

- Domestic policy making
- EU programming cycle;
- International processes and debates.

3) Increasing the capacity of local CSOs  
to perform their roles more effectively

# **EU support - the enabling environment**

- **Through peer pressure, advocacy, diplomacy and political dialogue;**
- **Active monitoring and support to CSO led monitoring initiatives,**
- **Actions and measures against HR violations**
- **Capacity development of all actors**
- **Media**
- **CSO internal governance**

# EU support - inclusive policy making

- **Structured dialogue mechanisms, national and local**
- **Multi-stakeholder, country, sector and actor specific dialogues (tripartite social dialogue)**
- **Quality of dialogue: timely, predictable & result oriented**
- **CSO: independent, representative and competent**

# EU country roadmaps for engagement with Civil Society in partner countries

Operationalization of the Communication.

Objectives:

- Improve **impact, predictability and visibility** of EU actions vis-à-vis civil society
- Ensure **consistency** and **synergy** throughout the various sectors
- Trigger **coordination** and **sharing of best practices** with Member States and other international actors

**21 roadmaps already received for the region.**

# EU support

- **Transparency and accountability at nationale level**
- **Partnerships to improve the quality of social service delivery**
- **Social economy, initiatives and partnerships combining social & economic ambitions for an inclusive and sustainable growth**

# CSOs in regional and global settings

**CSO participation in multilateral processes & arrangements**

**Support in the area of Policy Coherence for Development**

**Global citizenship + Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)**

**Dialogue with European institutions → Policy Forum on Development**

# Council Conclusions 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012

The Council welcomes the policy and puts forward a :

*....."renewed and more ambitious policy in support of civil society, with a focus on CSOs from partner countries and an emphasis on CSOs' engagement to strengthening democratic processes and accountability systems and achieving better development outcomes"*



# "Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes" (15 May 2013)



# The policy document addresses:

**(1) Local Authorities (LAs) in EU partner countries:** public institutions with legal personality, component of the State structure, below the level of central government and accountable to citizens; usually composed of a deliberative or policy-making body (council or assembly) and an executive body (the Mayor or other executive officer), directly or indirectly elected or selected at local level. The term encompasses different tiers of sub-national government, e.g. villages, municipalities, districts, counties, provinces, regions, etc.

**(2) Associations of Local Authorities (ALAs) in EU partner countries:** umbrella organisations based on membership and representativeness at sub-national, national, sub-continental, continental and international level. ALAs may be organised as an autonomous entity in accordance with the legislation in force in the country of registration. Associations of Local Authorities may be composed of a representative body elected by its LA members and a permanent secretariat.

# Why a Communication on Local Authorities? (i)

- LAs are the public institutions closest to citizens;
- LAs have the mandate, legitimacy and institutional stability to act efficiently;
- LAs have leadership capacities and can promote a process of co-production for goods and services through mobilization of various actors (civil society, private sector...) and resources.

## Why a Communication on Local Authorities? (ii)

- LAs are actors with whom the concept of accountability of public authorities to citizens and central authorities can be concretely implemented;
- Under national legislation, LAs can hold responsibilities in the following fields:
  - ✓ Promote citizens' participation in decision-making processes affecting their lives;
  - ✓ Ensure delivery of basic social services.

# Why a Communication on Local Authorities? (iii)

HOWEVER LAs need support in order to unlock their development potential as they encounter several barriers:

- An environment which does not always ensure proper capacitation of LAs to intervene in the public sector based on their mandates;
- Limited financial resources;
- Negative political factors, mainly related to the lack of effective leadership; high levels of corruption and bad administration; pandering and illegal economy; as well as deficient institutions.

## **Under the Principle of Subsidiarity:**

**Public responsibilities, regulatory functions and spending are transferred to the lowest institutional or social level, closest to citizens, that is able and entrusted to complete those responsibilities and functions**

## Core messages (i)

Promote a **more strategic EU engagement with Local Authorities and Associations of Local Authorities (ALAs)** in partner countries, also in crisis and risk-prone situations;

Give emphasis to **good governance** (a human right based approach including the rule of law, human rights, gender equality) and **participatory decision-making** related to sustainable development and inclusive growth, in order to reinforce local political processes, transparency and boost democratic ownership of development;

Enhance **LAs accountability** toward central authorities and citizens, via a continuous monitoring of progress towards sustainability.

## Core messages (ii)

Make LAs delivery of basic services more efficient and effective, to better respond to citizens' needs;

Foster dialogue among different actors operating at local level → multi-stakeholder partnerships approach;

Support the definition of plans and implementation of socio-economic development strategies according to the territorial characteristics and needs → multi-stakeholder participation + multi-sector approach

**Territorial Approach to Local Development**

# **Unlocking the development potential of LAs through EU support**

**(1) Decentralisation processes**

**(2) Capacity development of LAs**

**(3) Sustainable urbanisation**

**(4) Associations of LAs**

## 3 operational strategic priorities

From the operational point of view, the new EU vision aspires to promote:

- Stronger political, administrative and fiscal autonomy of LAs thanks to **decentralisation reforms**;
- Means of institutional and **capacity development** of LAs
- Innovative solutions in the frame of **rapid urbanisation**, with the aim of enhancing social inclusion, territorial cohesion and environment protection.

## **A fourth one: Associations of LAs**

The EU's new focus aims at strengthening the role of Associations of LAs (ALAs) in:

- supporting their members in achieving good governance and more effective development outcomes, at three different levels :
  - ✓ National, Regional, International
- Advocating and raising awareness about local and urban development issues in national policy contexts
- Shaping the international development agenda with a focus on the interests of local communities, particularly in view of the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the preparation of Habitat III.

# Take-away messages: a more strategic EU engagement with CSOs in partner countries

## Focus on empowerment

- Strengthen support to CSO capacity building
- Long-term strategy, flexible and demand-driven
- New capacities
- Partnerships with EU CSOs

## Funding adapted to local contexts

- Appropriate funding modalities
- Improve access to funding for local CSOs

## More coordinated action

- Better understanding of the CSO field
- Development of roadmaps for EU engagement with Civil society
- Better coordination between the European Commission and EU Member States

# Take-away messages: a more strategic EU engagement with LAs/ALAs in partner countries

## Empowerment of Local Authorities

- Promotion of a conducive environment at national and local levels
- Reinforce capacity of LAs and ALAs in partner countries through longterm, flexible and demand-driven approaches for capacity development
- Support to partnerships with EU LAs for exchange experience and transfer know-how
- Support the role of LAs/ALAs play in shaping the international agenda

## Funding adapted to local contexts

- Innovative funding modalities facilitating transparent and cost effective access to resources at local level in the different EU programmes
- Flexibility of funds to support LAs/ALAs' own initiatives
- During the implementation of budget support, monitoring the extent that funds are transferred from central treasure to the most adequate level of administration to satisfy citizens' needs

## More coordinated action

- Understanding of institutional organisation and decentralisation processes at country level
- Policy coordination, complementarity and coherence between national authorities and sub-national authorities
- Coordination between Commission, EU Member States
- Improved cooperation of EU LAs/ALAs with counterparts in partner countries



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**