

## How can CSOs and LAs contribute to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable global development outcomes?

### DISCLAIMER

The DCI negotiations on the involvement of the co-legislators in programming are on-going with the European Parliament and the Council; this note may not, therefore, prejudge their outcome, in particular concerning the specific objectives and priorities for each programme.

### Background information

The new thematic programme 'Global Public Goods and Challenges' aims to be the successor of - and learn from - previous sectoral programmes funded by the European Union and currently being implemented, namely:

- i. *Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy Thematic Programme (ENRTP)*
- ii. *Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)*
- iii. *Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum (TPMA)*
- iv. *Investing in People (IiP)*, a broad thematic programme with four strands: health, education, gender equality and "other aspects of human and social development", the latter including "employment and social cohesion", "children and youth" and "culture".

### Lesson learnt over implementation in the period 2007-2013:

Impact assessments of the current thematic programmes underlined that, although the ambition of the individual programmes is to contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, their design is not sufficiently flexible and they are too fragmented to respond to global crises and challenges and to effectively implement international development commitments. Inter-linkages at the programming stage have not been sufficiently exploited. The mid-term reviews of the 2007-2010 programme strategies, carried out in 2009, concluded that there was scope for improving the coherence between the various external policy instruments. They pointed to the need for a clearer explanation of the way the various geographical and thematic instruments work and for greater clarity with regard to their respective potential and limitations. While geographical instruments should remain the primary means for bilateral and regional cooperation, thematic programmes should be complementary to them. Their flexibility should enable them to promote and test innovative thinking and ultimately provide fresh policy input into geographical cooperation. It should also be the vehicle for approaches that do not fit within the historically determined boundaries of the EU's regional programmes and for global action. Improved coherence between thematic programmes was also encouraged, particularly on emerging multidisciplinary issues.

In response to these calls for more integrated programming to address the global public goods challenges, this thematic programme will take the form of a single unified Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP).

### The future thematic programme on global public goods and challenges

The new programme covers the period 2014-2020. Its objectives and expected results will be detailed in the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP). This note presents a proposal of priorities for the

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<sup>1</sup> This paper is meant for exclusive distribution within the EU Policy Forum on Development members (November session, Brussels); for more details, visit [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/epf/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy\\_forum\\_on\\_development](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/epf/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development) or contact the European Commission, DEVCO Unit B2.

period 2014-2017 and aims at identifying entry points for structured partnership with CSOs and LAs recognised as fundamental development partners of the EU.

The **legal basis** of the new programme will be the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) Regulation. A proposal for the new DCI Regulation for 2014-2020 was adopted by the European Commission in December 2011. It is now being negotiated with EU co-legislators. The draft stipulates that thematic programmes should add value and be complementary to actions funded under the geographic programmes, should support actions in cases where there is no agreement with the partner government(s), and, where appropriate, should support actions in cases where there is no geographic programme or where it has been suspended.

**Geographical scope:** in line with the proposed DCI Regulation and the notion of universality while addressing global challenges and global public goods, the GPGC programme will cover **all third countries** benefiting from the DCI, EDF and ENP, including countries that will not benefit any longer from bilateral EU development assistance (the so-called 'graduated countries'). The principle of differentiation as envisaged in the Agenda for Change does not apply to this thematic programme.

The indicative financial allocation for this thematic programme is of around € 5 billion for the entire period 2014-2020, of which tentatively half will be earmarked for the period 2014 – 2017.

### **Broader policy context**

The world has undergone enormous changes in recent years. The global landscape has become multi-polar and new economic and power balances have emerged, while existing global challenges have increased in depth and complexity, requiring global solutions together with new forms of international cooperation. New global challenges have emerged in recent years to complicate an already difficult situation. Many developing countries have been hard hit by a succession of recent crises (financial and economic crises, food price rises, fuel price volatility). In many cases they are affected by high unemployment and unproductive or precarious employment. Inadequate access to energy, conflicts, situations of fragility and poor human security, low resilience and food insecurity have also exacerbated the situation.

These challenges have a major impact on efforts towards poverty eradication, to promote growth and sustainable development. It is fundamental to recognise that there are multiple crucial dimensions of sustainable development, such as protection and sustainable use of natural resources, climate change, social protection, economic growth, energy, quality of health and education, and migration.

Economic growth and development are sometimes seen as incompatible with the protection of the environment or efforts to delay or reduce the effects of climate change. Yet, while sustained growth remains essential for achieving development goals, it cannot be achieved without incorporating sustainability. Addressing the environmental dimension of economic development is essential if growth is to be not only inclusive, but also sustainable in the long run. In this regard, the [Agenda for Change](#) states that 'EU development policy should promote green economy that can generate growth, create jobs and help reduce poverty by valuing and investing in natural capital.'

Public health is threatened by pollution especially in situations of rapid urbanisation. Yet the growth that has come with globalisation has all too often been characterised by increasing pressure on natural resources, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and increasing inequality, which can in turn lead to social tensions, conflicts and political instability<sup>2</sup>.

**Because these global challenges may have a negative impact on development processes, it is essential to better and more directly link EU development policy and development assistance with its overall strategic priorities and a common global agenda.**

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<sup>2</sup> 'The Wealth Gap', Special Report, Development Asia, Asian Development bank, April 2013

The international community has come together in the understanding that globally accepted agreements and goals are necessary and this has resulted in a number of international agreements aimed at the identification and preservation or more sustainable use of key global public goods<sup>3</sup>. The UN System Task Team to support the preparation of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda defined the central post-2015 challenge as *'to ensure that globalisation becomes a positive force for all the world's people of present and future generations'*.<sup>4</sup>

Addressing this challenge will require global programmes which are holistic and cross-cutting, in pursuit of interlinked goals such as those set out by the UN High Level Panel on Global Sustainability: *'to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and make growth inclusive, and production and consumption more sustainable, while combating climate change and respecting other planetary boundaries'*.<sup>5</sup> The report of the Secretary-General to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly,<sup>6</sup> which summarises progress to date on achieving the MDGs and makes recommendations for the development agenda beyond 2015, **calls for a new vision and a 'responsive framework'** with sustainable development 'enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship' as the 'guiding principle and operational standard'.

Over the years, the concept of Global Public Goods has gained increasing prominence, providing both challenges and opportunities for coherent, global thinking and decision-making. Although many formulations have evolved, the underlying concept of Global Public Goods (GPGs) is based on the definition of 'a global public good' as *'a public good with benefits that are strongly universal in terms of countries (covering more than one group of countries), people (accruing to several, preferably all, population groups), and generations (extending to both current and future generations, or at least meeting the needs of current generations without foreclosing development options for future generations).'*<sup>7</sup> This definition implies that 'goods' are public in the sense that all should benefit from them, including future generations, and that they are global in the sense that they transcend national boundaries.

Development programming within such a framework will, therefore, by definition seek to address the themes (the public goods) that transcend national boundaries and will seek to do so within a framework of inclusive and sustainable development that address inequalities and ensures that participation in, and benefit from, economic growth are made possible for all.

### What is the main objective of EU development policy?

The main objective of EU development policy and practice, set out in the Treaty of Lisbon, is the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development. The internationally-recognised targets under this objective, subscribed to by the EU, are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition to this, the European Consensus on Development sets out the shared vision and common principles which guide the EU's development cooperation. The EU's strategy for future development cooperation, the Agenda for Change,<sup>8</sup> is set in a context where, although the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs has almost been reached, a

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<sup>3</sup> Examples of recent international agreements in respect of important global public goods, specifically the environment include: the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) - Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the period 2011-2020; the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) - Strategy to enhance the implementation of the Convention 2008-2018; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its associated Kyoto Protocol, the Copenhagen Accord, and the COP-17 Durban Platform for Enhanced Action ('Durban Platform'), the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions on trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes and dangerous chemicals, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organics Pollutants such as DDT and outdated but cheap pesticides, as well as the recently negotiated treaty on mercury; the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its Implementation Review Mechanism.

<sup>4</sup> UN System Task Team to support the preparation of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, 'Realizing the Future we Want for All', (draft), May 2012

<sup>5</sup> HLPGS, 2012

<sup>6</sup> 'A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015', Report of the SG to the 68<sup>th</sup> UNGA, 26 July 2013.

<sup>7</sup> UNDP website: <http://web.undp.org/globalpublicgoods/globalization/glossary.html>

<sup>8</sup> COM(2011) 637, Council Conclusions 9316/12.

growing set of issues must be addressed in order to achieve development that is both sustainable and sufficiently inclusive to enable poverty eradication.

In February 2013 the Commission adopted its Communication 'A decent life for all: Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future', in which it recommends that, as soon as possible, the follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference<sup>9</sup> and the MDG review and future development agenda processes, should converge and be integrated into a **single overarching framework for post-2015**. It also states that in order to fill gaps of current MDGs we need to address broader issues of education and health and include social protection. This approach is also supported by the Council.

At the same time, the necessity of a coordinated and coherent approach to promote the external dimension of internal policies into much larger external instruments, saw the Development Cooperation Instrument as the home for dedicated resources devoted to dealing with Global Public Goods, especially in developing countries. The proposal for a Partnership Instrument (PI)<sup>10</sup> for cooperation outside development assistance, especially with the EU's strategic partners, will provide another avenue for addressing challenges of global concern. The PI will therefore be the first entry point for promoting the Union's core interests in addressing key challenges (in climate change, energy security, trade issues and the protection of the environment) that are not directly linked to development cooperation. Efforts will be made in strengthening the coherence of external actions and their link with other EU policy initiatives<sup>11</sup>.

#### What is the objective of the EU with this specific thematic programme?

Through the thematic programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC), the European Union (EU) aims to promote a more strategic approach to development cooperation, contributing to the **solution of global problems through global development outcomes that will be inclusive and sustainable within planetary boundaries**.

Reflecting the concept of Global Public Goods, the programme will seek to tackle key economic, social and environmental issues in an **integrated and holistic way**.

The overall objective of the programme is to support inclusive sustainable development, in pursuit of which it will seek to support development that is:

- **universally applicable** in answer to global challenges;
- **equitable** in seeking to support a reduction in inequalities and opportunities for growth together with integrated and effective resources management;
- **inclusive** in ensuring that all people are enabled to participate in and benefit from sustainable economic growth; and
- **environmentally sustainable** by seeking to support a transformation towards green economies and inclusive green growth based on the principles of efficient, effective and intra-generational use of resources as well as investment in natural capital, sustainable consumption and production and climate resilience and taking into account the health costs of pollution.

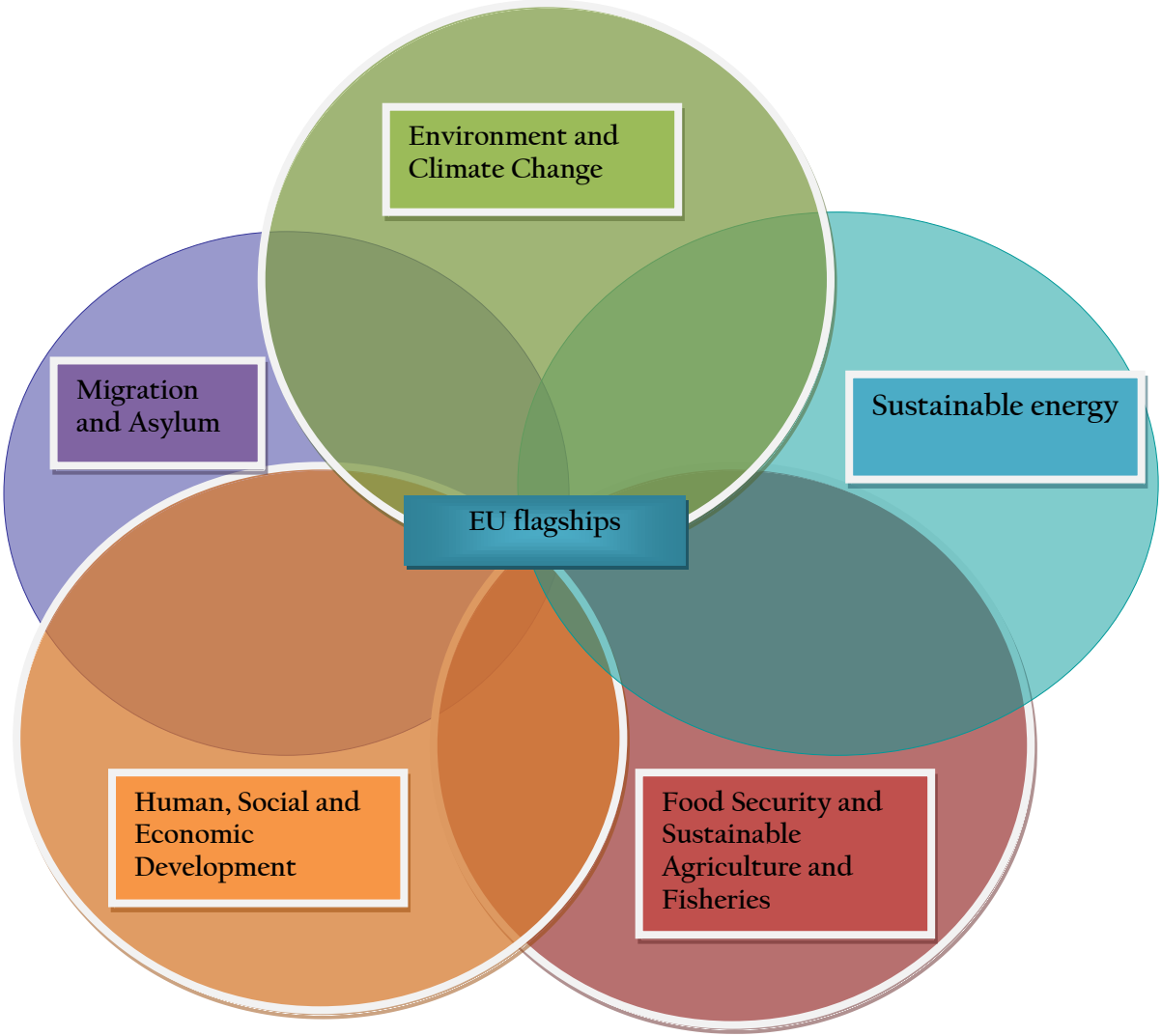
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<sup>9</sup> United Nations Conference on sustainable Development, 2012, (GA resolution 66/288)

<sup>10</sup> 'Implementing the international dimension of the "Europe 2020" strategy by supporting the Union's partnership strategies and responding to challenges of global concern' is a defined primary objective of a separate instrument, the Partnership Instrument (PI). Complementarity and synergy between the GPGC programme and the PI will be an important concern for both of them.

<sup>11</sup> such as the EU climate and energy policies, promotion of the ILO Decent Work Agenda and National Floors of Social Protection, the 7th Environment Action Plan, the Water Diplomacy Strategy, the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility and the EU security strategy. The programme will also complement other EU external instruments and EU instruments outside Title 4 of the MFF which have an external dimension ('EU Framework Research and Innovation Programme – Horizon 2020', Migration Fund).

The GPGC programme will seek to respond to the global challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable and inclusive development and achieve this objective through coherent, coordinated and focused action in 5 key areas:



1. **Environment and Climate Change:** the overall objectives will be to enhance the environmental sustainability and climate change dimension of development processes at all levels and to support the transformation towards a Green Economy in order to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth for human development within the limits of the planetary boundaries. The programme will consist of five components which complement work at national level through global initiatives, knowledge development and capacity building in the following areas:

1. Climate change adaptation and mitigation and support to the transition to climate resilient low-carbon societies.
2. Protection, enhancement and sustainable management of natural capital.
3. Transformation towards a green economy.
4. Mainstreaming of environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction
5. International environmental and climate governance and the promotion of global partnerships.

**2. Sustainable Energy:** the programme will address the concurrent challenges presented by the legitimate demand of developing countries to access energy in order to promote their economic growth and improve the livelihoods of their people, the increasingly urgent need to cut greenhouse-gas emissions to a level which avoids dangerous climate change and energy security, to which renewable energy and energy efficiency can make valuable contributions.

The programme will address these issues through:

- (a) the promotion of access to reliable, secure, affordable and sustainable/cleaner energy services in the developing world, with a special emphasis on the use of sustainable/renewable local energy sources;
- (b) fostering greater use of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency and promoting climate-friendly development strategies;
- (c) the promotion of energy security through e.g. diversification of sources and routes, the consideration of price volatility issues, emission reduction potential, improvement of markets and fostering energy interconnections and trade.

It will particularly focus on (a) and (b), which will progressively contribute to achieving (c).

**3. In the area of Human, Social and Economic Development,** the GPGC programme will address the following key challenges:

- Improve health
- Provide Quality Education
- Other areas of Human Development, such as
  - Empower women and girls and promote gender equality
  - Promote inclusive social protection, skills and decent employment
  - Promote inclusive and sustainable growth through private sector engagement and decent job creation
  - Culture.

The Health programme will address infectious diseases control, translation of medical knowledge into products and policies and shaping global markets to improve access to essential health commodities. The Education programme will focus on global and regional education policy agendas in response to critical challenges, in particular the reduction of inequalities, improvement of the quality of education and promotion of inclusive education. The programme will support global initiatives to promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the framework of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda. In the area of Employment, Skills, Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the programme will focus on supporting high levels of productive and decent employment, including through vocational education and training; the extension of social protection coverage through the establishment of nationally-defined social protection systems and floors; and support for the social and economic inclusion of marginalised and excluded groups and individuals. It will make available Europe's experience of the Social Investment approach<sup>12</sup>. Job Creation, Growth and Private Sector Engagement in developing countries will be promoted through actions to support the creation of more and better jobs, business opportunities and enable the private sector to deliver goods and services to the poor.

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<sup>12</sup> COM(2013)83, Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion.

4. In the area of **Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries to fight hunger and under-nutrition** the overall objective will be to complement and support bilateral programming to improve food security for the poorest and most vulnerable by addressing global food security governance, including global oceans governance and supporting knowledge and capacity-building.

The programme will concentrate on the following three priority areas of intervention:

1. Supporting pro-poor demand driven research, technology transfer and innovation;
2. Strengthening and promoting governance and capacity at the global, continental, regional and national level, for all relevant stakeholders (public and private sector, civil society and professional organizations);
3. Supporting the poor and food insecure to react to crises and strengthen resilience, including to the impacts of climate change.

5. Migration is at the same time a global challenge and a development enabler. In the area of **Migration and Asylum** the objective will be to maximise the positive impact and minimise the negative impact of migration and mobility on the development of low- and middle-income countries of origin and destination. Migration is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon and a comprehensive approach is needed to address the challenges of ensuring that migration will drive development instead of hindering it. The programme puts specific emphasis on the need to promote the benefits of migration for migrants themselves and for their communities of origin, while supporting their integration into hosting communities, by following a migrant centred approach as a cross-cutting priority.

The focus will be on the following key areas:

- (1) Promotion of effective governance of migration and mobility and enhancement of international protection capacities, through capacity building of developing countries of origin, transit and destination
- (2) Protection of human rights of migrants and promotion of a migrant-centred approach to migration governance
- (3) Enhance the positive impact of the increased regional and global migration and mobility of people on economic, social and environmental development
- (4) Improving a common understanding of the migration and development nexus

The Thematic Programme GPGC will pursue its objectives through two major approaches:

Approach a): contributing to internationally agreed goals by investing strategically on global public goods and challenges in a sectoral perspective, by supporting global, regional and local initiatives on specific “good and challenges”.

Approach b): through EU-developed and EU-labelled “Flagship programmes”. Flagships should address key issues which go beyond traditional sectors and seek to address global challenges through multi-sectoral or cross-cutting approaches and/or approaches that involve linking various actors, by supporting global, regional and local initiatives .

Flagship programmes should promote alliances of relevant stakeholders (from government, CSOs and social partners, Local Authorities, private sector, academia, etc.) and cooperation with local partners and other international actors, where these strengthen the delivery and universality of the initiative.

In view of their cross-cutting and multi-dimensional nature, the flagship programmes will be funded through joint contributions from the various strands of the relevant sectors, and could also be supplemented by geographical programmes by agreement with partner countries and regions.

Being this approach new, the flagship programmes will be developed and launched gradually over the 2014-2020 period. An indicative list of possible initiatives is set out below. These initiatives are proposed the European Commission based on the lessons learnt over implementation and on the success of certain multi-disciplinary programmes previously funded.

*Flagship 1. Global Climate Change Alliance + (GCCA+)*

*Flagship 2. EU Biodiversity for Livelihoods Initiative (EUBLI) – An ecosystem-based approach for economic growth, climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security and good governance*

*Flagship 3. SWITCH TO GREEN – Supporting private sector-led inclusive green growth*

*Flagship 4. FLEGT: improving forest law enforcement, governance and trade to foster sustainable development*

*Flagship 5. Addressing health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces*

*Flagship 6. The EU Resource Transparency Initiative (EURTI)*

*Flagship 7. Trade integration for green and inclusive growth*

*Flagship 8. EU initiative on transparent land acquisitions.*

*Flagship 9. Migrant domestic workers' labour and human rights*

*Flagship 10. Domestic Revenue Mobilisation Initiative for Inclusive Growth and Development*

**In both cases, the delivery challenge remains fundamental.** GPGs are structurally under-supplied. Even when global, regional, or national agreements can be reached on GPGs, responsibilities and burden-sharing are notoriously difficult, due in large part to the strong conflicts of interest in regard to key issues affecting the global commons, such as climate change and degradation of ecosystem services<sup>13</sup>. GPGs are unlikely, therefore, to be adequately supplied unless ways are found to ensure that private operators benefitting from the globalisation of world markets also contribute to its sustainability. This calls for strong and efficient international institutions and governance, and a continued strong EU engagement in norm-setting.

At the same time, the global political and economic landscape has changed. Economic disparities between countries and within countries have increased. Relationships between traditional donor countries and their partners, in particular the large-economy middle income countries where the majority of the world's poor live, are changing and new powers are emerging with different perspectives from those of traditional donors. There is growing recognition that levels of official development assistance will not be sufficient to address the development challenges, and already the importance of other economic interaction, whether trade, FDI or remittances, has increased tremendously and will continue to do so. Innovative financial instruments such as blending can contribute to filling the financial gap between what is needed to address GPG challenges and what donors can provide. The strategic use of EU grants with additional non-grant resources for investments in EU partner countries can catalyse additional public and private financing towards

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<sup>13</sup> The complex nature of the issues that are at stake and the often contradictory interests involved is reflected in the complexity and slow clean water, adequate food and modern forms of energy.



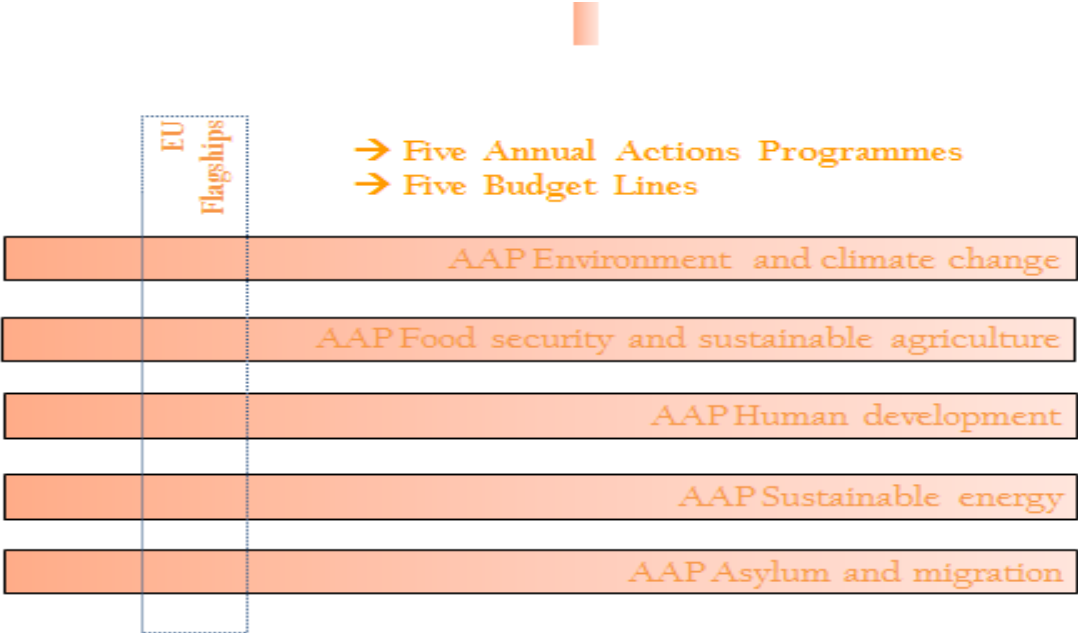
achieving GPG goals. Furthermore, the emergence of a growing number of new and non-traditional players (foundations, private enterprises, etc.) is reflected in growing calls for new partnerships to leverage new forces and in particular private sector investments, knowledge and capacity.

**How will the Thematic Programme GPGC be programmed?**

As mentioned, the legal basis of the new programme will be the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) Regulation. It is now being negotiated with EU co-legislators.

Once approved and adopted, and once all the steps foreseen by the new inter-institutional arrangement envisaged in the Treaty of Lisbon are met, the programme will be defined in the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP). It will cover the period 2014-2020, and will be revised during its implementation through a Mid-term Review.

The Multiannual Indicative Programme will then be implemented on the basis of **5 Annual Action Programmes** articulated around the 5 key areas described above, namely:



**What will be the modalities of work?**

In the framework of the [Structured Dialogue initiative](#), discussions focused on how to best adapt existing EU delivery mechanisms (i.e. aid modalities and selection procedures) and on alternative or innovative mechanisms that could be used in the future. The aim was to identify a set of conditions and criteria for the different possible support models in order to determine the most promising and feasible mechanisms for effectively supporting development ambitions.

The feasibility of using certain mechanisms was analysed in light of the existing Financial Regulation of the EU<sup>14</sup>. A number of overall trends are emerging. For example, the importance of being able to draw from an appropriate mix of aid modalities so as to reach and best respond to the widest possible range of actors, needs and contexts. Similarly, the different modalities themselves should be sufficiently flexible in order to be adaptable to different contexts and actors. The choice of the

<sup>14</sup> A short technical brief was prepared for each of the 12 delivery mechanisms, available under: [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured\\_dialogue](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured_dialogue)

delivery mechanism would also need to be based on considerations of cost-effectiveness. A shift in EC financing from focusing on projects to **supporting programmes and processes**, coupled with the possibility for longer-term support, is considered by many as the most appropriate in order to strengthen impact and sustainability, while also allowing for greater predictability of funds.

The GPGC thematic programme will learn from the experience gained over the implementation of the current thematic programmes (see Introduction). An appropriate mix of aid modalities should then be considered to reach and best respond to the widest possible range of actors, needs and contexts, such as:

1. Supporting global initiatives through global funds where they add value
2. Creating efficient mechanisms and economies of scale through trust funds
3. Increasing synergy of action and coordination working with EU Member States, UN agencies, IFIs, and other int.l organisations. (indirect management)
4. Supporting strategic partnerships with selected number of operators
5. Through the Call for Proposals system.

How can CSOs and LAs contribute to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable global development outcomes? How to do so within the Thematic Programme Global Public Goods and Challenges?

The EU has a solid tradition of partnership with CSOs and LAs, which participate and contribute to EU development policies and programmes. The EU recognises them in their various development roles.



They all contribute with different roles and mandates to overall goals of poverty reduction and sustainable and inclusive development. The EU values the partnership relations with CSOs and LAs as fundamental. This is stated in various policies and international commitments, and has been reinstated in the recent policies on CSOs and LAs described below.

For what relates to CSOs, the Communication "[The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations](#)" (adopted in September 2012) and the related [Council Conclusions](#) (October 2012) set out policy directions to boost relations between the EU and civil society organisations. It proposes a more strategic approach in its engagement with local CSOs in all regions of the world, supporting them at national level and promoting them in regional and global settings, particularly towards building stronger democratic processes and accountability systems and to achieve better development outcomes. It identifies three main priorities:

1. stronger efforts to promote an enabling environment for CSOs in partner countries (in line with Busan commitments, Art. 22),
2. the promotion of meaningful and structured involvement for CSOs in (i) partner countries' policy-making, (ii) in the EU programming cycle and (iii) in international processes;
3. increase local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors more effectively.

Furthermore, when it comes to transnational issues and global policy debates, it clearly states that **organisations, networks and alliances acting at the regional and global levels will be supported in tackling transnational and global challenges**. The EU will also support CSOs active at the European and global levels which, in cooperation and partnership with local CSOs, act to monitor policy coherence for development, holding the international community to account for delivering on aid commitments and contribute to the promotion of global citizens' awareness.

The Communication "[Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes](#)", published in May 2013, and the related [Council Conclusions](#) adopted on 22 July 2013, provide policy directions on the key role that Local Authorities can play in policy-making and development processes, as the closest public institutions to citizens, able to understand the local dynamics and needs. Centrally-led, top-down development policies and programmes cannot alone succeed in addressing the complexities of sustainable development and fighting poverty. Public and private actors have their role to play especially at local level. Local democratic governance, decentralisation and territorial development are to be supported for this purpose. For maximum impact on local democracy, cooperation between LAs and CSOs is crucial. The policy also underlines the key role that Associations of Local Authorities (understood as umbrella organisations of Local Authorities acting of sub-national, national, sub-continental, continental and international level) may play in achieving good governance and development outcomes at local level, also through their participation in national policy dialogues with central governments and other national stakeholders as well as in international fora and global debates.

#### Issues for discussion

In consideration of all the above, this note raises a series of questions whose aim it to feed an in-depth reflection and open discussion on how CSOs and LAs can contribute to the achievement of inclusive and sustainable global development outcomes. More particularly, how to do so within the Thematic Programme Global Public Goods and Challenges.

CSOs and LAs are invited to use this document as a basis for the discussion taking place in the session of the Policy Forum on Development dedicated to the Thematic Programme Global Public Goods and Challenges (29 November 2013).

Written contributions will also be accepted after the Policy Forum. Further details will be provided at the Policy Forum event.

Questions:

1. How can CSOs and LAs contribute to inclusive and sustainable global development outcomes?
2. What are the right entry points for effective collaboration within the framework of this thematic programme?
3. What modalities would be better suited to support partnerships and collaborations?