

Stockholm den 13 maj 2014

Möte Foreign Affairs Council den 19 maj

Bästa Hillevi Engström,

Låt oss tacka för möjligheten att bidra inför Foreign Affairs Council den 19 maj. Vi önskar dela med oss av följande synpunkter på mötesagendans diskussions- och beslutsfrågor. CONCORD Sverige har tillsammans med våra medlemsorganisationer och i nära samarbete med CONCORD Europa följt dessa frågor under en längre tid. Vi vet att frågorna är prioriterade, och hoppas att Sverige kommer lyfta våra synpunkter inför och under mötet.

Post 2015

I samband med diskussionerna om post 2015 vid FAC hoppas vi att EU:s biståndsministrar fortsätter arbeta för ett ramverk som är universellt, uppfyller de tre dimensionerna av hållbar utveckling, motverkar ojämlikhet, samt utgår från ett tydligt rättighetsperspektiv. Vi vill särskilt uppmana att **Sverige betonar vikten av att ta fram universella mål, som innebär att alla länder har ansvar för att uppfylla målen.** Universalitet är en princip som kan och ska gälla för all fokusområden och inte begränsas till exempelvis hållbar konsumtion och produktion.

Agenda for Change

Agenda for Change fastställde att nyckelkomponenter som PCD, ett rättighetsperspektiv och ett genusperspektiv ska utgöra grunden för EU:s utvecklingspolitik. Genomförandet av delar av agendan lämnar dock övrigt att önska, och vi vill inför FAC särskilt betona genusperspektivet. **Sverige bör kraftfullt markera att genusperspektivet i programmeringsprocessen hittills har varit otillräckligt**, och att EU-kommissionen omgående behöver förstärka genomslaget för Gender Action Plan i programmeringen och det fortsatta arbetet med Agenda for Change. Två konkreta åtgärder är att göra en särskild översyn av genusperspektivet i programstrategierna vid Mid-Term Review och att EU-kommissionen säkerställer att de kommande årsplanerna för programmen uttalat lyfter fram jämställdhet och kvinnors och flickors rättigheter på resultatnivå, insatsnivå och i fördelning av budget.

Gemensamma biståndsåtaganden

OECD DAC:s statistik över biståndsnivåerna tidigare i år visar att EU:s bistånd inte ökar i den takt som krävs för att uppnå det gemensamma 0,7%-målet. Sverige har varit föredömligt tydliga med att stå fast vid 1%-målet för kommande år, även om det har framförts synpunkter på den urholkning som sker, men flera EU-länder visar oroande tecken på att inte bidra till att nå det gemensamma målet. Med endast ett år kvar innan Milleniemålen ska vara uppfyllda **måste EU gemensamt sätta press på dessa medlemsländer genom att i samband med FAC tydligt uttrycka att målet fortfarande gäller.** Annars är risken stor att EU förlorar i trovärdighet i samband med förhandlingarna om finansiering av den kommande globala utvecklingsagendan.

Högnivåmötet om utvecklingseffektivitet (Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation)

Det första högnivåmötet för det globala partnerskapet om utvecklingseffektivitet (GPEDC) visade tydligt på biståndets viktiga och unika roll, och hur såväl partnerskapets karaktär som åtagandena från Paris, Accra och Busan kan utgöra viktiga bidrag till post 2015-processen. Mötet i Mexiko saknade dock åtaganden om hur de uppsatta målen ska uppnås. EU som

största biståndsgivare måste ta en ledande roll, och tillsammans **komma överens om en ambitiös och konkret handlingsplan för hur Busan-åtagandena ska uppnås av EU och medlemsländerna.**

Privatsektorutveckling

På FAC kommer EU:s förslag till principer för biståndets samverkan med den privata sektorn att diskuteras. CONCORD **uppmärksammar Sverige att driva att principerna tar sin utgångspunkt i FN:s vägledande principer om företag och mänskliga rättigheter och OECD:s riktlinjer för multinationella företag.** Privata sektorn är en motor som kan generera tillväxt och skapa sysselsättning. Det är centralt hur det välstånd som tillväxten genererar fördelas i samhället och att de arbeten som skapas är baserade på ILO:s Decent work agenda. Utvecklingseffekter, inte finansiella effekter, bör vägleda samverkan, och fattigas tillgång till marknader för såväl produktion som konsumtion måste vara utgångspunkten, inte endast tillväxt. Det är viktigt att EU:s principer fokuserar på lokal privatsektorutveckling, och att utvecklingsinsatser kopplade till den privata sektorn baseras på utvecklingseffektivitetsprinciperna och åtaganden från Paris, Accra och Busan.

Ovanstående rekommendationer utvecklas i bilagan till detta brev, som vi har tagit fram tillsammans med CONCORD Europa. Medlemsorganisationerna i CONCORD Sveriges jämställdhetsarbetsgrupp kommer därutöver att skicka ett separat brev om jämställdhet och kvinnors och flickors rättigheter i EU:s bistånd. CONCORD Sverige hoppas att mötet den 19 maj blir lyckat. Återkom gärna vid eventuella frågor kring våra synpunkter, och återkoppling efteråt. Tack för gott samarbete.

Med vänliga hälsningar,



Kristina Henschen
Ordförande
CONCORD Sverige

ANNEX: CONCORD KEY ASKS

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MAY 2014

1. POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

As conversations on the future Post-2015 framework within the UN Open Working Group on SDGs become more detailed and start to delve into the specific content and design of the Post-2015 agenda, CONCORD would like to draw the attention of EU Development ministers to the following points:

- We urge EU Ministers to continue to press for **universal goals** which are the responsibility of all countries and therefore all countries have a contribution to make in achieving the goals, in their national context. Universality is a principle which can and should apply to **all focus areas** and not just limited, for example, to sustainable production and consumption.
- The post 2015 sustainable development agenda must integrate a **human rights based approach** across all goals, targets and indicators, including a strong focus on **participation and empowerment**. It must also address the human rights obligations of all actors, including the private sector. We strongly support the EU's work to date on pushing for **good governance** as a key element.
- Rigorous and independent **accountability** mechanisms will be crucial to the effective implementation of the framework, goals and targets. Mechanisms must envisage a central role for the contributions of civil society.
- We welcome the continued agreement on a single set of **integrated** sustainable development goals and in this context, we believe that the critical issue of **equitable** and just development within **planetary boundaries**, or within the ecological carrying capacity of the planet, must be emphasised. Addressing the impacts and causes of **climate change** and actions for **disaster risk reduction** should also be integrated throughout the goals and targets.
- A strong focus on coherent policies that have no negative effect on human development must also be a priority of the new framework. In this regard, the EU can draw on its own assessment of the challenges faced in implementing its Treaty obligations to take forward the principles of **policy coherence for development**.
- In order to go beyond business as usual and be truly **transformative**, the post 2015 sustainable development framework must recognise that current models of growth and industrialisation counteract basic notions of sustainability. The EU, in its own position, should encourage reform of economic structures, financial systems, trade and global governance and champion **alternative measures of growth** to complement the current narrow focus on GDP.

2. FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

CONCORD is actively following and contributing to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. As far as the EU's role in these conversations is concerned, CONCORD would like to call on the EU to:

- Support the proposal of a Financing for Development Conference in early 2015. This summit should bring together Heads of State or government, the heads of the relevant UN agencies engaged in post-Rio+20 and Post-2015 discussions and the heads of the major intergovernmental organisations.
- Secure multi-stakeholder participation in such a conference, with agendas and modalities for partici-

pation communicated clearly and early enough to allow for meaningful input.

- Ensure that the Conference and preparatory process are closely link up with UN negotiations on the SDGs and Post-2015 framework.
- See that the discussions at this Conference serve to agree on the critical steps needed in order to ensure that the financial system in all its dimensions (international, domestic, public and private) contributes to sustainable development, specifically supports the vision of a Post-2015 framework and the realisation of SDGs, and builds upon the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

3. ODA COMMITMENTS ON THE AGENDA AS THE 2015 DEADLINE APPROACHES

In 2005 EU Member States agreed to establish timetables to increase their ODA towards 0.7% of their GNI by 2015. Nine years later, and one year ahead of the Millennium Development Goals' deadline, these commitments have been watered down and the EU and its Member States progress towards 0.7% by 2015 and the MDGs off track. CONCORD would like to remind EU Member States that:

- The 0,7% target set at the [UN General Assembly Resolution 2626](#) in 1970 was reintroduced by EU and its member states with the May 2005 Council Conclusions and reasserted in the [European Consensus on Development](#) (Article 23) and indirectly in the [Lisbon Treaty](#) (Article 208.2).
- The 0,7% target has been restated annually in the Council conclusions since 2005 and it is also present in the [Agenda for Change](#) and new Multiannual Financial Framework.
- Europe has committed to lead donor countries in the fight against poverty, but it is failing to maintain support just when poor countries need it most. The economic crisis will be felt with greater intensity, and for longer in development countries. Instead of stepping up their efforts, the European countries are starting to walk away from the world's poor.
- Cuts on aid budgets have direct dramatic consequences on peoples live. Many examples of the devastating effects of this can be found in [CONCORD AidWatch's 2014 Report](#).
- This year's official analysis shows that the EU aid quantity is not increasing at a sufficient rate to meet the target committed. Only one year away from the MDGs deadline, this lack of commitment on aid figures signals further concerns that these monumental objectives will not be met.
- It is important that the ministers and Heads of States review the current state of 0.7% target during the upcoming meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in May and European Council in June and that European member states take forward national action plans to deliver their aid promises. As the 2015 deadline approaches, it is essential that EU leaders do not fail to keep their aid promises to the world's poorest people.

4. THE NEED FOR EU ACTION PLAN AFTER THE GPEDC MEETING IN MEXICO

Following last months' High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) in Mexico (15-16 April), CONCORD remains convinced of the importance of making further progress toward achieving the goals and commitments made in Busan two years ago and sees with concern that the opportunity was not seized and that more ambitious outcomes were not secured. On this matter, CONCORD would like to stress its conviction that:

- The EU, as the largest donor block, can and should lead by example. The EU and its member states should agree on an ambitious and action-oriented joint position to accelerate progress and foster inclusive development partnerships.

- The current economic pressures the EU and its members are facing should provide an incentive to increase the focus and progress on aid and development effectiveness. However, as shown in the 2013 Concord AidWatch Report: The Unique roles of European Aid – the Fight against Global Poverty, only seven EU member states have a full strategy in place for implementing the Busan commitments.
- EU needs to recognise its longstanding and previously made commitments on aid effectiveness, where the global partnership is partly built upon, by taking its responsibility and keep on monitoring its progress on these commitments. We call on the EU to produce a detailed country level data on progress since Busan.
- The GPEDC's mandate to ensure accountability for implementing the Busan commitments and supporting the implementation at the country level needs to be delivered with more determination and focus, particularly at the Steering Committee level both in a political and technical sense.
- Increased and more frequent and standardised monitoring, while respecting the commitment to country focused monitoring relying on existing data sources, would enable better understanding of what progress is being made and how to help highlight potential lessons to be learnt or roadmaps to further success.
- However, monitoring the implementation of the Busan commitments also requires resourcing of the joint support team, which has been an issue in the last two years. GPEDC members should ensure that the mandate of the GPEDC is backed up by sufficient resources to meet the needs whilst ensuring inclusive participation from less well-resourced members and adopted into process as well as endorsed as an outcome with commitments made to reverse the shrinking of civil society space and reduce gender inequality.
- Global light monitoring should be properly defined, determined and coherent. There is need for consistency in data gathering in order to have meaningful data to learn lessons and improve effectiveness of development cooperation.
- Adjusting the working arrangements of the GPEDC is a way to respond to the need to mobilize new interest and energy for the effectiveness agenda. We would like the EU and member states support:
 - The Steering Committee being opened to new constituencies with co-chairs more representative of the GPEDC membership as a whole.
 - Setting up intermediate working groups or structures at a more 'working level' to enable more substantive and regular conversation and cooperation, including keeping the "community space" operating online. Such a working structure could clarify the mandate of the Steering Committee to focus on high-level and political concerns
 - HLMs taking place regularly every 24 months at the maximum.
 - HLMs and SC meetings living up to the highest transparency standards that new information technologies can allow (including live webcasting and online community space);
 - Creating space to bring together experts from the GPEDC constituencies in the intervening time to allow for a much needed space where substantive issues can be broadly discussed for example in the form of the working structure suggested above but also in a less formal or more ad hoc/as needed manner
 - The periodic reviews should take place regularly and at fixed times in order to build political momentum based on evidence of progress and lessons learnt.
- The EU should recognise the importance of democratic ownership by developing countries (including governments and civil society) are in the driving seat of their own development.

5. PRIVATE SECTOR

An important issue on the agenda of the Global partnership to be discussed in Mexico is the role of Private Sector in development. Considering the leading role taken by certain EU members states in that process, and the fact that this issue is discussed in other international negotiations (FFD, Post-2015, UNFCCC) as well as in the EU, CONCORD would like to recall the following points:

- Support to local private sector should contribute to the fight against poverty in all its dimensions, injustice and inequalities, promote human rights, sustainable development and dignity for all, and secure progress towards global commitments (MDGs and Post-2015).
- The private sector can play an important role in promoting inclusive growth in developing countries through prioritizing the employment of local people, and of women in particular, and by investing in training young people or re-skilling older ones.
- The EU should engage with the European private sector to increase its impact on development by ensuring that the EU policy framework only supports positive behaviour of European companies operating in developing countries. The EU private sector should refrain from any form of corruption and should respect host country laws and regulations in the conduct of its business, pay its taxes rightfully and refrain from tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning.
- The EU's current public and investment policies should be adapted to ensure their coherence with the objective of development cooperation and support positive behaviour of the European companies operating in developing countries within the field of agriculture.
- A multi-stake holder dialogue (EU, private sector, CSOs and other stakeholders) is the way forward in order to make cross-sector collaboration effective. Continued inclusion of CSOs perspectives and representatives in the EU's dialogue with the private sector reflects an understanding of the different roles CSOs play in development and respects the Busan principle of inclusiveness. Trade unions, representing the work force, and business associations, representing the interests of the private sector, are essential partners in any sustainable development strategy for the private sector.
- The engagement of the private sector in developing countries should not be based in a "free market" model but be supported, guided and monitored by appropriate international institutions and informed by the lessons drawn from the implementation of PPPs in the developing world.
- The distinction between "for-profit" and "not-for-profit" private sectors is key, and more in-depth research on the benefits of different kinds of partnerships for the delivery of different kinds of services ought to be carried out and made available to developing countries.
- EU sectoral programmes should systematically consider the local private sector as their first option for PPPs or procurement of services and goods and the cooperation modalities and financing regulations should accommodate that objective.

6. AGENDA FOR CHANGE

In the context of the implementation of the Agenda for Change, CONCORD looks forward to the translation of its more positive provisions into practice while we remain committed to working with you to improve and correct those elements which we see with some concern. On the occasion of the upcoming discussions at the FAC in May 2014, CONCORD would like to reaffirm its view that:

- **Private sector support** can be beneficial for economic development but Official Development Assistance should not be used to guarantee private sector risk or to substitute public services.
- **Country differentiation** can be dangerous without clear criteria. Broad categories such as "middle income countries" or "more advanced developing countries" don't provide a sufficient basis for target-

ing poor people and fighting inequalities. Any differentiation based solely on economic indicators must be avoided.

- **EU self-interest for resources** of developing countries is increasing. Evidence of this is recent ACP trade negotiations and the new Raw Materials Policy.
- **Policy Coherence for Development** is key to reduce the negative impacts of EU policies in trade, environment, climate, energy, agriculture, migration and security should be strengthened. security must support - or, at minimum, not harm - efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development in partner countries rather than only pursuing EU self-interest objectives.
- **Gender equality and women's rights** should remain at the centre of EU development objectives as both a standalone and cross-cutting area of work.
- **Civil Society Organisations'** role is not just watchdogs for when governments fail on human rights and democracy. Civil society should be an important and strategic partner in European Development Assistance in their own right.
- **Green Economy is not enough**, the EU must support countries' efforts to strengthen more local, equitable, and sustainable models.
- **In the areas of agriculture and energy** support for sustainable and small-scale approaches are key to tackling poverty and hunger, as well as addressing climate change.