

Green deal, human development and NDICI

Programming

August 2020

There is overwhelming evidence that ecosystems, health, productivity, livelihoods and development are all intricately linked. There is also increasing evidence that climate and environmental factors, such as pollution, biodiversity loss and ecosystem conversion are increasing the risks of global shocks and crises emerging, including pandemics and hunger and malnutrition.

CONCORD therefore urges the EU to adopt responses to climate change and environmental degradation that integrate a strong social perspective and fully respects human rights and the EU commitment to fight inequalities.

CONCORD has been advocating for a 50% climate and environment target to be included in the EU's external instrument called Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This would allow the EU to tackle climate and environmental challenges while delivering co-benefits on a wide range of sectors and issues which are interlinked, in line with the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The NDICI programming should operationalise such a target and the following recommendations should be taken into account when designing EU development cooperation programmes:

- EU cooperation should not only promote the implementation and the realisation of the Paris Agreement but also of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and other multilateral environmental agreements as well as support the implementation of regional conventions (on desertification or water management, for example) and effective environmental policies of partner countries at both national and regional levels.
- Use the partner countries' climate change policies and objectives as the basis for the NDICI programming through adequate funding for mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and promote an inclusive stakeholder participation in the elaboration and implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Agricultural Investment Plans, among others. Special attention needs to be paid to the inclusion of women's rights organisations in those discussions, as they are the most impacted by climate change and have a crucial role to play to bring about solutions.
- Take into account strong environmental, social and human rights safeguards throughout the NDICI programming process. Ensure a green, just and fair transition towards low carbon development in the EU's efforts to promote jobs and economic progress including for funds channelled via the European Fund for Sustainable Development plus (EFSD+).
- In order to respect the 100% climate-proofed commitment and the 'do no harm' principle, conduct environmental and climate screenings (encompassing mitigation and adaptation) and a rights-based assessment for any programmes financed under NDICI in

order to avoid any harmful activities such as fossil fuel production, overfishing, unsustainable animal farming, industrial agribusiness, or commodity production/imports which cause deforestation, biodiversity loss or land and water grabs. In particular, set up appropriate and compulsory, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) monitoring and complaint mechanisms applying to institutions/organisations signing guarantee agreements under the EFSD+ and benefiting from the EU investment facilities.

- Support holistic climate and environment solutions that prioritise ecosystem resilience and restoration, nature-based solutions, agroecology and agroforestry, taking into account the rights, needs and aspirations of local groups and communities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of the cracks in our food systems that are threatened by climate change, land degradation, nature loss, incoherent policies, and chronic underinvestment. To address this crisis and the linked challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, the EU should support diversified, ecologically and socially sustainable and nutritious food systems. Particularly, those based on agroecology and small-scale food producers, many of whom are women.
- Support agriculture and rural development focused on strengthening and supporting territorial markets, where most economic interactions around food take place. Since it is estimated that smallholder farmers produce 70% of the food consumed globally¹, they must benefit from this support.
- Integrate and value the local and indigenous knowledge, through adequate community dialogue, when developing solutions and programmes aiming at sustainable food production, community resilience, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change. Local populations should be supported to rediscover, adapt and use their knowledge. Local, small-scale and low-cost approaches should be scaled up.
- Put traditional peoples' communities and community-led initiatives in the lead for conservation projects due to the role they play in climate mitigation. The Climate, Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA) showed in its 2018 report, "Missing Pathways to 1.5°C", the key role that local communities and indigenous people play in ecosystem protection and the need, therefore, to secure their land rights. Attacks against them and other environmental rights defenders are on the rise as pressure on natural resources increases. Protecting and empowering them must be part of the EU's approach.
- Mainstream gender equality in the implementation of the Green Deal. It would be a grave error to ignore the specific impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on women and girls. Furthermore, women and girls often play a substantial role in leading their communities towards more sustainable practices such as in resource management.
- Increase access to credit for community-led projects favouring renewable energy sources, including fostering access to safe, reliable, renewable and clean energy through

1

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/nr/sustainability_pathways/docs/Coping_with_food_and_agriculture_challenge_Smallholder_s_agenda_Final.pdf

decentralised solutions in both urban and rural, poor and rich areas, including both on-grid and off-grid solutions.

- Focus energy provision more strongly on decentralised micro-generation – small-scale renewable energy technologies that deliver energy needs locally. Mounting evidence shows that decentralised renewable energy generation is the fastest and most cost-effective way to ensure affordable energy access, especially in rural areas.
- Support job creation and entrepreneurship which contribute to preserving or restoring the environment in existing industries or new green sectors. Sustainable and equitable environmental transformation can create large numbers of decent work and small and medium enterprise opportunities, especially in countries where the potential is still to be unleashed. This requires a broad range of skills and a massive investment in education and vocational training as well as the mainstreaming of green skills and a culture for social and environmental responsibility through education and training.
- Promote sustainable, transparent and accountable use and integrated management of natural resources, including strengthening of the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreements with timber-producing countries. Adopt new measures, including legislative ones, to prevent unsustainably and illegally sourced commodities linked to deforestation, forest degradation and ecosystem conversion as well as human rights violations, being placed on the EU market.
- It is also essential to tackle environmental crime and wildlife trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) in close consultation with and with the involvement of local populations. This would require support to civil society's advocacy in favour of the sustainable, transparent, integrated and equitable management of natural resources.
- In addition, the EU should make sure that private European companies, benefiting from its support and the EFSD+ guarantees, contribute to the sustainable management of and trade in natural resources, including by paying their fair share of taxes and by fully respecting the human rights of the populations in concerned areas.
- Environmental taxes can take many forms, such as taxes on energy, transport, pollution or resource extraction. Environmental taxes tend to be used to try to influence behaviour and discourage the consumption of more polluting substances. When partner countries consider introducing such taxes, the EU should support their efforts to ensure progressivity of all carbon taxes in their design, i.e. making sure they don't harm the poorest most.
- Air, water and soil pollution and its impact on health should be addressed with solutions for its prevention and reduction.

<p>NATIONAL PLATFORMS</p>	<p>Global Responsibility</p>	<p>BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGE CONCORD CNCD-11.11.11 ACCOSYV 11.11.11 11.11.11 ACCOSYV</p>	<p>BPID Bulgarian Platform for International Development</p>	<p>Platforma za međunarodnu građansku solidarnost Hrvatske Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity CROSOL</p>	<p>CYINDEP Cyprus Island wide NGO Development Platform</p>	<p>FORS</p>
<p>GLOBAL FOCUS Danish CSOs for Development Cooperation</p>	<p>AKÜ</p>	<p>fingo</p>	<p>COORDINATION SUD</p>	<p>VENRO ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOS</p>	<p>Hellenic Platform for Development</p>	<p>HAND</p>
<p>Dochas The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations</p>	<p>Network delle ONG in Europa per lo sviluppo e l'emergenza CONCORD ITALIA</p>	<p>LAPAS WWW.LAPAS.LV</p>	<p>Lithuanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform LITDEA</p>	<p>Cercle de coopération des ONGD DU LUXEMBOURG</p>	<p>SKOP Solidarjëtë u Koperazzjoni</p>	<p>PAR TOS</p>
<p>ZAGRANICA</p>	<p>ONGD PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA</p>	<p>FOND Federácia Organizácií na Regeneráciu pamäti, Duchovna a Rukovna</p>	<p>MVRO Platforma mimovládnych občianskych organizácií Slovenska Slovak NGO Platform</p>	<p>SLOGA SLOVENIAN GLOBAL ACTION</p>	<p>COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES EN ESPAÑA</p>	<p>CONCORD SWEDEN</p>
<p>bond</p>	<p>NETWORKS</p>	<p>actalliance eu Formerly ACCOSYV</p>	<p>act:onaid</p>	<p>ADRA</p>	<p>care</p>	<p>caritas europa</p>
<p>cbm together we can do more</p>	<p>ChildFund Alliance</p>	<p>CIDSE together for global justice</p>	<p>euCORD European Citizen Organisations for Relief and Development</p>	<p>GNDR Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction</p>	<p>Habitat for Humanity Europe, Middle East and Africa</p>	<p>Hi humanity & inclusion</p>
<p>IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network</p>	<p>ISLAMIC RELIEF</p>	<p>LIGHT FOR THE WORLD</p>	<p>OXFAM International</p>	<p>PLAN INTERNATIONAL</p>	<p>Save the Children</p>	<p>Sightsavers</p>
<p>solidar</p>	<p>SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL</p>	<p>Terre des Hommes International Federation</p>	<p>wecf</p>	<p>World Vision</p>	<p>WWF</p>	<p>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</p>
<p>ALDA European Association for Local Democracy</p>	<p>ea ea EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS</p>	<p>EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY</p>	<p>NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL</p>			