



Draft report on “increasing the effectiveness of development cooperation”

Proposed amendments by PLATFORMA

October 2016

Local and regional governments (LRGs) are key actors for development, democratic governance as well as security and migration. They have been increasingly recognized by both the European Union (EU) and the United Nations as major development actors. Moreover, thousands of European towns and regions are already implementing projects in cooperation with towns and regions in partner countries. The fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the local and regional governments in both Member States and partner countries.

In view of the discussions taking place in the Committee on Development with regards to the report on development effectiveness, PLATFORMA – the network of local and regional governments for development cooperation between Europe and partner countries- proposes the following amendments in order to strengthen the local dimension:

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
I. whereas-donor driven aid agendas risk undermining the ownership and sustainability of development assistance and past progress on alignment;	I. whereas-donor driven aid agendas risk undermining the ownership and sustainability of development assistance and past progress on alignment; considering that local ownership is crucial to ensure effective development at the level of territories and citizens;

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
J. whereas there is an increased use of results frameworks for measuring the achievements of development cooperation programmes, but the full ownership and use of those frameworks by developing countries remains a persistent challenge;	J. whereas there is an increased use of results frameworks for measuring the achievements of development cooperation programmes, but the full ownership and use of those frameworks by developing countries remains a persistent challenge; whereas the current monitoring and evaluation processes fail to grasp the real level of development and inequalities within countries in the absence of indicators relevant at the local level;



<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
<p>5. Stresses that the GPEDC should play a strong role in the evidence-based aspects of monitoring and accountability as regards effectiveness principles for achieving the SDGs and in supporting their fuller implementation by all actors at national level; underlines the need for the GPEDC to provide clearly defined channels for cooperation for specific development actors beyond OECD donors, including emerging donors, civil society organisations, private philanthropists, financial institutions and private-sector companies; believes that the chairing arrangements of the GPEDC should reflect the diversity of stakeholders;</p>	<p>5. Stresses that the GPEDC should play a strong role in the evidence-based aspects of monitoring and accountability as regards effectiveness principles for achieving the SDGs and in supporting their fuller implementation by all actors at national level; underlines the need for the GPEDC to provide clearly defined channels for cooperation for specific development actors beyond OECD donors, including emerging donors, civil society organisations, local and regional governments, private philanthropists, financial institutions and private-sector companies; believes that the chairing arrangements of the GPEDC should reflect the diversity of stakeholders, including local and regional governments and civil society organisations;</p>

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
<p>7. Encourages the parties to the GPEDC to consider the creation of a more independent and properly resourced permanent secretariat for the GPEDC, building on the work of the Joint Support Team, and urges EU Member States and partner countries to designate national focal points;</p>	<p>7. Encourages the parties to the GPEDC to consider the creation of a more independent and properly resourced permanent secretariat for the GPEDC, building on the work of the Joint Support Team, and urges EU Member States and partner countries to designate national focal points; calls on the European Commission to consider establishing a Global Partnership Initiative focused specifically on local and regional governments;</p>

Justification

Since the effects of global challenges are mostly felt at the local level, strengthening the capacities of local and regional governments to respond to these complex realities must receive priority attention in the new European Consensus on Development. Local and regional governments (LRGs), be it in Europe or in partner countries, are legitimate and relevant actors for local development and for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at territorial level. Empowering local



governments requires investments in individual and institutional capacities at ground level. This will enable them to defend common interests, public goods, and to work towards the eradication of inequalities within their territories. The establishment of a Global Partnership Initiative for LRGs would achieve this role.

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
<p>12. Calls on the Commission and Member States to engage with national parliaments of partner countries with a view to constructively supporting the development of such policies, complementing them with mutual accountability arrangements and welcomes the Commission’s efforts to improve domestic accountability in the context of budget aid by supporting the institutional capacities of national parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions;</p>	<p>12. Calls on the Commission and Member States to engage with national parliaments of partner countries with a view to constructively supporting the development of such policies, complementing them with mutual accountability arrangements and multi-stakeholder consultation mechanisms, and welcomes the Commission’s efforts to improve domestic accountability in the context of budget aid by supporting the institutional capacities of national parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions;</p>

Justification:

Effective capacities can only be brought to life in a conducive administrative context. Local governments and their associations are rarely involved in decision-making processes on issues directly affecting their competences, for example in the design of national urban policies to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases. Formal multi-level governance structures would facilitate this involvement when developing, implementing and evaluating policies that will have an impact on local governments’ daily work. The capacity to achieve sustainable local development and properly address its challenges depends on the quality of the dialogue and interaction between tiers of government.

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
<p>14. Welcomes the EU’s progress on Joint Programming; notes that Joint Programming reduces aid fragmentation and transaction costs, increases complementarity through better division of labour, and thus provides clear advantages for the EU and partner countries alike; observes that Joint Programming is in place in 59 countries</p>	<p>14. Welcomes the EU’s progress on Joint Programming; notes that Joint Programming reduces aid fragmentation and transaction costs, increases complementarity through better division of labour, and thus provides clear advantages for the EU and partner countries alike; observes that Joint Programming is in place in 59 countries</p>



<p>out of 110 partner countries in receipt of EU development assistance;</p>	<p>out of 110 partner countries in receipt of EU development assistance; calls on EU Member States to fully include their national development actors (local and regional governments, civil society organisations) in the Joint Programming in order to increase the complementarity of their actions at different levels;</p>
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Justification:

There is a need for improved coordination between development actors and stakeholders, which is in line with the 2030 Agenda whereby the United Nations, the European Union, Member States, and other stakeholders such as local and regional governments, civil society organisations, private sector, etc. commit to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this process of coordination and coherence between development stakeholders, a bottom-up approach must be adopted in order to truly answer the need of populations. Joint programming could be a particularly relevant instrument to build on the added value of each of the European stakeholders involved in partner countries. For instance, the European Union Delegations could include representatives of European local and regional governments, involved in decentralised cooperation, in the country to better assess the challenges at the territorial level.

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
<p>16. Calls on the Commission and Member States to develop new initiatives to explore triangular cooperation flagship projects, involving new emerging donors and other middle-income countries;</p>	<p>16. Calls on the Commission and Member States to develop new initiatives to explore triangular cooperation flagship projects, involving new emerging donors and other middle-income countries; believes that the Commission and the Member States should harness the full potential of decentralised cooperation to further the development effectiveness agenda;</p>

Justification:

Decentralised cooperation responds fully to the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals: peer-to-peer cooperation, partnerships between territories, twinning, etc. It puts local and regional governments (LRGs) in the driving seat when it comes to development cooperation and increases the contribution of LRGs to the global goals even more. Thanks to the advanced decentralisation in most EU Member States, European local and regional governments and their associations can provide appropriate support in the fields of local management and planning, local democracy, administrative



and decentralisation reforms, transparency and accountability towards citizens, territorial development, regional cohesion, local economic development, and many more. Local or territorial partnerships, therefore, have significant potential to leverage and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals on the ground.

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
17. Stresses that development assistance can play an important role in fighting poverty and in promoting development, in particular of least developed countries and of the most deprived and vulnerable groups, as well catalysing other factors that are conducive to development if employed in a context of legitimate, inclusive governance based on the rule of law and respect for human rights;	17. Stresses that development assistance can play an important role in fighting poverty, in tackling all kind of inequalities and in promoting development, in particular of least developed countries and of the most deprived and vulnerable groups, as well catalysing other factors that are conducive to development if employed in a context of legitimate, inclusive governance based on the rule of law and respect for human rights;

Justification:

The main goal of EU development policy so far has been to reduce poverty. It is now time to move to a more integrated approach and focus on reducing all inequalities: wealth, health, gender, employment, education, opportunities; inequalities in access to public services and spaces, and in the exercise of democracy. Inequalities are both at the root of and the consequence of a complex and interconnected global reality. This complexity requires advanced governance capacities. At the level of public policy, tackling inequalities requires a new approach to ensure coherence across policy sectors and stakeholders, via partnerships. The importance of effective and democratic governance for sustainable development and coherence has been widely recognised (i.e. in the Rio +20 declaration, Art. 76) as is the need for empowered government institutions at all levels (i.e. Habitat II, Art. 45).

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
18. Underlines the significance of SDG 16 for development effectiveness overall, and warns that development aid cannot effectively fulfil its purpose where there is a lack of respect for human rights and the rule of law, sufficient standards and safeguards for the integrity of public institutions and office-holders, and transparency and accountability;	18. Underlines the significance of SDG 16 for development effectiveness overall, and warns that development aid cannot effectively fulfil its purpose where there is a lack of respect for human rights and the rule of law, sufficient standards and safeguards for the integrity of public institutions and office-holders, and transparency and accountability; highlights the importance of effective decentralisation and empowered local



	and regional governments as means to increase transparency and improve the quality of basic services;
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Justification:

Local governments, like all stakeholders, need an enabling environment to be able to deliver on their competences. Promoting a comprehensive decentralisation framework, with clear core powers and responsibilities and a transfer of corresponding financial resources, will ensure that local and regional governments in partner countries can carry out their responsibilities effectively. Moreover, decentralisation offers an opportunity to reinforce local governments' role as the closest level of government to the citizens and, as a result, increase accountability and transparency.

Since its creation in 2008, PLATFORMA has been the voice of European local and regional governments active in decentralised cooperation – the town to town, region to region development cooperation, closer to citizens and more effective.

PLATFORMA's role is to increase recognition of the work of local and regional governments in international cooperation, deepen the dialogue with European institutions and promote effective decentralised cooperation for the development of partner countries.

In 2015, PLATFORMA signed a Strategic partnership with the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), whereby signatories commit to take actions based on common values and objectives to tackle global poverty and inequality, and to promote democracy and sustainable development.

The Secretariat of PLATFORMA is hosted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

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