

EU seven year development aid instrument finally agreed – but tarnished by EU migration politics

Brussels, 18 December 2020 - CONCORD, the Confederation of relief and development NGOs, welcomes Member States' endorsement of the political agreement reached with the European Parliament on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) today. With an urgent need for funds amidst the COVID-19 recovery, it's important not to further delay progress towards the 2030 Agenda. The international development aid in this instrument is an essential tool to support EU partner countries and communities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), so we welcome in particular the inclusion of a strong and legally binding Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 93%.

However, the outcome is in parts shameful. The Member States agreed on deep cuts to the budgetary envelope in July. These cuts send an alarming signal about European solidarity with the rest of the world. Further, the EU Member States' demand that partner countries' cooperation with EU migration politics be a condition for funding has been partially accepted. "We have said it before – any kind of migration conditionality is wrong. Development assistance must help to reduce poverty and inequalities in partner countries; it must support the most marginalised people and contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda", said Tanya Cox, CONCORD's Director. "Limiting the use of leverage to only 10% of the overall budget averted a worse outcome. But we are still concerned about the impact that this compromise may have on marginalised communities around the world and on the availability of sufficient funds to tackle poverty and inequality. The devil will be in the detail of this text, and we will continue to work with the EU institutions to maintain the overall integrity of development aid."

Civil society had also called for the objectives of this aid instrument to be strengthened to explicitly align it with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty reduction and so we welcome that this is now part of the agreement. "We are pleased to hear there will be strong targets on gender equality, human development and climate change included. We ask that the political commitment made to strengthen the programmes for global challenges, human rights and democracy, civil society and peace and stability, is translated into an urgent injection of additional funds to them. These programmes are particularly important for responding to the worsening political and socio-economic consequences of COVID-19," said Céline Giertha (Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Concord Sweden).

CONCORD now urges the incoming Portuguese Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament to take the necessary steps to finalise the text as soon as possible. CONCORD looks forward to seeing the final text adopted so that the EU's 2021-2027 development programmes can begin.

NATIONAL PLATFORMS	Global Responsibility Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid	BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGE CONCORD ACODEV 11.11.11 11.11.11 ngo-federatie	BPID Bulgarian Platform for International Development	Platforma za međunarodnu građansku solidarnost Hrvatske Croatian Platform for International Citizens Solidarity CROSOL	CYINDEP Cyprus Island wide NGO Development Platform	FORS
GLOBAL FOCUS Dizajnirani CSOs for Development Cooperation	AKÜ	fingo	COORDINATION SUD	VENRO ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOs	Hellenic Platform for Development	HAND
Dóchas The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations	Network delle ONG in Europa per lo sviluppo e l'emergenza CONCORD ITALIA	LAPAS WWW.LAPAS.LV	Lituanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform LITDEA	Cercle de coopération des ONG DU LUXEMBOURG	SKOP Solidarjetà u Koperazzjoni	PAR TOS
ZAGRANICA	ONGD PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA	FOND Federacija Organizacija i Institucija pomoci, Održivosti i Solidarnosti	Ambrela Platform for Development Organisations	SLOGA SLOVENIAN GLOBAL ACTION	COORDINADORA de cooperación para el desarrollo ESPAÑA	CONCORD SWEDEN
bond	NETWORKS	actalliance eu February 2013/2014	act:aid	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 NGOs Working Organisations for Disaster Prevention	Habitat for Humanity	Hi humanity & inclusion
IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network	LIGHT FOR THE WORLD	OXFAM International	PLAN INTERNATIONAL	Save the Children	Sightsavers	solidar
SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL	Terre des Hommes International Federation	wecf	Wetlands INTERNATIONAL	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			