

A Direction to Follow:

Outgoing Parliament agrees on Development Spending

Today, following months of negotiations, the European Parliament finally confirmed its stand on the external instrument of the upcoming long-term EU budget 2021-2027. It is a commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human rights and gender equality.

Brussels, March 27, 2019

After crucial compromise amendments endorsed by the Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation committees on March 4, the European Parliament voted in a plenary today: its stand on the **NDICI**, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument under the Multiannual Financial Framework (**MFF**) 2021-2027, is decided.

CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, welcomes this outcome. The NDICI, as voted by the Parliament, is a clear improvement on the original proposal put forward by the European Commission. Despite a still excessive **10%** of the instrument allocated to **migration**, language regarding migration throughout the text now has been significantly improved, showing a stronger link to **human rights**. Similarly, parliament's choice to preserve supportive language on issues to do with **sexual and reproductive health and rights** shows that the EU is living up to its international commitments to women and girls around the world. Its significant **increase in** resources allocated to **climate and environment** as well as **human development and social inclusion**, with **85%** of programmes to be **gender mainstreamed** are among the most positive improvements.

"Parliament has done a lot to improve on the Commission's initial proposal. As much as this is a win for us as development and relief NGOs, we must not stop here. We now urge Member States to take these improvements as a very clear sign of the direction they need to follow in their negotiations of the instrument. We call on the Council to ensure that the NDICI is dedicated to global solidarity and achieving the 2030 Agenda," Tanya Cox, director at CONCORD Europe, asserts.

More on the MFF:

- [EP Vote is a Win for Sustainable Development - 4 March 2019](#)
- [CONCORD's views on an essential vote ahead - February 2019](#)
- [MFF Timeline](#)

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