

To the attention of: First Vice-President Frans Timmermans
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

LETTER: IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BETTER REGULATION PACKAGE

8 February 2016

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,

Four months after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the UN General Assembly, plans to implement the Agenda in different countries and regions around the world are taking shape. In July, the world will gather again at the High Level Political Forum to review progress, generate political impetus and launch partnerships and actions to advance shared goals. In the run-up to this High-Level Political Forum, the EU should continue playing a front-runner role, inspiring others by showing how it is able to match the ambition of the 2030 Agenda with clear EU implementation plans, which reflect the integrated, interlinked and comprehensive nature of the Agenda, in order to ensure well-being for all within planetary boundaries.

For this reason, CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development, representing 2,600 NGOs, would like to share with you its latest [position paper 'Components for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the EU and Member States'](#). CONCORD believes that for implementation plans to be successful - both at EU and at national level - they should at least include 9 components. Firstly, political leadership is needed to push the agenda forward. An overarching strategy should be adopted to implement the integrated 2030 Agenda at home and abroad, developed through a participatory process and on the basis of an in-depth gap analysis. Adequate financial resources should be allocated. In terms of governance, it is important to ensure both horizontal and vertical integration and clearly identify roles and responsibilities. Subsequently, legislation and policies will have to be revised or developed. A clear Communication Strategy must ensure that the people are fully aware of the aforementioned decisions. Furthermore, participation of all people must be ensured in the planning, design and implementation processes. Finally, robust, independent monitoring, accountability and review mechanisms, from local to regional level, are necessary.

Additionally, we have the honour to share with you a [new report by FIDH and CONCORD concerning the Better Regulation proposals](#), with a focus on the impact assessment guidelines and toolbox. This brief includes recommendations in order to ensure that regulating better means prioritising human rights and the fight against poverty and inequality in decision-making.

CONCORD and FIDH urge the Commission to improve ex ante and ex post Impact Assessments of European Union policies. We welcome the attention given to human rights in the new guidelines and tools, but past experience has shown that the lack of impact assessments on human rights or their low quality were less due to an absence of guidance than to the absence of expertise and genuine will. When evaluating the impacts in developing countries, the European Commission should not only look at macroeconomic numbers and growth in those countries, but at impacts on people living in poverty. We count on your leadership to make sure that this will change.

We also call for the EU to put in place stronger safeguards and mechanisms to better balance out stakeholders' representativeness and specifically avoid the dominance of the private sector in public consultations and impact assessments. Affected communities and human rights defenders in developing countries must be amongst relevant stakeholders targeted by European Commission consultations.

CONCORD and FIDH recommend expressly guaranteeing that there is specific in-house expertise on human rights and development on the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, with a view to ensure compliance of Impact Assessments (IAs) with PCD and human rights. We hope you will be able to ensure that our recommendations will be taken into account in the various impact studies being carried out by the Commission in the future and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss into more depth those fundamental issues.

Finally, we would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss our ideas further with you and we remain at your disposal to provide any additional information needed.

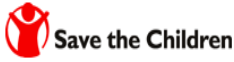
Yours sincerely,



By Seamus Jeffreson
CONCORD Director

CONCORD

Confédération européenne des ONG
d'urgence et de développement



CONCORD is the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs, with members in 28 European member states, 20 international networks and 3 associate members that together represent over 2,600 NGOs.

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