

Outcomes from the Working Groups on the 2030 Agenda

I. What is the progress of the 2030 Agenda in the region?

This session was divided in three parts. Firstly, a panel described the general state of implementation of Agenda 2030 in the region, using regional, national and local examples. After this panel session, participants moved into the working group discussions (divided by language: Arabic, English and French) to further identify the key factors that encourage or prevent the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and elaborate concrete proposals to promote the role of CSOs and LAs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, the representatives from the working groups gathered in plenary to present the findings of the discussions:

<p>Positive factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2030 agenda provides a framework to create bridges among different sectors and actors. - Developing both a general and a qualitative implementation agendas of general and specific objectives in Egypt. - Having a higher commission (and civil society being part of it) as well as having a national plan established in Jordan. - More awareness in terms of CSO involvement with governments, as well as of the place of women and young people especially in the Arab regions (affect all areas of intervention: decent work, improvement of social dialogue, etc) - More involvement of the media - CSOs and private sector are aware of agenda 2030. - Having a methodology for implementation and the strategy for the formulation of the objectives. - Consulting with CSOs is one of the most important incentives to achieve the agenda goals. - Having indicators to measure success and failure. - The importance of facing challenges and working within the current situations. - International lobbying to resolve crisis in Libya might lead to implementation.
<p>Negative factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack/absence of real/serious consultations with CSOs. - Development plans in Palestine are imposed and postponed, no implementation yet. - Lack of information on Agenda 2030 at NGO and LA level, in particular in Turkish context. - Under occupation, it's impossible to implement development plans, not even 1% (Palestine) - Sovereignty and borders issues as a base for implementation, yet Palestine doesn't have them. - CSOs-Donors relation in Palestine leads to failure in achieving any development goal. - Absence of indicators for measurement. - Political conflict and disagreements lead to obstruction of implementation (Libya) - Difficulties when it comes to funding development plans due to foreign policies. - Culture and ideology: common views that refuse the agenda goals (women empowerment and gender equality for instance)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confiscation of some local councils'/authorities' powers (Palestine) - Exclusion from social dialogue of relevant players like human rights organizations. - Economic crisis. - Feminist movement are excluded from any official partnership with national governments. - Development and democracy; an indispensable relationship. - Contradiction between indicators presented by the government and democratic environment. - Bureaucracy. - Corruption. - Wars and crisis. - Local councils awareness of their roles in development. - Contradiction; demanding accountability for major corruption while accepting minor corruption and other wrong practices. - Education quality is crucial, as education itself doesn't necessarily mean development and progress. - Categorical classification. - Optionality of self-evaluation.
Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing awareness raising campaigns aiming at changing ideologies and mentalities that are against the agenda goals. - Promoting dialogue platforms. - Finding incentives to Women's economic empowerment and engagement in labour market to foster development. - Using the political dialogue with EU Delegation to improve relations with national governments. - Empowering local authorities both administratively and financially. - The political environment; connection between democracy and freedoms in order to attain development. - The legal framework; having legislations and laws for social protection to achieve social justice. - Promoting the involvement of the private sector. - Facing religious and conservative discourses especially when it comes to women. - Engaging CSOs in international meetings conducted by international organizations. - Funding instruments available for CSOs and LAs are not well known, so more and better information.

II. Regional Specific Challenges: Resilience at Stake

This session was divided into five roundtables, which discussed the five following topics:

- Enabling Environment for LAs and CSOs
- Crises, Post Crisis and Fragile States and Migration: Refugees and IDPs
- Inequalities and Social exclusion, including gender inequality, youth unemployment & underemployment
- Democracy and Human Rights
- Environmental Challenges: Natural resources scarcity & waste; environment-blind policies & implementation

Enabling Environment for LAs and CSOs	
Are there positive local examples and initiatives that could inspire the work of others in the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration between International Organisations and LAs leads to build a sub-Regional women's network - Tri-partite Dialogue between Governments – EU and CSO - Regional network of small cultural NGO help to solve complicated

	<p>problems faced by each one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSO / LA Task forces to debate public issues (state budget, legal reform, HR, gender equality ...)
<p>Are there ways to improve dialogue, action and partnerships (including with the governments) to encourage the achievement of collective goals?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local and thematic campaigns to build trust - Support young activist & encourage rotation - “Erasmus” on the level of CSO and LA north/south - Build coalitions - Learn from international experiences - Use the existent international mechanism on rule of law, FOA ... - Create spaces for meeting and exchange - Dialogue on National / regional - Encourage (create) trans-regional dialogue on common issues such migration, water ... - Representation: how to involve the virtual CSO - Respect of the independence of the CSO and avoid the government and donors intrusion - Union of LA (National, Regional) with the support of CSO
<p>How could EU policies support this concrete work going forward?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support Local Authorities by providing staff capacity building - Better trust between EU and CSO - Technical workshop between member state and neighbourhood - Proper and timely information in Arabic - Two-way communication - Encourage national consultation with grassroots movement - Copy the “Erasmus” initiative on the level of CSO and LA (something similar on volunteers exist already only in Europe) - Support the creation of coalitions - Replication of the good practice by EU in other regions
<p>How the PFD could support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linking CSO / LA & government at local and regional levels - Better visibility on the future strategy - Disseminate the best practice identified on the international level in the region - Proper and timely information in Arabic - Two-way communication

Crises, Post Crisis and Fragile States and Migration

<p>Are there positive local examples and initiatives that could inspire the work of others in the region?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency rooms that include local authorities, CSOs and UN were set up to welcome refugees. - The emergency rooms provide basic requirements, food, shelter, medical care to refugees. - After 3 months, attempts are made to settle the refugees permanently. - Local authorities created their own NGOs to help refugees. - Created Community centres to help refugees share their problems and coordinate the way to help them through municipalities and civil societies. - Local authorities cooperate with the business community to create job opportunities for refugees. - Central government is registering all refugees and through the registration refugees are able to access services and education and work. - The Turkish government has been providing education and vocational training to refugees inside the camps. - The central government formed joint committees that brought together LAs and CSOs to help the refugees. - The committee is in charge of conflict resolution between the refugees and the hosting country. - New SMEs for refugees to start agro – food products. - Invite refugees and hosting communities to celebrate jointly special occasions like social and religious events. - Help women and children and train them on issues of hygiene. - A committee from local authorities and CSOs was created for the purpose of helping the displaced and migrant. - A centre was created by local authority and NGOs to support displaced women financially and psychologically and legal advice to help the women integrate, train and find jobs or start their own businesses. - The effort now is to extend this help to migrants.
<p>Are there ways to improve dialogue, action and partnerships (including with the governments) to encourage the achievement of collective goals?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create local platforms that include all stakeholders to coordinate and monitor all issues concerning refugees. - Depending on the role and the involvement of the central government, the local authority may choose to communicate and involve the central government concerning the needs and assistance required for refugees. - It is necessary that all donors and NGOs are involved, in a correct and immediate manner to prevent new disasters and protect human rights, because the Syrian crisis has caused the worst humanitarian crisis since world war II.
<p>How could EU policies support this concrete work going forward?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU should continue working with local governments and CSOs so that central governments would be pushed to reform laws that would improve the status of the migrant and asylum seekers. - Help and assistance should be linked with empowering civil society. - EU should coordinate better with UNHCR so that the mechanism of distributing resources is handled much more effectively. - EU should push southern countries and central governments to be

	more transparent about aid distribution to refugees.
How the PFD could support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue these kinds of meetings that bring the different actors together. - Support and enhance the capacity of LAs technically such as how to implement projects not just in relations to refugee crisis but similar to what has been done in the former Soviet Union Countries. - The PFD could also share the successful experiences of other countries that have gone through similar crisis such as Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Inequalities and Social exclusion	
Are there positive local examples and initiatives that could inspire the work of others in the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budgets: Monitoring and approaching budgets to limit inequality and suggesting alternatives to fulfil development goals. - Taking actions and positive measures such as quotas (women quota for political participation in local authorities in several countries like Egypt and Morocco, disabled quota at work) - Partnering up with the private sector in order to eliminate discrimination, identify obstacles, and build the employees' capacities to deal with disabled persons.
Are there ways to improve dialogue, action and partnerships (including with the governments) to encourage the achievement of collective goals?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society: developing CSOs capacities and its work mechanisms so it is capable of lobbying and holding governments accountable for their local and international commitments and come up with a lobbying power group - Secure effective CSO participation/engagement in dialogues on public policies - Significance of dialogues with governments for civil society's legitimacy - Enabling political environment for dialogue
How could EU policies support this concrete work going forward?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrading/moving from the base to the top of the pyramid for expanding engagement in dialogue. - Inclusive regulations based on the disable rights declaration as essential conditions for funding provided to governments, civil society, and local authorities. - Moving 2030 Agenda to the action plans of the international committees including the EU, especially when working with governments in the region. - Evaluating the EU previous initiatives and their effect on inequality based on the indicators and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. - Finding standards for disabled engagement/inclusion in all programs and projects funded/supported by the EU.
How the PFD could support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting all CSOs for exchange of experiences and dialogue - Be the voice of the civil society at international level - Supporting partner organizations to develop inclusive approaches within their initiatives

Democracy and Human Rights	
Are there positive local examples and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Tunisian experience in human rights and democratic transition is considered to be promising even though a lot of challenges are being faced.

<p>that could inspire the work of others in the region?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some other good practices can be indicated from experiences of Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, and Algeria. On the contrary, in Libya, Yemen, Syria and Iraq challenges are growing. Parallel to this, in Egypt and Sudan, massive deteriorations in individual and collective freedoms are witnessed.
<p>Are there ways to improve dialogue, action and partnerships (including with the governments) to encourage the achievement of collective goals?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through discussions, local and regional experiences were presented, focusing on dialogue and partnerships amongst civil society organizations on one hand and among them and political parties on the other hand. Concrete experiences include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On political and societal agreement in Tunisia ➤ On various strategic issues in Morocco ➤ Progress on coalition governments in several countries ➤ The networking experience in countries like Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine on specific topics and vital issues; socio-economic rights and gender equality for instance ➤ Supporting Palestinians' case for independence and freedom ➤ Enhancing the legal framework and the empowerment of civil society ➤ Remarkable networking experiences in the Arab region; the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and the Arab Network for Democratic Elections (ANDE)
<p>How could EU policies support this concrete work going forward?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activate the EU Politics and Security Sub-Committee - Develop/improve progress/follow-up mechanisms on decisions and recommendations regarding democracy and human rights in the South - Develop a map showing positive actions on democracy and human rights, and disparity/differences between Arab countries - Continuation and intensification of EU efforts to develop civil society's capacities in the South - Developing a program similar to the Marshall Plan for supporting the Tunisian experience as a strategic case for the democratic transition in the region - Finding new regulations to make movement/travel easier in the South Neighbourhood for the right of movement - EU shall not abide the same standards of organizations' registrations as governments, which tend to tie them up - For enhancing internal democracy and transparency, CSOs in the South should review their work and strengthen themselves to be able to lead a fruitful dialogue with the EU
<p>How the PFD could support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing support to the activists who are politically prosecuted by their governments - Supporting and activating Southern CSOs shadow reports - Serious and effective actions for transparency and anti-corruption - Providing support to regional networks and human rights organization - Pursuing a bold policy of relations with governments in the region when it comes to democracy and freedoms - To stop using double standards in dealing with governments and CSOs - Contributing to peace building and ending armed conflicts especially in Palestine - Pursuing a more transparent policy of funding provided to organizations - Propagate and expand social dialogue program that is managed by

	<p>the Arab Union of Syndicates so it reaches all the Arab countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support free exchange projects between the EU and Tunisia and engaging civil society as a strategic partner - Support civil society's right to access information - Institutionalizing the dialogue and guarantee its continuity, and reinforcing democratic practices amongst its parties
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Environmental Challenges: Natural resources scarcity & waste; environment-blind policies & implementation	
Are there positive local examples and initiatives that could inspire the work of others in the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using alternative energy (solar or wind energies) for generating electricity, lighting, and heating water - Water refining to be used in crop irrigation - Building and operating water treatment plants for school students in Gaza using solar energy - Recycling plant/field residues and animal waste for producing organic composts (Palestine) - Rainwater collection for domestic and agricultural use
Are there ways to improve dialogue, action and partnerships (including with the governments) to encourage the achievement of collective goals?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination and partnerships between stakeholders, including governments in a number of countries - Partnership between CSOs, the government, and the local councils in Tunisia - A selective collaboration in Lebanon; it looks good/attractive from outside, yet it's shallow/inefficient when it comes to practice - Different stakeholders in Palestine, including the government and the municipalities, cooperate to overcome challenges - The significance of balancing between using funding for major issues and focusing on environmental problems
How could EU policies support this concrete work going forward?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting inclusive/comprehensive and sustainable interventions that are more centralized, and managed collaboratively by local stakeholders - Interventions to conserve environmental and natural resources, and processing climate change effects in the region - Playing a new role on the international level by developing new regulations/controls for market economy - Engaging CSOs and experts in development of agendas - Supporting policies that aim at water resources conservation and protection against pollution and privatization (dams and seawater desalination) - Regulations and agreements on the Mediterranean Sea Protection/Conservation should be revised/updated to consider oil and gas extraction and other/major polluting industries - Effective intervention to solve the solid waste and sewage problems - Controlling/regulating hazardous waste import and export and finding mechanisms of their recovery (the factories) - Effect of refugee's crisis on the surrounding environment leading to a conflict/struggle (Al-Zaatari camp wastes in Jordan)
How the PFD could support the work of CSOs and LAs in the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No answers recorded for this question.