

Report on local and regional authorities¹ and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development (2012/2288(INI))

PLATFORMA amendments

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
whereas strong, transparent and needs-oriented LAs and inclusive local governance actions are essential core issues of the peace-building process;	whereas strong, transparent and needs-oriented LAs and inclusive local governance actions are essential core issues of democracy and the peace-building process and contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and social cohesion ;

Justification: local and regional governments, wherever democratically elected, participate in strengthening democracy and the rule of law.

Enabling environment for CSOs and LRAs

Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
Encourages the EU to promote institutionalised mechanisms for multilevel and multiple stakeholder dialogue among CSOs, LAs and partner governments in decent work agendas, and sustainable and inclusive growth;	Encourages the EU to promote institutionalised mechanisms for multilevel and multiple stakeholder dialogue among CSOs, LAs and partner governments in decent work agendas, and sustainable and inclusive growth; recommends the EU to apply to every partner countries the disposition relative to consultations with LRAs in ACP states, provided for in the Cotonou agreement ;

Justification: The Cotonou agreement, legal basis of the European Development Fund (framework for the cooperation between the EU and the ACP States) provides for local and regional governments to be consulted in programming and implementation of ACP-EU cooperation.

Development effectiveness

Paragraph 5 bis (new)

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
	Asks the Commission to support the inclusion of LRA representatives in the Steering Committee on Global partnership for effective development cooperation ;

¹ We use in this document, including in the extracts reproduced from the report of the European Parliament, a different terminology than the one used by the European institutions. Indeed we recommend the systematic use of the wording "local **and regional authorities**" or "**local and regional governments**".

Justification: The Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation is composed of eighteen members from representing partner countries, donor countries, multilateral organizations, parliamentarians, civil society and private sector.

Although the Busan outcome document recognises the vital role of local and regional governments in linking citizens to the State and in ensuring national democratic ownership of development, there is no local and regional authorities' representative in the Steering Committee.

Local and regional governments have asked for several months to be included in the Steering Committee and we ask the European Union to support this request.

This would be coherent with the Communication "Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective outcomes" in which the Commission calls on the EU to continue "to support the role that Local Authorities and Associations of Local Authorities play in rising awareness about local and urban development issues in shaping the international development agenda with the interest of local communities".

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
Calls on the Commission to promote a balanced approach between the principle of harmonisation and the right of initiative of CSOs; reminds the Commission that simplification and harmonisation of donor administrative procedures should be done in dialogue with CSOs;	Calls on the Commission to promote a balanced approach between the principle of harmonisation and the right of initiative of CSOs; reminds the Commission that simplification and harmonisation of donor administrative procedures should be done in dialogue with CSOs and LRAs;

Justification: Local and regional governments, through their associations, should be consulted on every aspects of the European development policy: formulation and implementation. Besides LRGs are both donors and grant recipients.

Paragraph 10 bis (new)

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
	Encourages the Commission to establish country road maps for LRAs as well. The development of joint country roadmaps, for CSOs and LRAs, should be considered;

Justification: Infra-national governments are very diverse in nature. This government level gathers public authorities of all sizes, with very different competences, and consequently with very specific missions and challenges. A commitment worthy of the challenge that is the reinforcement of LRGs in partner countries needs a strategic approach and an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for each country. We could even envisage the elaboration of a joint roadmap for civil society and local and regional governments.

Fragile states

Paragraph 20 bis (new)

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
	Recalls that local elected representatives regularly act as mediators between antagonistic parties and in that regard assume an important role in conflict

	prevention and resolution;
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Justification: Mayors acting as mediator in local conflicts is increasingly recognised. Mediation is used in various situations; administrative conflicts, in family context but also in social and intercultural conflicts, thus prevent tension rising.

Paragraph 21

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
Expresses deep concern with the proposal of the Commission to limit financing support to service delivery only to CSOs working in LDCs and fragile states; recalls that the key added value of CSOs is their capacity to intercept the needs of vulnerable groups and to give innovative answers to these needs;	delete

Paragraph 20 bis (new)

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
	Stresses that in contexts where public authorities, local and regional authorities included, are not in the capacity to provide basic services and where circumstances allow it, the Commission should support multi-actor partnerships to develop LRAs capacities so that they are able to provide services;

Justification: We recommend a more cautionary approach when it comes to donor support to service delivery by CSOs. As stated in the CSO Communication support to service delivery needs to be fine-tuned and should become exceptional.

We acknowledge though that emergency and post-emergency situations are exceptional circumstances where NGOs' fast-response capabilities and their expertise justify such support. In such contexts we deem important that NGOs act in consultation with local and regional authorities. This approach contributes to overcome the dichotomy emergency/development and strengthen synergies humanitarian actions and development.

Finally in contexts not identified as emergency and post-emergency but where public authorities, local and regional authorities included, are not in the capacity to provide basic services, the Commission should support multi-actor partnerships to develop LRAs capacities so that they are able to take on service delivery from CSOs.

Encouraging CSOs to work with public authorities and strengthen their capacities rather than encouraging them to substitute for public authorities will contribute to achieve sustainability, coordination and accountability in development.

Development education and awareness raising

Paragraph 23 bis (new)

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
	Calls on the Commission to increase its support to local and regional authorities and associations thereof with regard to DEAR

	actions;
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Justification: The current economic and budget crisis jeopardises public programme for international solidarity. Although European citizens support the EU engagement in the development arena, their awareness and understanding of local and regional governments' actions in the field of development cooperation is probably low.

In this respect DEAR provides a good opportunity for LRGs and their associations to raise awareness of their constituencies of global development challenges and world interdependences, and to justify local/regional public spending with regard to international development.

DEAR actions can thus strengthen citizens' support to European development programmes and increase their support to local and regional governments' decentralised cooperations.

Programming documents and aid modalities

Paragraph 25 bis (new)

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
	<i>Recalls that LRAs should be explicitly eligible in all DCI programmes;</i>

Justification: The EU has been supporting decentralised cooperation, politically and practically, for many years and it is important that it continues to rely on European local and regional governments' expertise to implement development programmes.

Paragraph 29

Motion for a resolution	Amendment
Calls on the Commission to promote the participation of CSOs in the ongoing discussion on blending mechanisms in the framework of the EU Platform for Blending in External Cooperation; asks the Commission to draft binding guidelines and create inclusive monitoring mechanisms to ensure that blending contributes to poverty eradication;	Calls on the Commission to promote the participation of CSOs and LRAs in the ongoing discussion on blending mechanisms in the framework of the EU Platform for Blending in External Cooperation; asks the Commission to draft binding guidelines and create inclusive monitoring mechanisms to ensure that blending contributes to poverty eradication;