

Stockholm den 21 maj 2013

**Möte Foreign Affairs Council den 28 maj**

Bästa Gunilla Carlsson,

Vi skriver till dig med anledning av nästa veckas möte i Foreign Affairs Council då Post 2015-processen, EU:s samstämmighetspolitik, resiliens, nutrition, samt EU:s biståndsåtaganden ska diskuteras. Svenska organisationer följer och deltar i arbetet med dessa frågor i nära samarbete med CONCORD Europa. Vi skulle vilja dela med oss av vår syn på de fem agendapunkterna och hoppas att dessa kan bidra till Sveriges position.

Vi ser att det är av yttersta vikt att Sverige och andra medlemsstater såväl i rådslutsatser som i diskussionerna på FAC arbetar för tydliga gemensamma åtaganden från EU enligt nedanstående rekommendationer. För Post 2015-processen hänvisar vi också till det separata brev som vår jämställdhetsarbetsgrupp överlämnat till dig, och vi vill passa på att tacka dig för ditt utförliga och positiva svar.

- a) **Öka EU:s målsättningar inom Post 2015-processen<sup>[1]</sup>:** EU bör i sin gemensamma position bli tydligare gällande alla målens universalitet och därmed tydliggöra de rika ländernas ansvar. Vidare bör säkerställandet av mänskliga rättigheter vara det övergripande målet för en post-2015 agenda där ansvarsutkrävande, transparens och meningsfullt deltagande, inklusive för barn och unga, ska vara utgångspunkter. Ett klargörande önskas kring hur EU föreslår att ramverket tar sig an ojämlikhet och bristande rättvisa. Vi välkomnar EU:s intention att se på utveckling bortom BNP-tillväxt och föreslår att EU går steget längre genom att föreslå ett multidimensionellt mått på utveckling. De ekonomiska och institutionella ramverken bör ses över och revideras, för att bli verktyg för en rättvis och hållbar utveckling. En radikal förändring krävs för att lyckas komma till rätta med de globala utmaningar vi står inför, och EU-länderna behöver gemensamt visa att de menar allvar med att ta sig an dessa utmaningar.
- b) **Bekräfta att EU:s samstämmighetspolitik (Policy Coherence for Development) är avgörande för att EU ska kunna bidra till att utrota fattigdomen:** Det är viktigt att EU:s medlemsländer vid FAC följer upp beslut som fattades vid FAC vid samma tidpunkt förra året, för att se i vilken utsträckning åtaganden har implementerats.
- c) **Uppmärksamma åtgärder som behövs för att ta sig an strukturella orsaker till orättvisor som undergräver resiliens:** Insatser måste fokusera på hur sårbarheten och den oproportionella risk som människor som lever i utsatthet och fattigdom utsätts för, kan minskas. Särskild vikt bör läggas vid nationellt ägarskap och ta vara på människors och särskilt ungas kunskap och kapacitet att identifiera åtgärder för att skapa ett motståndskraftigt samhälle. EU bör särskilt se över hur unionen kan främja sociala trygghetssystem i detta avseende.
- d) **Betona att EU:s insatser för ökad livsmedelssäkerhet och förbättrad nutrition riktas in på de bakomliggande orsakerna:** Småskaligt jordbruk måste vara i fokus i EU:s biståndsin-satser, och ett mänskliga rättighetsperspektiv ska vara utgångspunkten, liksom mekanismer som garanterar deltagande och ansvarsutkrävande. Ett särskilt fokus bör ligga på att förbättra nutritionen i sårbara och konfliktdrabbade stater.
- e) **EU:s medlemsländer måste bekräfta det gemensamma biståndsåtagandet om att nå 0,7 % av BNI till 2015:** EU-ländernas bistånd har en unik roll för att långsiktigt minska fattigdomen, och vi ser en oroande trend i form av att flera medlemsländer inte ligger i fas för att nå målet, utan tvärtom minskar sitt bistånd. Se CONCORDS separata AidWatch-analys som analyserar läget och pekar på nödvändiga åtgärder.

<sup>[1]</sup> Based on "CONCORD-Beyond 2015 European Task Force Recommendations".



Vi har inkluderat ett annex till detta brev i vilket vi utvecklar våra gemensamma rekommendationer. CONCORD Sverige önskar dig lycka till i förhandlingarna med övriga medlemsländer vid ministerrådsmötet den 28 maj. Återkom gärna om du har några frågor kring våra rekommendationer, eller om du önskar att vi tar upp något med övriga organisationer i samband med deras dialog med sina respektive ministrar.

Med vänliga hälsningar,

Annika Malmborg  
Ordförande  
CONCORD Sverige

## Annex

### a) Post-2015 process:

- We welcome the positive direction the **draft Council Conclusions on post-2015** are taking. In particular we welcome your firmness on one single set of universal goals, applying to all countries, strengthening the institutional framework; and addressing consumption and production patterns;
- We welcome the intentions of **looking beyond GDP**: we appreciate the emphasis on the need for broader measures of “progress”. At the same time, the repeated calls made for ‘green growth’ fall back on traditional notions of development being equated to growth. We would encourage the EU to enter into a debate into new approaches to development not just based on growth but centered on the notion of **‘well-being’** or at a minimum that the **wealth of a nation be based on its human and natural capital** and all goods and services produced- including services that are not valued today such as unpaid work in the home, care for others, unpaid voluntary work and the entire informal sector.
- The framework must have the realization of all Human Rights, as enshrined in a number of legally binding conventions, must underpin and be the overarching goal of the framework. We ask for a stronger language on **human rights**. **To include next steps** on how the EU proposes to address inequality and empowerment in the post-2015 framework would make the Conclusions even stronger.
- **The Council Conclusions must remain firmly focused on a universal framework**, rather than on targeting developing countries predominantly. In order to avoid being too prescriptive towards others, the EU could take the lead by offering suggestions on commitment and responsibilities for the richer nations, such as the EU and its Member States, within the new framework. For example, we would welcome clarity on what an ‘inclusive green economy’ implies in terms of transformational changes, (rather than a ‘green-washing’ of current economic/trade/financial practices.)
- The EU will need to **revise its EU2020 strategy** in order to ensure that targets are included to reduce its impact on other parts of the world, including in its demand for and use of natural resources. For example, **targets to reduce Europe’s global impacts on land, water, carbon and material use**, including regulatory and market-based instruments, leading to an absolute reduction in Europe’s resource consumption.
- While the Communication appears to propose *business as usual* in relation to **trade**, investment and wealth creation, the Council Conclusions should highlight that the economic and institutional frameworks must be revised, to become tools for a fair and sustainable development. The private sector must comply with the goals of inclusion, transparency and sustainability going forward. In this regard, we welcome the **proposal to incorporate social and environmental costs into prices**.
- The term **‘eradication of poverty’**, which is increasingly used in the post-2015 debate suggests a focus on income poverty and on the two (or in a worst case scenario, only the lower) international poverty lines. The EU should recognise firstly that all countries should try to diminish poverty and inequality levels in their own setting (not just MICs and LICs) and according to their national limits and, secondly, that poverty is multi-dimensional. There are a number of **different causes of inequalities**, and addressing inequality requires to primarily tackle the root causes of poverty including marginalization, discrimination and lack of protection and participation so that each goal in the post-2015 framework must be applicable to the entire population, including non-citizens, and be measured using disaggregated data. This should include gender, age, geographic location, income, disability, minority or social status and so on.

- Acknowledge **the crucial importance of including children and youth** in the new framework. Child and youth participation in governance and accountability processes are crucial for the future ownership of the sustainable development agenda. Access to quality primary and secondary education is a key factor as well as the protection of children from all forms of violence.
- As regards the **environment**, the Council Conclusions are surprisingly silent. We urge the Member States to have one integrated set of Council Conclusions and to incorporate the following points relating to environmental sustainability:
  - Recognise the impossibility of **achieving sustainable development** without addressing **climate change** and therefore better mainstream climate change considerations throughout. The need to stay below an average 2°C global temperature increase should be explicitly stated. The EU should mention its support for and commitment to the UNFCCC processes in light of the global climate deal which is being discussed;
  - Support the development of **low carbon development strategies** (which links to the importance of safe, renewable energy for all) and the provision of finance for climate actions in developing countries, separate from existing aid commitments;
  - Reaffirm the need for equitable access to natural resources and to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- On **just governance**, we urge the EU Member States to support the building or strengthening of stable, democratic institutions at both national and international levels in order to ensure that authority is exercised in the interests of all, not just a few. Democracy, transparency, respect for human rights and the rule of law, the fight against corruption and meaningful participation for citizens including children and youth. To strengthen the capacity of states to offer protection from violence for all citizens including the most vulnerable and children both in conflict and emergency and in stable situations and to address specific factors which tend to fuel conflict and instability are all crucial for just governance to become a reality.
- **Financing the framework:** while mentioning the role of **ODA** is important, it is far from sufficient. The EU should repeat its commitment to ODA levels as a means of helping countries to achieve the transformational, structural change laid out in the future framework. As regards other sources of financing, the ETF would caution that harnessing the potential of the private sector in this regard (e.g. leveraging, blending) should be accompanied by *regulating their risks*. The EU must encourage all parties to incorporate in the framework measures to avoid financial and economic crises in the future. Furthermore, we would urge the EU to commit to helping countries restructure **tax systems** and ensure that the appropriate regulation is in place to require all actors to respect their tax obligations.

#### **b) Policy Coherence for Development (PCD):**

We are pleased that PCD is on the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Council as by systematically addressing it, the Council will send an important political message showing serious commitment to deliver PCD across policy sectors. Furthermore, it is an urgent matter for the Council to monitor and discuss the progress made towards implementing the recommendations adopted last year at the FAC May 2012 on how to take PCD forward on the ground and in EU institutions notably in EU delegations.

#### **c) Resilience:**

We call on you to ensure that the new focus on building **resilience** ultimately leads to a focus on the **structural causes of inequality** that underlie the vulnerability and disproportionate risk and uncertainty faced by poor and marginalised people, especially women. In

the first instance this means reducing the risk factors which the EU itself can influence and undertake greater action on PCD (such as greater action on climate change and the reversal of ill-informed policies such as existing biofuels mandates). Furthermore, in actual funding practices of the European Union, a greater focus on resilience should in practice mean the following:

- National ownership and central attention to the agency and capacity of vulnerable people including children in their own protection.
- Increased coordination and planning between humanitarian and development sectors including through establishing multi-disciplinary, integrated programming approaches, deploying flexible funding mechanisms for early response, transition phases or post-emergency rehabilitation, and prioritising resilience building of local and regional actors in humanitarian interventions.
- Community-based approaches to resilience that respond to local needs, build on local capacities and strengthen adaptive capacities.
- Acknowledge the crucial role of social protection as a key response to resilience building, combining short and long-term context-specific instruments aiming at building comprehensive social systems

**d) Food Security and Nutrition should be central subjects:** these conclusions present an unprecedented opportunity for Europe to demonstrate its commitment to global food and nutrition security. Progress in reducing the number of people who are food insecure remains stagnant, while the challenges to the resilience of the global food system are only predicted to increase in the coming decades. Therefore, we urge the endorsement to the **food and nutrition security package**, based on the **EU's Food Security Policy Framework** (adopted by the Council in May 2010) and adopting an EU-wide implementation plan for this policy, adopt the Communication on Enhancing Maternal and Child Nutrition in External Assistance.

We call on you to ensure that the Council Conclusions:

- Commit to **investing in small-scale food producers**, particularly women, and explicitly support sustainable, climate-sensitive agriculture and agro ecology;
- Commit to **addressing the underlying causes of undernutrition** through a multi-sectoral and a multi-stakeholder approach, emphasising a human rights-based approach;
- Commit to **adequate and appropriate support for scaling up of nutrition** in high burden and fragile States;
- **Integrate principles of resilience building into food and nutrition security approaches**, especially in view of the challenges posed by climate change, resource depletion, and political and economic shocks;
- **Commit to an accountability framework** requiring that Member States and the European Commission provide regular, transparent and publicly available information on how they are delivering on commitments made.

**e) Keep the ODA commitments on the agenda:** The EU can and should meet its aid target. EU aid supports millions of households and makes a substantial and long-term contribution to the fight against poverty and inequality. Aid is not simply a matter of a funding commitment: it is also a moral and human rights obligation that affects the future of millions of people. The Lisbon Treaty makes it very clear that the primary objective of EU aid is

“the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty.”<sup>1</sup> Millions of poor, vulnerable and marginalised people across the world cannot afford any more delays.

- **The money is there.** Significant amounts of the EU and member states’ budgets are going into questionable expenditure such as subsidies for fossil fuels. These types of expenditure are often inconsistent with long term sustainable development goals and therefore contradict the commitment of member states to make all EU policies coherent with internationally agreed development goals.
- **European citizens** believe in development assistance as a tool for making the world a better place. The majority of Europeans also believe that the EU should meet its aid targets.
- **European leaders’ political will is the missing element.** AidWatch calls on the European Institutions and Member States to deliver on their commitment to provide 0.7% of their GNI in aid by 2015 by:
  - Designing and agreeing on a roadmap and objectives for 2014 and 2015 with clear responsibilities and targets for each member state.
  - Ensuring that the distribution of aid flows is equitable and has the maximum impact on development prioritising the implementation of the aid and development-effectiveness agenda.
  - Meeting the target with “genuine aid” resources and avoid changes in the definition of ODA that would allow for artificial increases in reported aid levels.
  - Avoiding the inclusion of expenditure that, in the AidWatch methodology, is regarded as inflated aid: student and refugee costs in developed countries, debt relief, tied aid and interest on loans.
  - Not reporting as part of the 0.7% GNI commitment money provided as climate finance pursuant to the commitment by developed countries to support developing countries with additional climate finance. The EU should agree on a joint definition of additionality to stop diverting existing aid money as climate finance and ensure that these funds are tracked and reported on separately from disbursements to meet aid commitments.
  - Preventing the revision of the official definition of ODA to allow for the reporting of additional types of flows which do not have a demonstrated developmental impact. This is the case with public support for the private sector and military spending, which are currently not reportable under OECD DAC rules.

---

<sup>1</sup> Lisbon Treaty, Article 208.