

Global PFD Meeting 21-23 March 2017
The new European Consensus on Development
Background for session

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new [European Consensus on Development](#), intended to provide a new collective vision for development policy for the EU and its Member States. The Consensus aims to adapt development policy to the changes in the global context and the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty and is aligned with the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). It is coherent with the [Next steps for a sustainable European future](#) and EU [Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy \(EUGS\)](#). The Commission proposal for the new Consensus reflects the objectives of EU external action and is structured around the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The proposed Consensus seeks to systematically integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, focuses on key drivers (gender equality, youth, sustainable energy and climate change, investment and mobility and migration) and addresses connections with other policies of the EU, including humanitarian, migration, security and climate policies.

Some parts of the world have made strong development gains in recent years but we also see certain inward-looking political trends and some new global challenges. A strategy of engagement beyond European borders is an important part of ensuring the EU plays its full part as a global actor.

As actors and implementers of development policy, PFD members have already raised vital questions as to how the proposed Consensus will be collectively implemented and pointed out what requires more emphasis in the current draft. Some key points among many highlight:

- The need to acknowledge the different types of private sector actors, the diversity of civil society and the specificity of local and regional governments as actors for development
- The importance of people centered and membership organisations
- In the spirit of ensuring that no one is left behind, the need to focus on reducing all inequalities, including, wealth, health, gender, employment, education, opportunities; inequalities in access to public services and spaces, and in the exercise of democracy
- The importance of effective and democratic governance for sustainable development and coherence and the creation of a conducive environment to advance local democracy
- The fundamental integration of the local perspective in all sectors, levels of government and society at large

- The need for a new and more comprehensive approach to policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) in which Policy Coherence for Development can play its part.
- A responsibility to ensure a rights-based approach
- The importance for transparency and accountability for all means of implementation, including financing (especially in support for private sector engagement in development, through blending mechanisms)
- The necessity of fostering an enabling environment – including full respect of all civil and political rights - so that all actors may fulfill their functions
- European development cooperation must be based on thorough consultation with national authorities of partner countries and on a structured dialogue with CSOs and sub-national tiers of government
- The four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda – social dialogue, social protection, rights at work and employment – are indispensable building blocks of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Of special interest to the Policy Forum is the aspect of multi-stakeholder partnerships of the new consensus. The Commission proposal includes a re-iteration of the focus on national ownership and commitment to working with and building the capacity of all stakeholders that are represented in the PFD, including LAs, CSOs and private sector, among others. Specifically, there is support to the engagement of local governments in development action and to decentralisation reform in order to support local engagement. In the Commission Communication on the “next steps for a sustainable European future” the future launch of a multi-stakeholder platform “with a role in the follow-up and exchange of best practices on SDG implementation across sectors, at Member States and EU level” is announced. What shape and focus this will take going forward could profit from the PFD experience. This session of the Policy Forum will allow participants to discuss the vision of Europe in the world and the general direction of EU development policy, as reflected in the proposed new Consensus, and highlight what is essential for each stakeholder. Panellists and the audience will discuss how the new Consensus can further the development aims of all stakeholders in the context of the 2030 Agenda and specifically, how it might be implemented jointly.

Further background documents:

- [2006 European Consensus on Development](#)
- [EC proposal on a revised European Consensus on Development](#)
- [EP resolution on a revised European Consensus on Development](#)
- [PLATFORMA position](#)
- [ITUC-TUDCN position](#)
- [CONCORD position](#)
- [Cooperatives Europe position](#)