



**Global Policy Forum on Development
EU partnership approach post-Cotonou**

22 March 2018 (11:30-13:00)

Title of session: EU partnership approach in the next Cotonou agreement

Objective(s):

- Build on the lessons of the EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement in the next phase
- Exchange on the post-2020 EU development cooperation trends at regional levels

Expected Results:

- PFD constituencies exchange on lessons learnt from the Cotonou Partnership agreement and how to build on its achievements and shortcomings for the future of EU development cooperation in partner regions;
- European institutions and partners share their insights on the post-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework and Post-Cotonou trends;
- PFD constituencies, including EU institutions, extract concrete recommendations on how to improve multi-stakeholder involvement and dimensions included in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

Background:

On 29 February 2020 the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the 79 Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries will come to an end. It is the most comprehensive partnership agreement between developing countries and the EU, addressing development cooperation, political cooperation and economic and trade cooperation - especially since its revision in 2010 where it also increased references to civil society organizations and local and regional governments' inclusion.

In order to negotiate the new agreement, discussions between the parties should be opened by August 2018 at the latest. To that end, the European Commission adopted a Recommendation for a Council Decision, including Negotiating Directives in December 2017. This is a draft proposal to the EU Member States and the document has been made public. It is anticipated that the Council will take a decision on the authorization to open negotiations with ACP countries by May this year. ACP countries are following a similar timeline to prepare their negotiating mandate.

It will be timely, before the finalization of the negotiation mandates of both parties, to provide further recommendations, particularly in relation to the role of the civil society and local authorities. The session will build on the lessons learnt from the Cotonou Partnership

Agreement, its achievements and shortcomings, to address concrete recommendations in view of the new architecture of EU development cooperation and regional partnership post-2020.

The post-Cotonou discussion will be put in the perspective of the parallel evolution of EU development cooperation, which will certainly impact on this negotiation mandate. This evolution is exemplified firstly by the end of the current Multi-annual Financial Framework in 2020, opening the door for a complete redesign of the external financing instruments. Secondly, the question of the future of the European Development Fund – the non-budgeted instrument financing the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement - will also be raised.

Methodology: the session will last 1h.30min

- Moderator introduces the panel and speakers (3min)
- Presentations from speakers (5 minutes each = 20 minutes)
- 1st round questions from the audience (15min)
- 1st round answers from the speakers (20min)
- 2nd round questions from the audience (10min)
- 2nd round answers from the speakers (15min)
- Wrap up and conclusions (5min)