

Policy Recommendations

EYD2015

Civil Society Alliance

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1. FOREWORD

In many ways, 2015 has been a quite remarkable milestone year

We all remember that at the start of this millennium, in the year 2000, the international community adopted an ambitious, shared global agenda aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality around the world: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were a set of eight global goals and 18 targets, all to be met by 2015. They were drawn up by government representatives using a rather top-down approach, and involved little consultation with citizens, civil society or other stakeholders.

Even the greatest sceptic has to admit that a lot has been achieved. The spread of HIV and AIDS has been halted, and is even beginning to reverse. More children than ever before now have access to primary education. The number of women dying while giving birth has been dramatically reduced, as has the number of children dying before their fifth birthday.

But even the greatest optimist has to admit that, in many ways, the goals and targets set in 2000 have not been achieved. More than one billion people in the world still go to sleep hungry each night, a good deal of progress remains to be made on gender equality, inequality and discrimination are still rampant, and violent conflicts still fill our news bulletins every day.

The world is very different from when the MDGs were designed at the turn of the century. The threats associated with climate change have grown, inequality between and within countries has taken deeper root, and our economic system has been shown to serve the interests of the few and to be unsustainable in the long term. To respond to these complex global challenges, in 2015 the world is gearing up to start implementing a new, more ambitious common agenda for the next 15 years, building on the lessons learnt from the MDGs and the UN Rio+20 process, and addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality and unsustainability. Compared to the MDGs, a far more participatory global process has led to the formulation of these new global goals and their detailed targets.

This new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal, people-centred, indivisible and integrated in nature. It balances the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social and the environmental.

2015 was also remarkable because it was the European Year for Development.

The idea for this European Year for Development (EYD) came from CONCORD. It was CONCORD that initiated, inspired and coordinated the lobbying of the relevant EU institutions to make it happen. Once the idea had been turned into a political reality, CONCORD had considerable – and substantial – input into shaping and preparing the year.

Recognizing CONCORD's pivotal role in the genesis of this special year, the EU institutions lent it their support in this project and invited it to convene and coordinate the activities of a broad alliance of civil society actors, recognising them as a group of stakeholders that were essential to achieving the objectives of the European Year for Development.

This EYD Civil Society Alliance succeeded in mobilising hundreds of very different organisations – from the social sector, the humanitarian sector, the environmental sector, the fair-trade sector, local authorities, youth movements, women's movements and many others – all of which felt that, in one way or another, there was something at stake for them in the European Year for Development. They all shared the belief that greater awareness and a stronger engagement of citizens across the EU were vital, in order to achieve their objectives and increase public ownership of development cooperation in the EU and its Member States.

As a tangible legacy of the partnership and cooperation between civil society organisations from many diverse sectors, and our year-long dialogue with and between citizens, we wish to anchor our involvement in this European Year in the following set of policy recommendations which we put to decision-makers around the world, in particular those within the European Union and its Member States.

The recommendations reflect the engagement of citizens, and their critical thinking, in the dialogue about development cooperation. On behalf of those hundreds of civil society organisations that took part in the activities of the European Year, and the millions of citizens across the Union that they are in touch with, this is what we humbly offer today as we celebrate 2015, the European Year for Development, in its closing ceremony.

Luxemburg, 09 December 2015

*Marius Wanders,
Ambassador of the Civil Society Alliance for the European Year 2015 for Development -
Member of the Board of CONCORD Europe.*

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2. THE “UNIVERSALITY PRINCIPLE”: THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND CIVIL SOCIETY’S ROLE

Despite these noble declarations, however, a fair balance must be struck

For the universal implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with clear involvement by citizens

The “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 25 September 2015, consists of a “comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative goals and targets”.

The new Agenda is global in nature and universally applicable (to developed and developing countries alike), while at the same time it takes into account different national situations and respects national priorities. As a result, its goals are both universal and context-specific, thereby generating great opportunities for promoting innovative, localised and interlinked approaches and allowing the international community to move beyond the North/South divide. The signatories to the UN Resolution also pledge to promote “an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility”.

Despite these noble declarations, however, a fair balance must be struck when interpreting, in practice, how to share this responsibility. For example, given that unsustainable production in the North has been largely outsourced to the South, a focus on unsustainable production in the South should always be balanced by a focus on unsustainable consumption in the North. We have only one Earth!

Yet the fact that this new universal Agenda applies to “all countries”, and that it must be interpreted in an equitable way, does not mean that the responsibility for keeping to it lies only with governments. On the contrary, it will only work if it is owned by all levels of government, the private sector and, last but not least, citizens around the world.

This is not new for the European Union, the key role of civil society having been recognised by the European Commission in its Communication “The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations” (COM(2012) 492 final).

The objective of the present document is to highlight the important role citizens can play in the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Drawing on the experience of the widespread and diverse participation in the Civil Society Alliance for the European Year for Development 2015, this paper makes recommendations to the European Union on how to maximise the potential of citizens as key actors in implementing the new 2030 Agenda. It elaborates on the role of citizens as agents of change in their own environment, and as consumers, and on the vital role they can play in making, implementing and monitoring policy.

The recommendations conclude with reflections on the potential of civil society in partnering with the European Union to make a success of the new, universal and participatory/multi-stakeholder implementation of the new, universal, Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. WOMEN AND GIRLS

Half the population, half the future!

Women and girls are half of the world's population. It obviously won't be possible to implement Agenda 2030 without full participation by women and girls and the elimination of the structural inequalities they face.

2015 is both an exciting and a challenging time for women and girls worldwide.

Exciting because the international community commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, a human rights instrument for women and girls adopted in 1995 that laid the foundations for policy action aimed at ending the systemic discrimination against women and girls. Exciting also because one of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is devoted to achieving women's empowerment and gender equality (Goal 5).

But these are also challenging times as, in a world still organised around stereotypical views of women's and men's roles, the reality faced by women and girls remains invisible. Challenging especially in Europe, where the illusion of gender equality leads decision-makers to ignore calls from women's organisations for action and support.

In Europe and worldwide, women's human rights face an unprecedented backlash, with attacks on women's access to economic independence, their bodily integrity and their security, as well as more frequent attacks on civil society's space and funding. The EU's role is to make sure that all its policies guarantee the protection of women's human rights, in all sectors, in its internal and external policies.

How to maximise the potential of citizens as key actors in the achievement of the new 2030 Agenda

It obviously won't be possible to implement Agenda 2030 without full participation by women and girls

We call on the EU to mainstream women's human rights in all its work

In all countries, women and women's organisations play an important role in attaining equality, justice and dignity. No further evidence is needed that equality/social justice and environmental/economic sustainability are two sides of the same coin.

We call on the EU to mainstream women's human rights in all its work and to walk the talk, based on the commitments it made throughout 2015, including as part of EYD2015.

4. CITIZENS AS CHANGE AGENTS IN THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENT ^{1, 2}

The EU and its Member States should:

- √ actively support the engagement of citizens as change makers facilitating the transition to a sustainable, peaceful Europe;
- √ safeguard and expand the right to influence, contribute to and criticise EU and national policies, including the right to peaceful dissent and protest;
- √ engage citizens together and equally in all policy processes that affect them, and so prevent a northern/southern or developed/developing division;
- √ put global citizenship education (GCE) at the heart of their education policies so they can implement Agenda 2030 successfully;
- √ support lifelong learning organisations, and citizens' collectives, by organising inclusive education environments that help prevent people in Europe from being socially or educationally excluded, thereby reducing the risk of radicalisation;
- √ recognise the important contribution development awareness-raising and education DEAR makes in advocating and campaigning for a shift to a sustainably developed, peaceful, equal and fair Europe;

Engage citizens together and equally in all policy processes that affect them

¹ Reference: Development needs citizens: <http://deeeep.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/development-needs-citizens-position-paper.pdf>

² Contributor: the CONCORD DARE Forum. The Development Awareness-Raising and Education Forum (DARE) is one of CONCORD's core working groups. Forum members are appointed by the national platforms and networks and meet twice a year, usually in spring and autumn. The DARE Forum draws up joint strategies for strengthening development education in Europe. It advocated actively for the EYD, and in 2015 its members ran a variety of activities to celebrate the special year.

- √ appreciate young people as one of the main groups involved in transformative education and, through non-formal education, empower them to play their role in campaigning and advocacy.

The EU should:

- √ in parallel with the European Council Summits, and together with European civil society, organise Citizens' Summits where citizens have space to meet, discuss and cooperate on European policies;
- √ following up on EYD2015, continue the stronger engagement of the EU in development and DEAR, in particular by focusing on policy coherence for development, and foster regulation in favour of developing countries. Development should be made coherent through increased cooperation between EuropeAid and other relevant directorates (such as DG Trade, DG Grow, DG Agri, DG EAC, etc.);
- √ step up its programmes supporting global citizenship education, and make this a priority for its educational programmes, such as Erasmus+.

CIVICUS REPORT: "STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY 2015"

CIVICUS – the World Alliance for Citizen Participation – produces an annual report which analyses the main trends affecting civil society across the globe. It always includes a "Year in Review" section, together with detailed contributions from members and partners on a key theme.

CIVICUS's analysis suggests that, in 2014, there were serious threats to civic freedoms in at least 96 countries around the world.

This main theme for the year under review was resourcing for civil society, and the analysis points to a tightening of funding opportunities for change-seeking organisations, due primarily to excessive bureaucratic barriers and increasing challenges to international support. The CIVICUS report acts as an annual rallying cry, calling on civil society to work together to defend the space for civic action.

Read more here: <http://civicus.org/index.php/en/media-centre-129/reports-and-publications/socs2015>

CIVICUS is a member of the EYD2015 CS Alliance.

It is therefore important that the EU and its Member States, as well CSOs, involve and support civil society across the globe, in a structured manner at every step in the implementation process

5. CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ³

Civil society has played an important role in shaping the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and will continue be crucial to making the Agenda's vision of wellbeing and human rights for all within planetary boundaries a reality. It is therefore important that the EU and its Member States, as well CSOs, involve and support civil society across the globe, in a structured manner at every step in the implementation process, so as to empower people, create ownership and ensure accountability.

Recommendations

- √ The EU and its Member States should inform and involve CSOs every step of the way when designing the overarching, integrated Europe 2030 Strategy and the governance and accountability mechanisms to guide and monitor its implementation; when reviewing the EU Multiannual Financial Framework; when drafting new (and revising existing) policies, legislative acts, instruments and programmes, and when choosing most aid and CSO funding modalities
- √ The EU and its Member States should ensure that contributions by civil society are central to their monitoring, accountability and review mechanisms at local, national, EU and global level, in particular those from communities experiencing poverty, inequality, the impacts of environmental degradation or marginalisation
- √ The EU and its Member States (should create space for political dialogue with civil society and citizens, both within the EU and in its political dialogue with other regions and countries. To ensure that the EU and its MSs support the progress of third countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda, they must engage in regular dialogue with CSOs in third countries to assess the impact of their policies there.
- √ The EU and its Member States should respect and promote civil and political rights, for example by granting free and full access to information, freedom of expression, assembly and association and freedom of the media, in order to enable civil society to play its part

³ Reference documents:

- CONCORD paper (<http://www.concordeurope.org/publications>) entitled "CSOs' contributions to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"
 - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – CONCORD Beyond 2015 European Task Force: key recommendations for the EU and its Member States

- √ The programmes of the EU and its Member States should allow for adequate and predictable funding to enable CSOs to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 in their various roles
- √ The EU and its Member States should encourage cross-sectoral partnership-building between CSOs and other actors working on different but interlinked themes, and at different levels, from the local to the national and international.

FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS:

In June 2015, European CSOs from the sustainability, development cooperation, environmental and social sectors decided to meet regularly and consider what they can do together to contribute to the design, implementation, monitoring and review of Agenda 2030.

These platforms and organisations all agree that their mission as European civil society is to make Agenda 2030 a reality: to ensure that the EU achieves all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets within Europe and contributes to their achievement globally.

They have realised that very often their work is unconnected: few of them consider the impact of other policy fields on their own activities, and they tend to cooperate structurally only on certain specialised EU processes.

They need a new, broad-based, EU-level, cross-sectoral, civil society coalition dedicated to achieving the SDGs –one in which they would work together to promote, monitor and advocate for the effective implementation of the SDGs by the EU and its MSs, and would themselves be involved in imple-

menting them.

They believe that, where the implementation of Agenda 2030 is concerned, this new cross-sectoral alliance will be an important partner for both the EU and civil society. Its members' range of expertise – on governance, equality, social inclusion, human rights, policy coherence for sustainable development, environmental sustainability, global economic justice, global citizenship education and creating an enabling environment for civil society – means that it could also act as an important EU partner in dialogue for governments and other stakeholders involved in implementing Agenda 2030 at the global, regional, national and local levels. Where SDG monitoring and implementation are concerned, the alliance could also systematically identify and communicate the needs of civil society to the EU and relevant international institutions, in order to promote a more enabling environment for civil society globally.

Finally, the alliance could facilitate an ongoing discussion between civil society, academia and institutions on new ways to achieve sustainable development.

Informed by its experience of participating in the CS Alliance and in EYD2015, CONCORD recommends that the EU and its Member States should:

1. Support the establishment (already underway) of a broad, European, cross-sectoral, civil society alliance with strong links to the national level and focused on the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030, and its and follow-up, by the EU and Member States (MSs);

2. Recognise the role this Europe-wide civil society alliance can play as a key stakeholder and valuable partner of the EU and its MSs in implementing, monitoring and following up on Agenda 2030.

The EU should start by addressing the root causes of unsustainable consumption

6. CITIZENS AS CONSUMERS

The implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular Goal 12) is a key opportunity for the EU to take significant steps towards sustainable consumption across the EU.

First and foremost, the EU should start by addressing the root causes of unsustainable consumption. It could do this, inter alia, by:

- √ addressing imbalances of power in supply chains by a more assertive use of the EU's competition powers to prevent abuses of power and to ensure the long-term sustainability of supply chains;
- √ promoting alternative business models that put people and the planet first, such as cooperatives;
- √ making transparency and respect for human rights compulsory in the supply chain of European multinational corporations, and giving access to remedies to victims of human right violations.

EU citizens can also contribute to a more sustainable world through their purchasing decisions, by consuming in a more sustainable way, and consuming less. The EU Institutions could help achieve this by, for example:

- √ Strengthening awareness-raising campaigns on sustainable consumption;
- √ Facilitating the use of local currencies and other initiatives that foster sustainable local production and consumption;
- √ Supporting producers in the EU and in its partner countries who wish to meet the growing demand for sustainable, organic and fairly traded goods in the EU.

A number of obstacles, however, impede the uptake of sustainable consumption practices across the EU, including political and regulatory barriers and the different levels of information available to EU citizens. In this context, the European Commission should, first and foremost, undertake a study to identify the legal, regulatory, cultural and other practical obstacles to sustainable consumption and production, as well as the potential incentives and rewards that would support sustainable consumption and production.

When implementing its new sustainable consumption agenda, the EU should:

- √ integrate systemically not only the environmental but also the social and human-rights impact of unsustainable consumption into all future EU sustainable consumption initiatives;
- √ recognise that market price is not a reflection of a product's value, and that it fails to take into account the negative externalities derived from unsustainable consumption;
- √ set up partnerships with civil society organisations and put in place support mechanisms for citizen-led sustainable consumption initiatives.

As sustainable consumption affects all sectors, the EU will need to ensure sufficient coordination across EU policies, for example on the environment and development cooperation, but also between other policies. All the European Commission's Directorates-General and MSs' ministers will need to work more closely together.

The European Commission should, first and foremost, undertake a study to identify the legal, regulatory, cultural and other practical obstacles

FASHION REVOLUTION

Fashion Revolution is a citizen-led campaign to promote transparency in fashion supply chains. It was set up by a small group of ethical fashion designers in the UK in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh in 2013. In less than two years, it has grown into a campaign that is active in 78 countries.

Supported by a sub-grant from the EYD Civil Society Alliance, Fashion Revolution has reached many citizens in the EU and worldwide

- √ In April 2015 alone: 43,000 uses of the #whomademyclothes campaign hashtag on Twitter and Instagram and over 2,250 press articles (1,258 online – including 505 in EU publications – print, and broa-

dcast). Of these, 952 were from European Union media, with 3.02 billion unique visitors. In April they had an overall press reach of more than 16.5 billion (i.e., the number of times content about Fashion Revolution was viewed), with 11.68 billion potential viewers in the EU (Meltwater analytics).

- √ Coverage ranged from Fortune magazine to Fox News, CNN, BBC, i-D, Grazia, Marie Claire, Vogue Italia, most national broadsheets and many more, including Drapers.
- √ In Europe alone there were 30,936 sessions on the Fashion Revolution website. This indicates significant engagement throughout the EU and the rest of Europe.

More information: www.fashionrevolution.org

MAKE FRUIT FAIR!

In March 2015 the three-year EC-funded project Make Fruit Fair! A boost for Fair Tropical Fruits in the 2015 European Year of Development and beyond: Mobilizing European citizens to take action for fair tropical fruit supply chains (MFF) was launched by a consortium of 19 partner organisations across Europe, in cooperation with various Southern partners. The campaign enga-

ges with EU citizens and gives them tools to take action – both as consumers and as agents for change – on the rules and practices of conventional trade. Campaign activities include signing a petition to policy-makers, challenging supermarkets to ensure fair treatment of their suppliers, and sharing “urgent actions” to mobilise citizens in support of violations of human rights in the tropical-fruit sector.

More information:
www.makefruitfair.org

7. PUTTING COLLECTIVE INTERESTS AT THE CENTRE OF EU POLICIES AND ACTIONS

The EU should rehabilitate and reinforce the role of public-sector policies and investment in development

Food security and the right to food⁴

- √ EU policies and practices impacting on developing countries' food security must be consistent with the 2010 EU Policy Framework to Assist Developing Countries in Addressing Food Security Challenges, which constitutes the most comprehensive reference on how to tackle food and nutrition issues in accordance with the EU's values and vision. In spite of this, recent communications have introduced internal contradictions into the EU's cooperation strategy. They risk undermining support for small-scale food producers and exporting an agro-industrial model of farming whose negative impacts are widely criticised, including in Europe itself
- √ The EU should rehabilitate and reinforce the role of public-sector policies and investment in development. It should introduce robust regulatory frameworks within which the various private-sector actors must operate, including when they are operating in public-private partnerships (PPPs). As these policies and frameworks offer the greatest potential for driving equitable development, they should protect the rights and food security of the vulnerable and should prioritise investment both in small-scale producers and in domestic small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-enterprises.

⁴ The first two recommendations here are based on the CONCORD - Hands on the Land Coalition paper “Investing for Development”, published as one of the PCD Spotlight briefing papers in 2015: <http://www.concordeurope.org/coherent-policies/food-security/item/459-spotlight-2015-investing-for-development>. The remaining recommendations are based on the CSO workshop in Milan on 29 October 2015, entitled “Sustainable Development 2.0. – You Can Make a Change”. This event brought together a variety of civil society organisations including many European NGOs.

- √ In all its policies and programmes, the EU and its MSs should treat food and food security as a human right and a fundamental value, not as a commodity.

Engaging non-traditional stakeholders: investment, the role of the private sector and diaspora movements

- √ The EU should promote the establishment of robust regulatory frameworks with clear criteria within which the various private sector actors must operate, including when using PPPs, in order to protect the rights and food security of vulnerable populations.
- √ The EU should not prioritise the interests of investors to the detriment of governments endeavouring to protect local communities' land tenure and land-use rights. The EU and its Member States should drop investor-state dispute settlement provisions from all EU and bilateral trade and investment agreements, as investors should rely for their protection on independent national court systems.
- √ Where development cooperation is concerned, the EU and its Member States should cooperate more closely with the diaspora in their various partner countries. The diaspora represents an important source of information, influence, financial support and connection with local communities in these countries.

The migration crisis in Europe and the Mediterranean

- √ Migration and integration policies must be appropriate to specific groups of migrants, with no one-size-fits-all solutions
- √ The EU institutions should avoid applying a double standard on 'human mobility' (within the EU, we are proud of European youth being mobile and using the Erasmus programmes, while the youth from third countries are denied this opportunity).
- √ The EU should promote good practice in media work and press accountability in relation to sensitive topics such as migration and the refugee crisis.
- √ The EU should promote a narrative demonstrating the benefits of migration for development and for developed countries.
- √ EU aid should be used not for hosting refugees and asylum seekers in Europe, or paying for detention centres for refugees in EU countries, but for tackling the root causes of migration.

The EU institutions should avoid applying a double standard on 'human mobility'

The EU institutions must support citizens' participation at the local level.

The role of local authorities

- √ The role of local and regional authorities is crucial for local, urban and territorial development.
- √ The potential of local authorities (LAs) acting jointly with CSOs should substantially increase the potential of cooperation for development. It could also boost the use of new methodologies and of EU support and funding. The cooperation on development between CSOs and LAs should therefore be further supported.
- √ The EU institutions must support citizens' participation at the local level.
- √ The SDGs have a cross-cutting perspective, and have defined sub-goals that are to be met at a local level in each Member State: this new localisation perspective should be taken into account by the EU institutions and by CSOs. The reference to localisation as a crucial element in development should be underlined, and the process further supported
- √ The EU institutions must promote community-led approaches.

8. ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY ⁵

The EU should further promote CSO participation in its development assistance

- √ Ensure that the design and implementation of EU development policy fully acknowledge the specific role of civil society, in line with the Busan principles for effective co-operation in support of international development. Civil society organisations (CSOs) must be effectively recognised and engaged as legitimate development actors in their own right, on the basis of a real and enabling partnership and not a “grant-for-service” contractor relationship.
- √ Increase EU understanding and recognition of all the different roles played by CSOs in development design and implementation – watchdog, advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-building, service provider.
- √ The EU should further promote CSO participation in its development assistance programming at every stage of the decision-making pro-

⁵ Contributor: CONCORD's Funding for Development and Relief (FDR) Working Group. The core mandate of the FDR Working Group is to translate the political recognition of civil society organisations (CSOs) as development actors into an enabling environment where CSOs can access a large quantity of high-quality EU development funding, as well as having political, regulatory and policy-influencing space.

cess, and at all levels, from country to regional, in a systematic, transparent, ongoing and inclusive way. This would help ensure that EU development policy, strategies, programmes and funding allocations were best configured to support the people involved and respond to their interests

- √ In particular, increase the involvement of CSOs in policy dialogue, programming and operational processes at country level by building on the potential of the EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society, thereby acknowledging the importance of this tool as a catalyst for a conducive environment for CSOs in partner countries
- √ While the EU diversifies its funding delivery mechanisms we encourage it to continue developing its programme funding, alongside other,

CIVIL SOCIETY EUROPE

An interesting example of a civil society partnership legacy from the European Year of Citizens Alliance

Civil Society Europe (www.civilsocietyeurope.eu) was created in December 2014, building on the success and legacy of the European Year of Citizens Alliance (EYCA). The EYCA experience showed that civil society organisations (CSOs) are powerful catalysts of citizens' aspirations for change: first and foremost, change in the content of European policies that do not deliver what is expected, or needed, in terms of social justice and universal access to human rights. Over thirty major European networks joined forces to create Civil Society Europe – a permanent space for horizontal exchanges, and a strong voice calling for a paradigm shift to restore and promote the values of equality, solidarity, democracy and inclusiveness among EU Member States and their people.

Aspirations for change are the foundation of Civil Society Europe's work of uniting

major European networks and platforms of associations behind shared values and a common vision for Europe. "Since the European Year of Citizens 2013, when this mobilisation process started, we have learned to overcome our differences and our sectoral approaches, to speak out with a single voice in favour of policy change pushing forward collective interests in a society globally dominated by individual and particular interests", said CSE Chair, Jean-Marc Roirant, at the press conference launching CSE in the European Parliament early in 2015.

From this perspective, Civil Society Europe aims to be influential in building a real civil dialogue at EU level, and in shaping the agenda on cross-cutting issues of common interest to civil society throughout Europe. Civil Society Europe is determined to gain a permanent seat at the table, taking part in civil dialogue to make sure the voice of civic associations and movements is heard, alongside the voices of the social partners and corporate interests.

More information:
www.civilsocietyeurope.eu

European Year for Development 2015 will soon be over. But there is plenty of unfinished business still.

The uneven growth of the global population is posing demographic and social challenges

more long-term support. At the same time, it needs to maintain open calls for proposals and other transparent opportunities, to provide smaller and grassroots CSOs with greater access to funding

- √ We strongly encourage the EU to continue the process of simplifying its rules and procedures in the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions (PRAG) and the next financial regulation, and to make funding as flexible and adaptable as possible for the different CSOs and partnerships.

9. CONCLUSION

European Year for Development 2015 will soon be over. But there is plenty of unfinished business still.

A new 15-year period of European development efforts has now begun. These efforts must deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and must maintain and build on the initiatives started during this European year, such as the European Commission's flagship initiative on the garment industry.

At the same time, as we move towards 2030 we need to grasp and come to terms with the fact that the global development sector – both governmental and non-governmental – needs to undergo substantial transition, as we grapple with the challenges posed by global megatrends that are impacting on governments and citizens alike.

The uneven growth of the global population is posing demographic and social challenges, a substantial shift in global economic power is taking place, and increased urbanisation is causing massive problems. Perhaps the biggest challenge we need to meet head-on is climate change, and the resulting environmental degradation. All these challenges will inevitably put stress on life-sustaining resources such as water and energy. Dealing with them will be hard enough in countries and regions living in peace, but will be even more difficult in places where violence and armed conflict reign, causing massive flows of internally displaced persons and international refugee movements.

In short, governments and people all over the world will have to deal with some complex and highly dynamic challenges they start to implement the new, ambitious, Sustainable Development Goals. Governments and civil society may have to reinvent themselves in order to remain fit for purpose and to deliver on their promises. We may all need to “change our game” quite fundamentally. “Business as usual” will simply not do any longer. Not for governments, not for the private sector, and certainly not for

organised civil society. We are on the verge of some quite disruptive and revolutionary processes of change, including in our sector of organised civil society.

The bottom line is: no single entity can be responsible or held accountable for achieving these ambitious goals. Not any single government, not the UN, not the EU, not any NGO or other civil society organisation. Given the challenging conditions described above, these new Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved if everyone on this planet truly buys into them and, in their own way and at their own level, helps with attaining them – including every government, every business and every citizen. Looking ahead to 2030, when we speak about development cooperation it should no longer be about “what we give”, but much more about “how we live”, including how all of us consume the limited resources of this planet we share with close to seven billion people, heading towards nine billion by 2050. The engagement of all stakeholders, governments and citizens alike, should continue to reflect the true essence of the motto of this European Year: “**Our world, our dignity, our future**”.

European Year 2015 has given civil society organisations a unique opportunity to engage with each other and with citizens, to embrace their critical thinking and mobilise them to be, or to become, the change they want to see. That opportunity has compelled us to reach out well beyond our own sector, and to enter into partnership and a true meeting of minds with other civil society sectors which have a different focus and, sometimes, different ways of working. In that process we have discovered that none of us has all the knowledge or all the wisdom, but that together we may just have enough combined expertise, experience and brainpower to meet the challenges that are in our future, and the courage to reinvent ourselves when and where necessary. We need all this so that we may continue to be an indispensable partner for governments, for the private sector and for the academic world in finding the right answers to the right questions of the future, seeking together to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a civil society alliance drawing on many diverse sectors, we stand ready to continue working together, beyond this European Year, to continue updating and amending the recommendations contained in this publication and to continue offering our partnership to governments, authorities and other stakeholders.

We believe this is an offer too good to refuse.

These new Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved if everyone on this planet truly buys into them

European Year 2015 has given civil society organisations a unique opportunity to engage with each other and with citizens

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CS / CSA	Civil Society / Civil Society Alliance
CSE	Civil Society Europe
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DARE Forum	The Development Awareness-Raising and Education Forum (DARE) is one of CONCORD's core working groups
DG AGRI	European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and rural development
DG DevCo	European Commission Directorate-General for Development Cooperation
DG EAC	European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture
DG GROW	Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DG TRADE	Directorate-General for Trade
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EU MSs	European Union Member States
EYD2015	European Year for Development 2015
GCE	Global Citizen Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LAs	Local Authorities
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
PCD	Policy Coherence for Development
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20-22 June 2012
UN	United Nations

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