

**5th Global meeting of the Policy Forum on Development
(Brussels, Belgium 21st – 23rd March 2017)**

1. The PFD provides a platform to discuss issues that are relevant for all the organizations involved and establish a permanent channel of communication with the European Commission. It is, therefore, **a space of dialogue** about the contribution of the EU to global sustainable development, keeping in mind that dialogue is not an end in itself, but a means to pursue and achieve larger objectives. **Recommendation:** Take advantage of the PFD as a model to encourage permanent dialogue with governments and stakeholders, and to learn from each other and replicate successful collaboration. Consider organising PFD activities at the sub-regional and national levels in the future.
2. In many parts of the world either the persistence or the increase of **inequality** and exclusion remains a top challenge to promoting development on many fronts. Progress toward the 2030 Agenda will require inclusive and sustainable growth, and the promotion of decent work and social dialogue, and of equality in all areas, including gender, health and education. **Recommendation:** Examine the causes of growing/deepening inequalities to have a better understanding of how to tackle those inequalities and ensure that development cooperation focuses on key aspects to achieve sustained and inclusive growth.
3. The proposal for the new **European Consensus on Development** is welcome, together with the other documents that form a new collective vision for the EU. More coherence, particularly in regards to the impact of trade and investment negotiations and agreements and the role of private sector in development, as well as further examination of the structural and systematic challenges that prevent the achievement of the 2030 Agenda are still required to foster better development results. **Recommendations:** Revisit Coherence for Development to include internal policies and all relevant stakeholders, giving it the increased importance it will have in the context of current and future development challenges, including forced migration, humanitarian, cultural, environmental and security ones.
4. The new Consensus is structured around the five Ps: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships based on the 2030 Agenda. From the discussion, it was highlighted that different dimensions of development, including resilience and peace, environmental, cultural, social, economic, gender, human rights and governance dimensions must be mutually reinforced. **Recommendation:** Ensure that eradicating poverty, including reducing inequalities and improving people's living conditions, is the central goal of development cooperation, and to achieve that, these dimensions of development are addressed in an integrated manner within the 5 Ps focus.
5. None of the previous points will be achieved without a more vigorous promotion of an **enabling environment (EE) and a protection against shrinking space, notably for civil society**. This is not a new issue and it needs to become a priority if we want to build a real and functional partnership, based on the notions of equality and human dignity, to implement the SDGs at all levels: local, national, regional and global. **Recommendation:** Intensify the attention to an enabling environment and increase EU cooperation to offset a shrinking policy space, building capacity to support a strong EE and increasing funding to make this a reality.
6. Both the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda proposed in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) reflect the enormous importance of the local level. **Local governments (LGs)** are both policy makers and service providers in their

own right, critical to making the SDGs a reality. Areas of priority for local government, such as: women's empowerment; climate change; crisis situations; opportunities for youth; and root causes of migration reflect the areas of European leadership. **Recommendation:** LGs need to be better involved in policy discussions and programming in order to share both ideas and means to deliver better services to citizens. An enabling environment for local and regional governments to effectively take on their legitimate role as pivots for territorial development is effective decentralisation of the state, including financial and human capacities. This is particularly important in the context of the 2030 Agenda, since it is widely acknowledged that no goals will be achieved without the localization of the SDGs.

7. Following the impact assessment accompanying the Joint Communication on the **EU-ACP Partnership**, it is clear that a future partnership will need to focus on commitments to include civil society and local governments in the political dialogues. However, the first building blocks for the future EU-ACP relationship do not focus on the stakeholder dimension. **Recommendation:** Use this opportunity to more actively involve both CSOs and LGs, in a more structured way, and take advantage of their experience and expertise in the design and implementation of the new Partnership, taking stock of the PFD experience.
8. In many areas, globalization is challenging institutions and policies and increasing the vulnerability of citizens. **Inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships** can be useful tools to provide coordinated solutions and increase governments' capability to answer global challenges in an effective and accountable manner. **Recommendation:** Stress the added-value of each actor in order to leverage their respective strengths. Work to understand the diversity of different actors, notably within the private sector (e.g. SMEs, cooperatives, multinationals, etc.), and ensure accountability in how all actors work in the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships.
9. Participants' experiences with multi-stakeholder dialogues and factors for success were discussed. Key factors, among others, that contribute to strong, inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships include: commitment of the actors involved; management and knowledge sharing; formalise and institutionalise dialogue spaces; joint goals and outcomes; long-term vision and capacity and space to operate; democratic governance; commitment of all actors involved with development effectiveness principles and the need to invest in overcoming systemic imbalances. **Recommendation:** Stress the value of multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels to enrich the debate and ensure that CSOs and LGs are better represented in forums at national, regional and global level. To this aim, show the value of partnerships and share what makes for a successful partnership with all actors.
10. The Global PFD has shown key areas where Europe and European development policy will need to lead in the next 15 years, notably in enforcing gender equality, upholding human rights, including sexual and reproductive health rights, and local democracy, implementing the Decent Work Agenda, ensuring youth opportunities for the future and supporting fragile states in emerging from conflict and instability. Participants reiterated the need to move forward together and keep a people-centred focus for a positive future. **Recommendation:** Leverage the strengths of each actor fully, support our work at country level through the EU delegations, raise awareness about the PFD model and the importance of the work that CSOs and LGs do in countries, sectors and regions, as well as within the EU institutions.