

The Revised European Consensus on Development: Impact on the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Implications on the Work of Political Foundations

16 March 2017, from 13h15 to 16h00
European Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Avenue de l'Yser 11, 1040 Brussels

Context

In 2005 the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union agreed upon a **European Consensus on Development**. This document defined priorities for the EU development policy and committed the Institutions and member-states to poverty eradication and to building a more sustainable world. In 2011, in preparation for the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and in the context of the emergence of new challenges associated with existing development instruments, the **Agenda for Change** was announced. This initiative complemented the Consensus and introduced important new principles for EU development policies relating to differentiation amongst developing countries, enhanced importance of human rights, democracy and good governance, and a greater focus on investing in drivers for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

However, in face of new internal and external challenges, the necessity to **increase policy coherence and acknowledge the development-security nexus**, as well as the need to **commit to the implementation of the Agenda 2030**, the European Institutions recognized the need to review the 2005 European Consensus on Development. The revised document would serve as a way forward towards a new common vision and strategy for the development policies of the EU and its member states. In November, after the analysis of the results of an open consultation, the European Commission launched a communication to the European Parliament and the Council with the proposal of a **new European consensus on development**. The document makes an effort to align the EU development priorities with the directions outlined in the Agenda 2030 and thus focuses on five main pillars: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership (the "5 Ps"). The proposal is currently being discussed in the European Parliament and by the member states at the Council. It is expected that in the coming months a final joint text will emerge, which will establish a new common framework for development policy agreed by the Institutions and the EU member states.

The proposal from the European Commission underlines that sustainable development requires a shared effort. There is a need for **stronger partnerships beyond governments and deeper and more inclusive engagement with other development actors. The indispensable role for civil society organizations (CSOs) shall be granted and the particular role of political foundations as bridge-builders between CSOs and political actors should be underlined.** Political foundations have longstanding experience in the field of development cooperation and close links to local grass-root civil society organizations. Their projects aim at enhancing democratic governance, political plurality, political participation, electoral assistance and civic education in third countries. This includes projects to develop and consolidate democratic political systems and strengthen political actors. By

strengthening the rule of law, property rights, an independent judiciary and good governance, they improve the efficiency of official assistance and build the basis for self-sustained development.

In this context, the **European Network of Political Foundations** and the **Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation** are hosting a seminar on *“The Revised Consensus on Development: Impact on the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Implications on the Work of Political Foundations”*. The event aims at presenting to representatives of European political foundations an overview of the principles and goals behind the proposal on the new European Consensus on Development, discuss its relevance in current efforts to cope with developmental challenges; achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and assess its consequences as a policy instrument for the work of political foundations.

Programme

13:15 **Registrations and networking lunch**

14:00 **Welcome remarks**

- **Sabina Wölkner**, Programme Director, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

14:10 **Interventions:**

- **Dr. Florian Lütticken**, Policy Coordinator in Charge of the European Consensus on Development, DG DEVCO, European Commission
- **Marie-Laure De Bergh**, Deputy Head of Division, Global 5, European External Action Service
- **Dr. James Mackie**, Head of Learning and Quality Support, ECDPM

14:50 **Comments:**

- **Gudrun Kopp**, ENoP Advisory Board; Former Secretary of State at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- **Wilfried Telkaemper**, ENoP Advisory Board; Former Vice President of the European Parliament; Former Director of the Centre for International Dialogue and Cooperation of the Rosa- Luxemburg-Stiftung

15:10 **Open discussion** moderated by **Dr. Luis Blanco**, Research Associate, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

15:50 **Closing remarks**

- **Martin Ängeby**, ENoP Network Coordinator, Secretary General at the Swedish International Liberal Centre, SILC

16:00 **End of the roundtable discussion**