

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)

15 March 2019 (morning)

Objective(s):

- Increase PFD constituencies' awareness on the main features of the new EU approach to development cooperation and update them on the state of negotiations
- Provide inputs on how to ensure inclusive multi-stakeholder and participatory dialogue with CSOs and LAs throughout NDICI programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Expected results:

- EU institutions have presented their vision for NDICI and its implementation (including through programming).
- PFD constituencies understand the main elements of NDICI and have reacted to the EC's proposed approach to external cooperation.
- PFD constituencies have provided concrete inputs on how to improve NDICI governance, by ensuring their participation throughout the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of NDICI.
- PFD constituencies have provided inputs on how the NDICI should reflect their vision of international cooperation.
- PFD constituencies have provided concrete inputs to ensure that private sector engagement in the NDICI comes with adequate accountability and transparency mechanisms to deliver development results.

Background:

In June 2018, the European Commission (EC) presented a series of proposals for the next seven-year budget of the European Union: the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. Regarding external action, the EC proposed to create a new instrument: the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This new instrument will group together most of the existing instruments for external development cooperation.

The NDICI proposal includes: the establishment of an emerging challenges and priorities cushion to allow the EU to respond swiftly to rising challenges; the preference for regional approaches over global thematic priorities; and a strong role for blending and guarantees in the geographic programmes.

Both the EU Council and the European Parliament are currently discussing the EC proposal. Many aspects of the proposal will spark intense debate, such as: the inclusion of the European Development Fund (EDF, the financial instrument for cooperation with Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific countries) in the NDICI; the inclusion of Neighbourhood countries in the new instrument; strong private sector engagement; the importance of financial reserves and what this implies in terms of decision-making and predictability of external aid; as well as the use of geographic programmes to implement thematic priorities.

Given this framework, this meeting represents an excellent opportunity to provide inputs and reflections on specific elements of the NDICI which are key for PFD constituencies, such as how to ensure support for CSOs and LAs as development actors through the EU's development cooperation processes, as well as how to ensure multi-stakeholder and participatory dialogue throughout NDICI implementation.

While EU institutions are positioning themselves regarding the Commission's proposal, the EC is in the process of preparing the programming of its external development cooperation with the EU Delegations. Considering the importance of geographic programmes, it is key for PFD stakeholders to prepare their dialogue with EU Delegations by gathering as much information as possible on NDICI and the programming phase.

Methodology: A moderated panel debate composed of speakers representing the European Commission, EU Member State, CSOs and LAs.