

Statement to MEPs on the final MFF 2021-2027

MFF 2021-2027 triilogue: CONCORD calls on the European Parliament to reverse cuts to Heading VI and the NDICI, and to set the thematic programme of the NDICI at 11,49%

We have 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; the world is facing a global sanitary and climate crisis; and civil society, human rights, and multilateralism face unprecedented pressure. This is the context amidst which the MFF 2021-2027 is being negotiated. The European Council, in July 2020, proposed a reduction to Heading VI and to the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) by 10%, and a further decrease to the already stretched thematic pillar. Heading VI and the NDICI will be the EU's primary tool for supporting partner countries to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONCORD is convinced that reducing the level of support to international cooperation will undermine the EU's role as a global actor, geopolitical ambitions, ability to support partners' recovery from COVID-19 and commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. **CONCORD therefore calls on the Parliament to reverse the cuts to Heading VI - by bringing it to at least 9,6% of the MFF budget - and the cuts to the NDICI - by bringing it back to the EC's 2018 proposal of €78,994 billion in 2018 prices.**

CONCORD is particularly concerned with the reduction of resources for the thematic pillar agreed upon by the European Council. The amount presented in the European Commission's 2018 proposal for the thematic pillar was already very low. In contrast, a huge increase in non-programmable funding has been proposed at a time when partners will need to be able to rely on long-term programmable development funding. The European Parliament acknowledged that this was problematic in its 2019 report on the NDICI and requested the share of the thematic pillar to be brought to 11,49% of the NDICI's budget. Although flexibility is important, **we suggest that the Parliament recalibrates flexibility and reliability within the instrument by increasing the thematic pillar to its proposed share (11,49%) and reducing the 'emerging challenges and priority cushion'.** CONCORD would like to stress again that given the shrinking of civil society and democratic space, which has further intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, the funding for the thematic pillar, which hosts the Civil Society and the Human Rights and Democracy programmes, needs to be increased. The thematic pillar also hosts the Global Challenges programme, which is crucial to implementing the SDGs, and aims at supporting critical global and transregional actions and global health actors that have been at the center of the EU's COVID-19 response. An insufficient level of funding will undermine their operations.

NATIONAL PLATFORMS	Global Responsibility Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid	BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGE CONCORD CICOD-11.11.11 11.11.11 ACODEV agencija	BPID Bulgarian Platform for International Development	Platforma za međunarodnu građansku solidarnost Hrvatska – Croatian Platform for International Citizens Solidarity CROSOL	CYINDEP Cyprus Island wide NGO Development Platform	FORS
GLOBAL FOCUS - Danish CNR for Development Cooperation	AKÜ	fingo	COORDINATION SUD	VENRO ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOs	Hellenic Platform for Development	HAND
Dochas The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations	Network of NGOs in Europe for the relief of emergency CONCORD ITALIA	LAPAS WWW.LAPAS.LY	LITHUANIAN NATIONAL Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform LITDEA	Cercle de coopération des ONGD DU LUXEMBOURG	SKOP Solidarjeta u Koperazjoni	PAR TOS
ZAGRANICA	ONGD PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA	FOND Nacionalna Organizacija Neprofitnih organizacija u Srbiji	Ambrela Platforma for Development Organisations	SLOGA SLOVENIAN GLOBAL ACTION	COORDINADORA ESPAÑA	CONCORD
bond	NETWORKS	actalliance eu Formerly APRODEV	act:onaid	ADRA	care	caritas europa
cbm together we can do more	ChildFund Alliance	CIDSE together for global justice	euCORD European Children's Organisations for Relief and Development	GNDR Global Network of Child Security Organisations for Disaster Reduction	Habitat for Humanity Europe, Middle East and Africa	Hi humanity & inclusion
IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network	ISLAMIC RELIEF	LIGHT FOR THE WORLD	OXFAM International	PLAN INTERNATIONAL	Save the Children	Sightsavers
solidar	SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL	Terre des Hommes International Federation	wecf	World Vision	WWF	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
ALDA European Association for Local Democracy	ea ea EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS	EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY	NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL			