European Development Days Brussels 6-7 December 2010 Proceedings







Foreword

For its fifth edition European Development Days returned to where it started in 2006: on 6-7 December 2010 it took place in Brussels, co-organised by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Since its inception, European Development Days has been promoting a true spirit of partnership, new thinking and exchange of knowledge and experience. All this with one aim in mind: to constantly improve our concepts and instruments in securing better lives for people across the globe. The event helps us to engage political leaders, civil society and stakeholders in shaping the development policy of the future.

In 2010, European Development Days came at a decisive moment in European development policy-making, just weeks before the launch of the European External Action Service (January 2011). Despite the economic crisis, Europe is stepping up its contribution as a global development player in a constantly changing, multi-polar world.

European Development Days also engaged the global development family and its partners in debates around how best to achieve "higher-impact" aid, following up on the recommendations in the European Commission's Green Paper on development policy. The stakes are high: eradicating poverty remains a common priority for Europeans and developing country partners alike. This can only be achieved through inclusive growth and sustainable development. Effective aid must be complemented by coherence across the whole range of policy areas, as stipulated by the Lisbon Treaty.

Looking at the global political agenda, European Development Days took place during a time of intense international debates on development, less than two months after the United Nations High Level Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in New York and a week after the Africa-EU Summit in Tripoli. The €1 billion MDG initiative announced by the EU in New York will provide an additional boost to achieving our goals for 2015. The Summit in Libya instilled new dynamism into the Joint-Africa EU Strategy, a true partnership between continents that looks beyond aid.

Participants also brainstormed ahead of several global summits to be held in 2011, including the United Nations Summit on the Least Developed Countries in Turkey, the World Health Organization's General Assembly, and the High Level Forum on Aid Effectives to be held in Busan, South Korea.

Europe's premier forum on global development has confirmed its prominent place on the agenda of the international development community. More than 4,500 committed development stakeholders from over 139 countries came together in Brussels. Debates were often passionate, sometimes controversial and always inspiring.

We would like to thank all of you who contributed to the success of this edition and look forward to seeing you again in 2011!

Andris Piebalgs

European Commissioner for Development

Charles Michel

Minister for Development Cooperation, Belgium





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Justin KILCULLEN

New policy challenges -

towards "high impact" development policy

European development policy is at a critical crossroads. This message resonated across almost all sessions at this year's European Development Days. This 5th edition came at a decisive moment in European policy-making with challenges – and opportunities – on the horizon.

EU development policy has been transformed radically over the past 10 years, with an increased pace of change over the past five years. Prior to 2007, there were 40 to 50 different budget lines feeding Europe's initiatives and two geographical programmes. Today, this patchwork has been rationalised.

Development policy is on the move

The Cotonou Agreement, the most comprehensive partner-ship agreement between developing countries and the EU, originally signed in 2000, was revised in 2005 in light of the European Consensus on Development, which reflects the EU's goal to eradicate poverty and includes, among other principles, that developing countries are responsible for their own development. Changes to the agreement in June 2010 focus on climate change, regional integration, food security, and prioritisation of fragile states.

Complementing this, the European Union has also been focusing on "aid effectiveness" and "ownership" enshrined in the Paris Declaration in 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008.

In 2010, the European Commission launched a Green Paper in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development, a Communication on the consolidation of EU-Africa relations as well as consultations on budget support and the future of financial instruments.

Higher impact aid - but how?

The Green Paper builds on the principle of aid effectiveness and underscores the need for "higher impact aid", but the big question is "how"? Debates focused on the answers to this question.

Putting "high impact" development cooperation into practice will require clearer priorities as well as a coherent and holistic policy driven by "strong value added and real value for money". **Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Development, argued the Green Paper's overarching objective is to provide "far greater structure" and make significant changes to development policy.

Millennium Development Goals

In this regard, the Commission's Green Paper on development policy acknowledges the "mixed progress" to date in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The EU has doubled its development assistance over the past 10 years. Combined with robust economic growth in many parts of the world, millions of people have pulled themselves out of poverty, but many developing countries are still lagging behind.

In short, a great deal remains to be done, particularly regarding the health MDGs as it is widely recognised that a healthy population is a prerequisite for growth and prosperity. Without a food-secure, educated and healthy population, a country can hardly pull itself out of poverty.

According to the Green Paper, the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 must remain Europe's "first and overriding priority". It outlines how the EU can support developing countries' efforts to speed up progress towards the MDGs and leverage new opportunities to reduce poverty.

Improving the impact of budget support, using development policy as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable growth and fostering sustainable development are proposals outlined in the Green Paper.





"Substantial change should be demonstrable. We need to concentrate on inclusive growth, and some key sectors such as energy, particularly renewable energy, which has long been coupled to GDP growth," said Andris Piebalgs.

Inclusive growth

Eva Joly, Chair of the Development Committee, European Parliament, asked: "Whom is growth intended for? Growth for Europe, growth for poor countries or growth for multinationals? The Green Paper says growth will help fight poverty, but this is not necessarily true, as it may be growth for everyone except the poor."

Several participants also wondered, "growth for whom?" What does "inclusive growth" really mean? CONCORD President **Justin Kilcullen**, who called for a "radical change" to development policy, voiced civil society's scepticism.

"Inclusive growth is all very well, but what does inclusive mean? It should be about people, power and participation. Previous development failures have occurred because people have been excluded from the development processes. The Green Paper is putting some interesting ideas out there, but this process should not be about 'tweaking' what we do, but making fundamental changes to how we go about things," he said.

Andris Piebalgs explained that economic growth, providing that it is socially inclusive, produces a much greater effect in terms of poverty reduction than incremental increases in ODA. "The issue of socially inclusive growth is essential here; there is no point supporting growth that benefits only a tiny proportion of a population," he said.

Participants agreed that economic growth must be socially inclusive if it is to deliver sustained development benefits. The theme of how best to achieve "pro-poor, inclusive growth" was debated across several panels, with a number of participants pointing to the new roles for multilateral development banks, EU institutions and private enterprises in the post-Lisbon landscape.



Engaging civil society

Several panellists and participants agreed with Justin Kilcullen's conclusion: "Civil society organisations must be at the heart of development planning," he said. However, not everyone agreed. Professor **Arthur Peter Mutharika**, Malawi's Minister of Education, Science and Technology, pointed out that the civil society actors tend to have an impact on a particular sector of the economy. "Elected representatives bring more transparency, as civil society is not necessarily representative," he added.



Rama NAIDU

Klaus RUDISCHHAUSER

Galvanising the private sector

There was much discussion about the roles of companies. Undoubtedly, business and entrepreneurship are drivers for growth, but significant hurdles remain to creating a more attractive business and investment environment in most developing countries. Infrastructure is typically underdeveloped and the regulatory environment remains bureaucratic and unpredictable in many areas, resulting in volatile legislative and tax regimes. These structural and operational constraints are compounded by a shortage of much-needed skilled local talent.

The Green Paper calls for innovative public-private partnerships involving government, non-governmental organisations and business to overcome such challenges and to galvanise the private sector.

Potential initiatives include: prioritising essential infrastructure projects, developing SMEs through local supply chains, scaling up existing inclusive business models, providing catalytic start-up investment, developing transport corridors, and developing codes for growth in pilot projects and sharing of best practice.

Kampeta Sayinzoga, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda, joined panellists who called for strong support for private sector development as a driver for sustainable and inclusive growth that also builds capacity for enterprises in developing countries.

Another set of issues is how to ensure transparency and fight tax evasion that costs developing countries billions of euros each year. US legislation puts more onus on big firms to be open in their dealings. Many voices called for Europe to follow suit.

For example, **Vanessa Herringshaw**, Director, London Office, Revenue Watch Foundation, called upon the EU to follow the lead of the US to increase reporting requirements of publicly traded resource companies. The US Cardin-Lugar amendment will force publicly traded corporations to include country-by-country figures for payments to governments around the world. The EU passed a similar resolution in 2007, but it lacks teeth.

What financial tools?

In today's economic climate, the EU must show that aid brings value for money – a major theme for the new financial framework for 2014-2020. As **Klaus Rudischhauser**, then Director of General Affairs, Directorate General for Development, European Commission, emphasised, "the key to success of future EU budget support is ensuring that for each euro of development money invested, more has to be got out of it, more value, and more effectiveness".

This raises the thorny issue of budget support versus sector and local community support. Rwanda is being held up as a model for budget support as an effective means of spurring development. The country has moved from a decimated economy to one set for 7% to 8% growth in 2010. But is the Rwandan success story a blueprint for development?

Many participants disagreed, calling instead for financial instruments that reflect the differentiation of partner countries according to their development level – "blending subsidies with donations". Others called for more flexible instruments and for "improved synergies" between the Commission and Member States' development assistance.

"We need to look into innovative ways of financing. We can no longer look to the depleted national budgets as the only source of aid finance. While we welcome the agreement of the European governments to keep their promises on aid it is important to look at new ways of financing development," said **José Manuel Durão Barroso**, President of the European Commission, during the opening ceremony of European Development Days.







RIIII LAPPALAINEN

Do Europeans care about the rest of the world?

Europeans are strongly committed to meeting the MDGs – and 89% of them attach a high value to development cooperation with other countries. A Eurobarometer survey in September 2010 shows that very few people think giving aid is unimportant. Yet, 61% of them think the UN, the World Bank or the US are best placed to support developing countries. Just 17% of Europeans are aware that the EU is the world's largest aid donor.

A high level panel debated how to boost Europeans' commitment. In 2001, EU leaders declared their support for development or "global" education, which encompasses human rights, sustainability, conflict prevention, and intercultural understanding.

The European Commission did a comprehensive analysis of the impact of 268 EU co-funded projects for Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR).

Around a third of EU Member States raised development funds through new mechanisms in 2009. The European Commission is also urging Member States to back other tools with significant revenue-generating potential, for example, a financial transactions tax.

This tax would levy every transaction based on its value. The European Union believes that a well targeted, internationally adopted, financial transaction tax would be a good way to raise much-needed funds. The French presidency of the G8 and G20 groups of major world powers has placed the tax at the top of its agenda.

The findings include:

- Within the EU's €9 billion budget for development cooperation, €30 million is earmarked for education.
- The projects have strengths (European partnerships/ integration of civil society) and weaknesses (lack of a clear strategy and objectives, and inadequate knowledge sharing).
- Recommendations include: focusing on a limited range of objectives; engaging a wider portion of society (not just NGOs); learning from experience; and building partnerships in the South.
- The European Commission plans to promote better coordination (supplementing, not duplicating, what already exists in the formal education sector); dialogue, learning and capacity building through networking and a database of best practice; a European dimension in projects, and cooperation with partners in the South.

The Commission will put forward proposals next year. "We will suggest something rather difficult: cooperating with organisations, not just on projects, but to create more stable, long-standing relationships," said **Angelo Baglio**, Head of Unit, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission. "Don't expect a revolution in 2011, but we will try to organise a revolution in 2012."



Oldemiro MARQUES BALÓI

Donald KABERUKA

Aid effectiveness: changing the paradigm -

transforming aid into development cooperation

Participants debated issues including donor and recipient accountability, strengthening local government, local-level and decentralised cooperation, and policy coherence. The dynamic discussion reflects a changing approach to aid and to North-South partnerships. The future looks bright, provided all those involved are "ambitious".

Koos Richelle, then Director-General, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission, set the stage for debate: "We could do more and could do it quicker if we are concerted in action. But for that we need constant political steer. Busan should therefore be a political meeting. We need to stop focusing on processes, but rather focus on results. This is not a bureaucratic endeavour."

The need for increasing the impact of aid is the concern at the core of the aid effectiveness agenda, which was formulated in the Paris Declaration (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008).

Answerable to your population

In the new aid framework, the paradigm has changed from developing country governments being answerable to their donors, to being answerable to their citizens. This demands greater democratic accountability. The Accra Accord identifies a virtuous circle where strong domestic accountability leads recipient governments to use aid more effectively in response to citizens' needs, which reduces poverty and strengthens domestic responsibility.

Corina Creţu, Vice-President of the Committee on Development, European Parliament, underlined the importance of the Accra Accord because it stipulates for the first time that parliaments are involved in ensuring country ownership and development. "The European Parliament is working to measure how effective this is," she said.

One reason for the lack of domestic accountability is the weakness and irrelevance of parliaments in countries with little formal commercial activity and meagre tax revenues. According to **Kwasi Prempeh**, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Democratic Development, Ghana, if donors reinforced state capacity to generate revenues, the new body of taxpayers would insist their governments be accountable for spending.

Civil society actors are equally keen to participate in democratic ownership. **Jorge Balbis**, Chairman of the Reality of Aid Network and Director of the Asociación Latinamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción, stressed: "We talk about democratic ownership all the time. This is not just something for government, but for all stakeholders."

According to **Martin Chungong**, Director of the Division for the Promotion of Democracy of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), past experience has shown that without good governance, aid fails to bring results. Accountability is a two-way process. As **Hussaini Abdu**, Director of ActionAid, Nigeria, commented: "The more the donor is accountable, the more the recipient is."

With squeezes on national – and EU – aid budgets, governments must ensure value for money, as citizens need to know why they should continue giving when budgets at home are cut. **Pierre Schapira**, Deputy-Mayor of Paris, agreed that national and local authorities have a duty to taxpayers to ensure their money is used properly, but "we rarely have failures".

Ownership

A major tenet of the Paris Declaration is that aid is more effective if development partners (recipient countries) "own" it and can apply local knowledge to use it effectively. As **Donald Kaberuka**, President of the African Development Bank, commented: "Any aid programme that leads to dependence is a sign of failure." He added that ownership means giving development partners the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them, rather than following a donorled script.



Lisa WILLIAMS

Hussaini ABDU



Martin CHUNGONG



Andres MEJIA ACOSTA

Pierre SCHAPIRA





Donors should be "humble facilitators" and consider the incentives and disincentives of their aid delivery, according to **Lisa Williams** from the OECD-DAC Network on Governance, while **Andres Mejia Acosta**, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, insisted donors "absolutely refrain from interfering" with countries' sovereign choices such as taxation.

Emerging donors

The issue of new donors from emerging economies was debated. Oldemiro Marques Balói welcomed them: "Emerging donors are very welcome; they bring an element of diversification and competition." He believed that as formerly poor countries, emerging donors do not make their support conditional, and complement the role of traditional donor. However, other participants were less sure: "One cannot be so naive as to think they are totally benevolent," one warned.

For **János Hóvári**, Deputy State Secretary, Global Affairs, Hungary, these new players represent the changing world order. "We should address the current challenges of the new world order in a multi-polar system. We should cooperate with them. The whole of international cooperation is based on partnership," he said.

Two other groups of stakeholders in development cooperation must not be forgotten: business and civil society organisations. **Gerhard Stahl**, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, described private sector involvement – for example, private agencies are involved in development cooperation between The Netherlands and districts in Ghana.



The road to Busan 2011

The 4th High Level Forum (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, 29 November to 1 December 2011 follows the previous HLFs on aid effectiveness held in Rome (2003), Paris (2005), and Accra (2008).

Panellists were optimistic about the future of aid effectiveness and the upcoming Forum in Busan. Jorge Balbis described it as "a meeting that will represent a step forward. We must be ambitious". For János Hóvári it is "an important station, but not the last one, on a long journey. Global responsibility is one of the 21st century issues".

The 4th HLF will assess the achievements of the Paris Declaration (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and explore ways to deliver more effective development aid, follow-up on the Paris process and contribute to a renovated international aid architecture.

This Forum is important to the EU, as it is working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. A strong EU position is essential if there is to be an ambitious outcome, and European aid must focus on poverty eradication as agreed in the Lisbon Treaty (2009) and the European Consensus on Development (2005).

Oldemiro Marques Balói wanted to see more private investment, with donor countries encouraging their companies to take risks. "We need to have a strong private sector," he said, as micro and small- and medium-sized enterprises contribute significantly to sustainable development by creating jobs. **Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments, said his organisation is "creating a platform so that the African diasporas can fund projects back home in a secure environment".



Corina CRETU

Marc RIMEZ

A coherent and holistic approach

Another issue raised by all stakeholders is the need for policy coherence and a "holistic" view of aid, which includes migration, international finance and trade. According to Minister Balói, the failure to reach a conclusion to the Doha Development Round still rankles. "We want to take aid for trade more seriously, but these negotiations are stuck," he said.

In the post-Lisbon landscape, a more coherent, consistent and holistic approach to development cooperation means greater emphasis on the coherence between development policy and the external dimension of EU policies. Many are hoping the European External Action Service will provide the glue for such an approach.

Solutions must be applied at the local level

At the same time, there is growing horizontal cooperation between local authorities in developed and developing countries. Gerhard Stahl reminded participants that some Member States have decentralised their funding for development. For example, in Germany, 10% of total development expenditure are under the responsibility of the regions. Horizontal cooperation also makes it possible for smaller municipalities to access funding and technical assistance, said **Marc Rimez**, Executive Director, Observatory of Decentralised Cooperation, Diputació de Barcelona.

"We have to decentralise aid to town and cities," insisted Pierre Schapira. "This is a very specific practical cooperation. We do what we do best. In many cases it does not mean offering finance, but expertise." He explained that the city of Paris sent its civil servants to deal with things on the spot: "We reinforced health experts in Ouagadougou."

There was concern that despite the myriad successes of this form of cooperation and the Commission's increasing awareness of the importance of these actors since 2008, the term "local authority" does not appear in the new Green Paper on development policy. Pierre Schapira commented: "The Commissioner has not mentioned the word 'local authorities'. We need to remind him."

Marc Rimez also emphasised that the principles of the Paris Declaration must be integrated in decentralised cooperation and that local authorities must be involved in the discussions on the aid effectiveness principles.

It was pointed out that the distinction between nonstate actors and local authorities must be clarified. Local authorities must be recognised as public actors who can make policies and have a budget. Thus, they can benefit from sectoral budget support, which some recognise as the most effective way to provide aid.

Angelo Baglio, Head of Unit, EuropeAid, European Commission, said the Structured Dialogue launched by the Commission brings together all stakeholders involved in development cooperation. This initiative allows for a structured discussion to focus on involving local authorities and non-state actors in development cooperation.

The relationship between local authorities and NGOs must be clarified. Pierre Schapira pointed out: "We have established a credit line of €35 million to support the role of local authorities in development, but this is seen as competing with NGOs. They wield considerable clout [in development projects]. A platform is needed for local authorities to work with them."



Andreas VOGT



Networks and aid effectiveness in action in Haiti

The relief efforts following the disastrous earthquake provided a useful learning experience on engaging networks in aid effectiveness.

In Haiti, creating networks was very effective in pooling the experiences of different European agencies with their complementary activities, said **Bernd Eisenblätter**, Chair of the Managing Directors, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH. **Andreas Vogt**, Membership and Networking Manager, CONCORD, agreed: "Networks may be expensive, but working outside them is even more expensive – they are effective."

Simon Maxwell, European Development Cooperation Strengthening Programme, Overseas Development Institute, stressed the importance of one organisation taking responsibility for coordinating networks on the ground. In Haiti the European Commission played the role of coordinating Member States' activities. This improved efficiency and increased EU visibility. Charles Goerens, Member of the Development Committee, European Parliament, insisted that roles have to be clearly defined and EU actors flexible enough to decide who should carry out a given task.

However, networks can only provide useful support if the recipient government has the capability to accept and channel aid to where it is most needed. Given its weak government, this was a problem in Haiti and may explain why the government was often sidelined in relief efforts. This should be borne in mind when disasters occur in fragile states.

Another lesson from Haiti is the importance of using local knowledge. As **Ross Mountain**, Director-General, Development Assistance Research Associates, pointed out, rather than dispensing food directly to the population in Port-au-Prince, giving people cash to buy food from farmers in the rest of the country, which was still operating normally, would have helped to stimulate the local economy.

Relief efforts should also include long-term measures to build government and national capacity. Bernd Eisenblätter described how the European Network of Implementing Development Agencies is working with local construction companies to provide affordable, sustainable and earthquake resistant housing.

Another issue in Haiti was the number of NGOs that arrived to help – some estimated 2,000. Trying to coordinate this number can present difficulties, although operating a "cluster" system and "keeping them in the loop" in information terms, can help to streamline their efforts.



Tamsyn BARTON

EU development policy -

what financial tools?

As European citizens adjust to belt-tightening measures, the EU must show aid brings value for money. How should the new financial framework for 2014 to 2020 be designed and is the Rwanda funding model getting it right?

Rwanda is an African success story, moving from a decimated economy in 1994 to one set to clock up 7% to 8% growth in 2010. Its success in managing development funding has gained it the freedom to decide how to direct its programmes, explained **Kampeta Sayinzoga**, Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda.

Is this the model for future development funding in Africa? Paul Collier, Director, Centre for the Studies of African Economies, Oxford University, said: "What works in Rwanda, doesn't work in the DRC." He called for a tailor-made approach, including for fragile states. Regional integration was also identified as a major area of added value for development aid.

Christian Masset, Director for Global Affairs, Development and Partnership, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France, underlined that financial instruments should reflect the differentiation of partner countries according to their development level. "Blending" subsidies with donations needs to play a key role. "Our current instruments are not flexible enough. The main problem for developing countries is external shocks; we have to adapt to this," he said.

Blending for higher impact

Tamsyn Barton, Director for Operations Outside the European Union and Candidate Countries, European Investment Bank (EIB), called for simple and visible instruments for "blending" with a catalytic effect. She noted that the EIB model is efficient, however, an internal review criticised its failure to coordinate with other instruments.

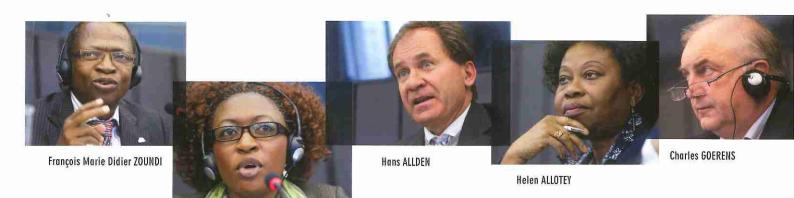
Regarding aid effectiveness, several participants called for improved synergies between European Commission and Member State development assistance, possibly through synchronising programming timetables at EU and Member State level.

In the face of high budget pressure, development actors must show the need and added value of EU development funding to maintain the EU's current levels of funding, said **Klaus Rudischhauser**, then Director for General Affairs, Directorate General Development, European Commission.

Several participants pointed to a possible lack of predictability of resources if the European Development Fund (EDF) were to be integrated into the EU budget. Klaus Rudischhauser said the need to preserve EDF flexibilities was being considered. Christian Masset said France favoured "EDF budgetisation" to improve coherence of EU external assistance and accountability towards the European Parliament. He said more flexibility should be applied to the other external action instruments.

"Where are the investors to 'light up Africa'? There is a huge pool of savings in low-income African countries, provided funds exist to improve service delivery using local organisations," said Paul Collier. "You have to use local organisations like NGOs or churches," he said.

Development funding can be a win-win affair. "There is no tension between compassion and enlightened self-interest. If Africa can grow it will be Europe's next emerging market," added Christian Masset.



Helen MAGOMBO

The future of EU budget support

In October 2010, the European Commission published a Green Paper and launched a public consultation on the future of EU budget support. Reviewing 10 years of experience, the Commission is seeking stakeholders' views on how to improve its approach and its effectiveness.

The consultation aims to answer questions increasingly being raised by a range of stakeholders about the quality, value for money and impact of budget support.

Klaus Rudischhauser, then Director of General Affairs, Directorate General for Development, European Commission, outlined key challenges and emphasised, "The key to success of future EU budget support is ensuring that for each euro of development money invested, more has to be got out of it, more value, and more effectiveness."

More ownership, more effectiveness

Budget support is an effective financing instrument where political will to reform and good ownership exist, said **Kampeta Sayinzoga**, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda. The quality of dialogue with donors has improved and aid has become more transparent and predictable, as donor expectations are more clearly articulated in the budget support framework, she explained.

Today, the government owns policies. It also uses a comprehensive performance matrix, which avoids having a fragmented dialogue on several different indicators with many different donors. Kampeta Sayinzoga added that budget support could increase the mobilisation of domestic resources by financing growth-conducive activities and increasing citizen confidence in the system.

A harmonised Multi-Donor Budget Support (MDBS) arrangement has been in place since 2003, explained **Helen Allotey**, Director, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ghana. Importantly, MDBS funds complement domestic resources. General budget support is preferable because it is more predictable and can be better incorporated into the official budget. Sector budget support can result in parallel systems used by donors, which weaken domestic accountability.

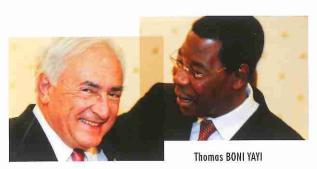
Helen Magombo, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Oxfam International, Malawi, called on the European Commission to make budget support its preferred form of aid. She said donors should target results over the medium term. In addition, local civil society organisations should receive 5% of each budget support operation to monitor whether service delivery is improved at community and regional level, for example, by using social audits.

Transforming commitments into obligations

In Peru, budget support as an instrument to encourage institutional reform and provide support to policy development is "long proven", said **Hans Allden**, Head of the EU Delegation in Peru. **François Marie Didier Zoundi**, Minister for the Budget, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Burkina Faso, said: "Sincere, transparent cooperation is key to the future of EU budget support." He stated that additional political governance conditions are undesirable because they introduce subjectivity, rigidities and reduce predictability.

Charles Goerens, Member of the Development Committee, European Parliament, said budget support is an instrument to promote improving citizens' social rights, the human rights of the second generation.

Klaus Rudischhauser concluded by emphasising the need to improve transparency of budget support operations and increasingly involve civil society in budget support programmes. Budget support enables a contractual relationship transforming commitments into obligations, he said.







Arjun KARKI

Least Developed Countries -

the development paradigm must change

The old paradigms are changing. The relationship between donors and beneficiaries – including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – has become one between development partners. LDCs have the potential to trade their way out of poverty, provided they can build up the necessary governance and infrastructures and are able to trade fairly.

The 49 LDCs are the poorest countries in the world and suffer from severe structural, economic and human resource weaknesses. Life expectancy, literacy, and GDP per capita put them at the bottom of the UN Human Development Index

"Our situation is at the heart of the debate, as two-thirds of African countries are in the LDC category. This is a negative balance sheet – we are trailing in the skirts of the world economy," said Dr **Thomas Boni Yayi**, President of Benin.

During the European Development Days Opening Ceremony, **Dominique Strauss-Kahn** Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, told participants: "There is good news. Low-income countries have weathered the economic crisis better than in the past. Growth rates have remained positive in two-thirds of these countries."

Developing internal resources

Developing countries – including LDCs – have adopted a new stance, working to put their own houses in order to maximise the benefit from external support, while being freed to take greater responsibility for their own development.

Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal, set the tone for debate: "Development is the state's responsibility. We need strong leadership and ownership; committed to pro-poor and more gender development; the rule of law and good governance, and promoting the private sector."

Arjun Karki, from LDC Watch, a civil society watchdog on LDC policy, agreed on the need for "country ownership, ensuring democracy and creating an enabling environment for addressing the issue of LDCs".

Building up state mechanisms and a tax base to finance national development are vital to strengthening the economy. **Rebeca Grynspan**, Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme, noted: "Mobilising external resources must go hand-in-hand with mobilising internal resources, and this is almost impossible when a country has a tax base of less than 10%." In some LDCs, the economy is in such poor shape that tax rates are almost zero. President Boni Yayi said that in Benin the informal sector represents a high percentage of GDP.

Sensitive topics, heated debates

In the spirit of European Development Days, sensitive topics were raised and hotly debated. Cotton is a thorny issue. "Countries like Mali, Benin, the Central African Republic and Burkina Faso have had their worst years because of the subsidies developed countries give to their own producers, preventing us from participating in the international economy. People recommended we set up processing plants, but we don't have the electricity to run them," explained President Boni Yayi. "If we discuss this with Europe within our new partnership, we could reach a win-win situation for both parties."

Another hot topic for both sides are the Economic Partnership Agreements that ACP countries are negotiating with Europe to replace existing trade agreements. **Dembe Moussa Dembélé**, Director of the Forum Africain des Alternatives, commented: "Africa was asked to open its markets, to be part of a level playing field in a globalised world, but we felt there was little in it for us. It prevented us from using our own resources for cultivation."

From the European side, **Louis Michel**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair, ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, said LDCs had failed to appreciate the benefits of building integrated markets.



Louis MICHEL



Working towards a new development partnership

Istanbul May 2011

LDC IV – the 4th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries – in Istanbul, 9 to 13 May 2011, will be five days of debate and negotiation between heads of state, parliamentarians, civil society organisations and the private sector from the 49 LDCs, and the industrialised economies. Participants will assess how much of the 2001 Brussels Programme for Action has been implemented and adopt a new development partnership between the LDCs and industrialised countries.

Trading out of poverty

Under the new approach, LDCs are to trade their way out of poverty. Many are rich in resources, but poor in infrastructure or the ability to diversify to benefit from them, with exports based on a single mining or agricultural product.

UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative for LDCs, **Cheick Sidi Diarra**, said that as a result, LDCs export raw materials, with the value-added wealth and jobs created elsewhere. "We suffer from a low level of knowledge in processing products, and can't access the international markets. The lack of infrastructure means we can't attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to the LDCs. FDI comprises just 2% of global investment," he said.

So what are the reasons for this? According to President Boni Yayi: "LDCs' economies are based on land, but exploitation by outside forces has prevented diversification." Others claimed it was because in the 1980s countries had to dismantle their state apparatuses in return for loans.

However, Louis Michel said the problem lay elsewhere: "For decades we have targeted our aid on humanitarian development, but in many LDCs the state is very weak, they have focused on short-term gains, rather than democracy, training, education and health. The market economy is never spontaneously virtuous – it has to be domesticated by a public power."

Economic growth is not the only way out of the quagmire in which LDCs find themselves. **Hilde Johnson**, UNICEF Executive Director, pointed out that despite high economic growth in the early 2000s, the disparities among the richest and the poorest in LDCs increased. The answer is improving governance and building services for the poorest. For example, she noted that investing US\$1 million on the ground could prevent up to 60% of child deaths.

Building a new partnership

The whole tenor of discussion between Europe and its LDC partners during European Development Days emphasised the new form of partnership. While partners may disagree, this is a debate carried out between equals, not donors and recipients. "Business as usual doesn't work," said Arjun Karki. "A paradigm shift is needed". Based on the debates at European Development Days, the future looks positive.





Plutarchos SAKELLARIS

Inclusive growth -

the role of the private sector

With many developing countries faced with slow growth and high unemployment, reviving economies by galvanising the private sector should be at the heart of a global development response. Private sector development promotes economic growth and reduced poverty in developing countries by building private enterprise and fostering competitive markets that are stronger and more inclusive.

In the post-Lisbon landscape, multilateral development banks, EU institutions and private enterprise have new roles to play. Panellists focused on the unique challenges and opportunities for private sector development, and debated numerous issues, including contentious questions about the ways in which markets should be regulated to ensure long-term, inclusive and sustainable development.

Accelerating progress towards achieving development goals

Africa is a continent with significant growth opportunities for business said **Nick Blazquez**, Managing Director, Diageo Africa, Chairman, Private Investors for Africa (PIA). Economic fundamentals are favourable – GDP growth rates across the region underpin a growing population and increased personal wealth. Stabilising politico-economic environments and increased investment in infrastructure will support growth.

A thriving private sector stimulates economic and social development in a number of ways. Business significantly contributes to wider economic growth across Africa by providing direct employment, paying taxes and distributing dividends, and by stimulating local capital market development.

Businesses can also play a key role through advocacy. This can be done by encouraging sustainable investment in Africa, through Private Investors for Africa (PIA) or, for example, via the Diageo Africa Business Reporting Awards (DABRA). Advocacy can also take the shape of bringing together different stakeholders with complementary skills to address important issues in partnership.

There remain significant hurdles to creating a more attractive business and investment environment. Nevertheless, infrastructure is still underdeveloped with the opportunity to further improve communications, transport networks, and access to affordable energy. The regulatory environment remains bureaucratic and unpredictable in many areas, resulting in volatile legislative and tax regimes. These structural and operational constraints are compounded by a shortage of much-needed skilled local talent.

Blending mechanisms - the way forward?

Plutarchos Sakellaris, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), agreed that private sector development is critical to reducing poverty. The EIB is mobilising such development, notably through the new blending mechanisms.

"Aid money will not achieve this. Increasing aid from governments will not work in isolation. There is a huge challenge, and a deficit of means – but one euro 'blended' in an interesting way is worth more than one euro of simple aid," he said. "Via public-private partnership efforts, money will be 'recycled'. [It is] money that will come back and, in the future, serve more projects."

Plutarchos Sakellaris pointed out that most poor people already participate in markets, whether as workers, subsistence farmers or entrepreneurs. Strengthening these markets in ways that secure higher incomes for the poor is a fair and efficient way to fight poverty. "Earning a decent income in the private sector is more dignifying than relying on hand-outs," he argued.



Luis RIERA FIGUERAS

Public-private development partnerships

Strong partnerships between the private sector, government and development organisations can address some of these key challenges and accelerate progress towards achieving development goals. Potential initiatives include: prioritising essential infrastructure projects, developing SMEs through local supply chains, scaling up existing inclusive business models, providing catalytic start-up investment, developing transport corridors, and developing codes for growth in pilot projects and sharing of best practice.

The Tanzanian Growth Corridor initiative launched at the World Economic Forum regional meeting in 2010 provides an inspiring example of a public-private development partnership.

Jyrki Koskelo, Vice-President, Global Industries, International Finance Corporation (IFC), said no country has grown out of poverty by relying on private sector development alone. However, where entrepreneurship and markets were smothered "by inappropriate regulation, excessive taxation, lack of fair competition, lack of voice or an unstable policy environment, growth and poverty reduction are likely to suffer".

He observed: "It is apparent that needs in the marketplace can only be met if complemented by public sector money, hence the importance of public-private partnerships has increased. Also instrumental is growth in developed markets, which feeds growth in developing markets. Growth is key."

Participants also discussed the relevance of environmental and social standards, the methodology for measuring development impact, the state of play of the public-private partnership model and the role of China in Africa. But most importantly, the panel agreed that blending of loans and grants is the new paradigm for development.

Luis Riera Figueras, Thematic Issues Director, Directorate General Development, European Commission, emphasised that the private sector should be brought into development alongside public donors and that public donors should live up to their Official Development Assistance commitments. He pointed to the importance of issues such as access to credit for SMEs, the role of the fiscal system and inclusive growth models. The new partnerships proposed by the Green Paper are key tools for developing value chains and strengthening clusters at sectoral or geographical level, he added.

Jyrki Koskelo said business development initiatives are needed to create markets in services in developing countries. Such initiatives should improve the capacity of individual enterprises to provide services. However, donors should not deliver business development initiatives directly. Donors should support enterprises in the services sector to become self-sustaining through improving their performance and their sourcing of new clients.

"Business development [initiatives to help build] services markets can be sustainable where providers recover their costs via their fees," he said.

Many development agencies are now working directly with businesses to deliver development impacts. Such partnerships cover a wide range of activities. Affordable access to finance is vital to private enterprises in the developing world. While some development agencies consider access to finance as a component of private sector development, many treat it as a separate field.







Manish PANDEY

Doing Business 2011: Making a Difference for Entrepreneurs

This eighth report by the World Bank notes that the global financial and economic crisis had a positive impact on the pace of reforms. Between June 2009 and May 2010, governments in 117 economies implemented 216 business regulations making it easier to start and operate a business. More than half of these reforms aim at easing start-up, trade and the payment of taxes.

OECD countries still reach a higher rank in average — Singapore retains the top ranking this year followed by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and New Zealand. However, some developing countries have moved up. This year, Rwanda made the most progress in improving the business environment. Over the past five years, Georgia, Rwanda, Belarus, Burkina Faso and Saudi Arabia have made the largest strides. Yet opportunities for additional improvements — in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa — remain huge.

Making markets work for the poor - the power of M4P

Millennium Development Goal 8 refers to global partnerships. Moderator **Rolf Kappel**, Director, Centre for Developing Countries, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, discussed M4P's highly relevant and action-oriented approach. M4P (making markets work for the poor) seeks to create an environment conducive to the poor accessing and benefiting from opportunities for economic growth and development.

M4P builds upon a detailed understanding of how market systems work and how they might work better. It aims to guide development intervention to address systemic constraints in those systems. The approach is designed to realise large-scale and sustainable change.

Most "development agents" act as facilitators or catalysts that stimulate markets, but do not displace market functions or players. The M4P approach to poverty reduction hinges on changing the market systems on which the poor are dependent to work more effectively and sustainably, to improve their livelihoods and consequently reduce poverty.

Manish Pandey, Regional Director, Swisscontact South Asia, said it is key to understand how poor people interact with market systems, and how these systems can be changed to improve their lives. It is important to aim for large-scale, sustainable impact by focusing on overall markets, rather than targeting individual actors within a market.

It is time to make markets work for the poor. Manish Pandey noted that enabling factors for private sector development include infrastructure, education, the rule of law, security, and a large skills-based workforce. Swisscontact, an NGO founded in 1959, and its regional divisions, promote "pro-poor private" sector development. "Having access to productive assets can make a difference to farmers' and fishermen's lives," he said.

Manish Pandey described a policy that was designed to allow fishermen access to some 46,000 bodies of water in Bangladesh. However, the water bodies were being "hijacked" by other users. Local businesses took action: "To address malpractice, misinformation and misuse, the private sector had to be involved. Marginalised fishermen wanted to use these water bodies. With our assistance, they were able to get better organised and bid for leases. As a result, their lives began to change; there is a public water management policy now in force, which has the potential to be replicated elsewhere in Bangladesh."









Catherine MARTIN

He added that small businesses often lack information and a real platform where they can express their thoughts and grievances. "In Indonesia, the news market was changing, and TV stations were looking to diversify. We found a TV station that was willing to air a five-minute segment on SME news, beginning with one episode per week. Ninety episodes have now been made, with a viewership of around 32,500 weekly. Since then, five new SME-dedicated programmes appeared."

Panellists agreed that M4P is designed to challenge the private sector to propose innovative new business models that engage and benefit the poor on a replicable and sustainable basis.

Creating a conducive business environment

As well as access to finance, infrastructure, and skills, one of the main goals outlined in the Green Paper on development policy is to improve information flows. Philippe de Buck, Director General, BUSINESSEUROPE, commented: "There is a major problem in informing SMEs about what is available and then explaining how they can deal with it."

As with all development interventions, private sector development programmes are under pressure to measure and report their achievements by monitoring and evaluating their work in ways that are both credible and cost-effective.

"The private sector itself can play an important role in advocating for a better business environment. Many development agencies work to strengthen the capacity of businesses and business associations to engage in publicprivate dialogue with governments," Philippe de Buck noted.

Entrepreneurship and investment contribute to growth by increasing the productive capacity of the economy, creating jobs and introducing technologies, while the rates of entrepreneurship and investment reflect the risks and costs of doing business. Risks are lower, Philippe de Buck explained, when economic policy-making and implementation are transparent, property rights are secure and transferable, and contracts are enforceable.

On regional integration, he mentioned the need to work on customs procedures and on the Economic Partnership Agreements, as means of promoting intra-regional trade.

Philippe de Buck also proposed more cooperation between the EU and Africa in the area of raw materials. He pointed out several focus points for such cooperation, such as promoting transparency, exchanging of mining best practice, and ways to promote value creation in Africa.

The private sector believes "there is room for improvement" in the EU's development aid. Aid should be more targeted on economic bottlenecks, he stressed, adding there should also be more cooperation with the private sector - both European and African - in designing and implementing development projects. For example, EU aid could leverage private investments in infrastructure of medical services.

"A competitive private sector is indispensable for development. The EU has the chance to put growth and private sector development at the heart of its agenda. It can develop new models, for example, by leveraging private sector financing to increase the impact of its aid. The private sector is ready to work together with the EU and development banks to achieve this goal," he concluded.

Panellists agreed that a link between private sector development and poverty reduction had been established. but there is still a real need to translate objectives into concrete private sector development programmes.





Jean-Pierre ELONG MBASSI



Pierre KARLESKIND

Local authorities play

a central role

Local authorities play a central role in development and are well positioned to bring together various local partners to fight poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Several participants called on the European Commission to support local authorities and projects at community level.

Local authorities are in the front line, closer to issues that affect citizens every day - climate change, energy, food security, gender, health, infrastructure development and natural resources, to name a few. They play a central role in development.

Climate change and food security

Local authorities have the mandate to provide and distribute food, adjudicate land title disputes and monitor food security. Theofiel Baert, Head of the Belgian Fund for Food Security, said a bottom-up approach is needed when it comes to investing in food security. "Food security is a localised issue," he said.

Pierre Karleskind, Vice-President for International Affairs, Brittany, France, and Chair of PLATFORMA, noted that Brittany is cooperating with the UN Development Programme to create the ClimSat partnership, a network that delivers satellite images to 50 regions across the world to map areas vulnerable to climate change.

"Local governments should have the autonomy to organise resources to meet the wishes of local people. Decentralisation must be nurtured," said Justus Kangwagye, Mayor of the Rulindo District, Rwanda. Local ownership of development is also key as it empowers citizens. Democratic local governance involves a participatory approach through preparing, implementing and managing local development projects with the objective of equal access to essential services.

Gender equitable development

"There is a long history of women being excluded from decision making around the world," said Justus Kangwagye. To achieve gender equitable development, Mary Okumu, Chief Technical Adviser to the Gender Equitable Local Development Programme (GELD), UNCDF and UNIFEM,



Decentralised Cooperation

The EU's programme - Non-state Actors and Local Authorities in development - aims to encourage nonstate actors and local authorities, both from the EU and in developing countries, to engage in development issues through co-finance initiatives. The programme funds the European Platform of Local and Regional Authorities for Development (PLATFORMA).

Pierre Karleskind said PLATFORMA supports the European Charter on Development Cooperation, drawn up at the 2008 European Development Days in Strasbourg when discussion focused on the local authorities. The Charter highlights the principles of cooperation, decentralised action and harmonising development actions.

called on local authorities to mainstream gender and to enhance the representation of women in local government and decision-making.

"Local government revenue is raised from taxes and therefore must be reinvested in services," she said. GELD advisors look at how local government is structured, review local budgets to identify gender gaps and provide budget support to ensure gender equality. Income generation and inclusion are priorities for empowering women to participate in the market economy. Women have the skills, but are often isolated, lacking networks and associations.

Corruption should be fought at home

Corruption, which is undermining development initiatives every day at all levels, is best fought at home, according to Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa. "In the [DRC], there is a saying you can steal from the state, just don't get caught. But never steal from the local canteen - that is a matter of life and death."

In addition, it was suggested that donors concerned about corruption could refrain from budget support and instead fund local and community initiatives.



Toby VOGEL

Mohamed IBN CHAMBAS

Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States, noted: "There are opportunities to demonstrate that this new structure will have an impact, show more focus and deliver results by dealing with long procedures."

Commissioner Piebalgs noted that the process of establishing the EEAS so far "has clearly demonstrated that Europe's cooperation policy will not be compromised". The main challenge is to work together with the 27 Member States to use the opportunities offered by the EEAS.

A new type of cooperation with Brussels?

"Can Member States now entrust more development cooperation to the EU to achieve economies of scale, cut transaction costs and demonstrate leadership or will you insist on having an individual cooperation approach that diminishes what we can do together?" asked Simon Maxwell, European Development Cooperation Strengthening Programme, Overseas Development Institute.

He then commented that the European Commission "is a difficult organisation to live with", but called for a "deal" between Commissioner Piebalgs and like-minded development ministers from the Member States.

Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden, said she is "happy" with the EEAS. "Things are getting started. I really can see there is a firm commitment, but also it is important to engage with Member States on a political level from an early stage and not only to rely on the administration. Member States working together within EU structures to have the best outcome... will provide effectiveness and results."

The UK has made it clear that it "won't balance its books on the backs of the poor," said Andrew Mitchell, UK Secretary of State for International Development. "We must ensure there is adequate development DNA in the EEAS. The development voice must be heard loudly and clearly as the new structures of the EEAS develop," he said.

At the same time, the focus should be on results. "We are all accountable to our domestic electorates and taxpayers, and we need to show we are getting results in the countries we are working in. It is not the structures that are the ultimate goal, but getting results and demonstrating the effectiveness of what we are doing in a transparent way. I hope the EEAS will play a big role in ensuring that is what we achieve," Andrew Mitchell concluded.

In 1970, the 0.7% Official Development Assistance Gross National Income target was first agreed and has been repeatedly re-endorsed at the highest level at international aid and development conferences. Commissioner Piebalgs urged Member States in the post-Lisbon landscape to live up to their commitment.

ACP countries under the Lisbon Treaty

Observers pointed to the absence of an African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) desk or unit within the EEAS. The ACP countries, addressed in all previous Treaties, are absent from the Lisbon Treaty, which is a first in the history of EU development cooperation. What does this mean for the EU's longstanding partnership with ACP Group?

Such uncertainties are triggering fears that it is the beginning of the end of the special relationship between the EU and its ACP partners. "There are questions about whether this is a retreat from previous commitments to work with ACP countries," said Mohamed Ibn Chambas. This fear was reinforced by the absence of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton – or a representative – at the November 2010 meeting of the EU-ACP Parliamentary Assembly, a major forum for joint discussion and debate.







Philomena JOHNSON

Simon MAXWELL

Andrew MITCHELL

On the other hand, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments – Africa, **Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, called on the EU to consider the African continent as "one" and to deal with it as such, particularly when it comes to financial instruments. "Why do all of the instruments contribute to cutting off the Mediterranean countries? In this post-Lisbon time, I urge that these countries cease to be regarded as a buffer zone."

A renewed partnership with Africa

Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission, commented that the partnership between Africa and Europe is not only based on a shared history and neighbourhood, but also on a shared future. He called for a renewed partnership.

"We have to be innovative in our partnership. Let's go beyond development aid, bring in the private sector and energise the public sector. Let's find instruments that can track what we are doing to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability," he said.

Development is a journey moving from grant support to growth and private sector investment. In this spirit, several panellists called for a renewed focus on African growth. It is time to focus on opportunities for investments in agriculture, infrastructure and energy that will fuel economic growth and lead to more development and poverty reduction.

SECTION III IMPORTANT CHALLENGES IN ALL KEY ACTION AREAS







Sujiro SEAM

SIIvia MATHEWS BURWELL

Aftab ALAM KHAN

Meeting the challenges

of food security

More than 900 million people suffer from hunger and about two billion people suffer from malnutrition. The problem is pervasive and despite progress, renewed attention and pledges by world leaders, much remains to be done. Participants focused on the importance of smallholder farmers, nutrition and effective partnerships.

Speakers stressed the need to empower smallholder farmers and improve their livelihoods. This requires partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including national and local governments, civil society, farmers' organisations and the private sector.

Public-private partnerships

Launched in May 2009, the Amsterdam Initiative Against Malnutrition seeks to eliminate malnutrition for 100 million people in Africa by 2015. It brings together efforts of leading actors in the food and nutrition sectors in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mozambique. Public-private partnerships are central to this effort. The first concrete steps have been taken in Kenya, particularly in the milk industry.

Among the most effective efforts to date: adding supplements to staple foods that are part of the local diet, such as wheat, maize flour and milk. In this way, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) reaches 400 million people at a low cost. According to **Philippe Guinot** of GAIN: "Fighting malnutrition by diversifying diets, and getting meat and vegetables to everyone would take decades; there needs to be more convergence between agriculture and nutrition."

It is essential that entry points for the private sector be identified in the nutrition domain. Business must understand the needs of stakeholders and the ways of marketing that work best in a given context.

The role of technology

Participants also debated the role technologies play in contributing to food security and highlighted the importance of research programmes. However, they agreed that achieving food security solely through research and technology is not the solution.

Sylvia Mathews Burwell, President, Global Development Programme, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, noted "technology is but one tool in an entire toolbox to feed a hungry world", and agreed with Aftab Alam Khan, Asia Regional Coordinator on Food and Agriculture, ActionAid, Pakistan, that technologies may be transferable, but solutions must be adapted to country and community contexts.

Sujiro Seam, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, remarked: "There should be no pretence that research has all the answers." Access to land, affordable food, price volatility, social protection mechanisms, good policies and sound institutions are some of the issues that need to be dealt with to reduce hunger.

Food security requires a broad approach. "We have to look not only at the four pillars of food security [availability, access, utilisation and stability], but also at dimensions of poverty so that food security is not dealt with unsustainably," said **Theofiel Baert**, Head of the Belgian Fund for Food Security. He pointed to health, education, water supply, working with civil society and local authorities, climate change and gender as critical factors to address.



Local authorities - the first line for food security

The debate on food security underlined the importance of creating appropriate dynamics in rural areas. **Robert Jan Scheer**, Strategic Policy Adviser, Sustainable Economic Development Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, said it often helps to have high-level support through government policies, but "resources need to be where they are needed most; this does not necessarily have to be at the national level, but could also be at the local level".

An important job will fall to local governments. "Mayors and town councils are the first line for food security," said **David Morrison**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund. "In theory, local governments are well-placed to address the four pillars of food security." In most legal systems, he added, they are responsible for a good portion of public infrastructure, including roads and irrigation systems, monitoring of the food security situation, early warning mechanisms and local land-use policies.

However, local governments are often weak and underfunded. In some countries, they are young institutions, lacking experience and effective administrative capacity. "All local governments say that funds from the national level do not get to them," said Theofiel Baert. As a result, some development agencies provide direct support to local governments.

Kadidia Diawara, Mayor, Dandougu Fakala District, Mali, said farmers typically request drought-resistant seed varieties and assistance on soil fertility. Local authorities have a role to play in developing local food security plans, in water management, as well as in keeping local seed and grain banks. "[But] often farmers will sell everything at harvest time at a low price and later they will have no food. We need a way for them to stockpile and spread their sales over time," she said.

Empowering small farmers

Ken Davies, Coordinator, Purchase for Progress (P4P), World Food Programme (WFP), explained how P4P uses WFP's demand for food in smallholder-friendly ways. P4P supports the development of agricultural markets and smallholder farmers' engagement in these markets by improving farmers' production capacity.

Daniel A. Rahier, Director, Biotechnology Policy, Government & Industry Affairs, Europe, Asia-Pacific & Africa, DuPont Agriculture & Nutrition/Pioneer Hi-Bred, commented: "What we need is to have farmers move from subsistence to economically viable farming."

Hans Herren, President of the Millennium Institute and 1995 World Food Prize winner, underlined three key priorities: focus on small-scale family farms; promote agricultural practices that are in harmony with the environment; and redirect agricultural research towards sustainable practices, with an emphasis on extension programmes that work in the fields with farmers.

Hans Herren outlined a series of enabling conditions, including ways for farmers to add value to their products, improved access to credit, certified seeds, land and adequate technology, better transportation networks, a special emphasis on gender and women, appropriate mechanisation, and fair food prices. The goal? "So that rural people will have a future and will want to stay in rural areas," he said.

Women and young people deserve special attention: women because the majority of small farmers are female, and young people because rural life must be made attractive lest they migrate to cities. "They need jobs, electricity, health services and Internet access," said Hans Herren. "Programmes that only consider the farmer do not work."



Fatih BIROL
Abderrahim EL HAFIDI

Dirk ELSEN Saroj RAI

Jakaya Mrisho KIKWETE

The energy evolution -

are renewables the answer?

The Green Paper on development policy calls on Europe to make a greater contribution to the development of sustainable energy in poor countries. However, it is debatable whether renewable sources of energy are affordable for developing countries.

"Without sustainable energy for the poor, the Millennium Development Goals are not going to be attained," said **Dirk Elsen**, Chief Executive, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation.

"Energy for a country is like oxygen for the human body," said Tanzanian President **Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete**. He focused on his country's desire to develop its natural gas reserves and asked for the EU's help to attract foreign investors.

Talking about the kids who are doing better in school because they now have light by which to do their homework, **John Kamau Maina**, Executive Coordinator, Sustainable Community Development Services, Kenya, explained that increasing energy supply is good economics: "When kids don't do well in school, they never make it even into the lowest tax bracket. When they study, they will become taxpayers."

"The potential of people to pull themselves out of poverty is not being realised," he added.

In this regard, setting the right policy environment was also discussed. **Fatih Birol**, Chief Economist, International Energy Agency, agreed that the market alone could not deal with energy supply. States have to establish the policy frameworks to stimulate the use of renewable energy and higher energy efficiency.

Based on the debate, there appears to be consensus that electricity lines need to be extended, especially to rural areas. But there was disagreement about whether sustainable, renewable and small-scale sources should be favoured over the old-school fossil fuels and mega-projects.

"Before it was all about large grid solutions. What I like is that we are increasingly opening up to renewable energy at the community level," said Dirk Elsen.

"We need renewables because of climate change, but many of these sources are costly. I don't think we should give renewables out as a menu everywhere," said Fatih Birol.

Abderrahim El Hafidi, Director of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Moroccan Energy Ministry, replied: "It is true fossil fuels are currently cheaper than renewable energy. But this is going to change soon."

European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs argued that cost is relative. Where the infrastructure for non-renewable energy sources is in place, the old energy sources are cheaper. But in places like Africa, where the infrastructure has yet to be built, where "you need to develop the whole value chain, the easiest and least expensive option is renewables".

Testifying that small-scale renewable energy can be produced locally at an affordable price and make a difference in the lives of the poor were John Kamau Maina and **Saroj Rai**, Executive Director, Biogas Sector Partnership, Nepal. John Kamau Maina's group works with cook stoves, biogas and solar energy; Saroj Rai's promotes the establishment of small-scale biogas plants in rural communities.

Andris Piebalgs concluded: "The EU should focus on concrete investments in renewable energy in the developing world, and sometimes not on a large scale."



Global health challenges

Health is essential for the well-being of individuals and society – a healthy population is also a prerequisite for economic productivity and prosperity. The Lisbon Treaty underscores the importance of health as a key factor for economic growth. Progress has been made, but there is much work to be done.

Three of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are directly related to health. MDG 4 concerns child mortality; MDG5 addresses maternal health; and MDG6 seeks to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Great advances have been made - more children are surviving their first five years, more people have access to drugs for HIV/AIDS, fewer are dying from AIDS, and increased access to vaccines has saved millions of lives.

"This shows that health investments pay off," said **Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States. "Good health spurs development and economic growth. It enables children to go to school and frees families from having to care for the ill."

Many challenges remain

But there are many challenges ahead. Maternal and children's health continues to lag behind, infections continue to outpace treatment, and there remain huge inequalities in access to care.

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, reminded participants that 20 million people die each year due to inadequate healthcare and global health inequities. If today's under five and adult (15 to 60 years) mortality rates in high income countries were applied to developing countries, 20 million fewer people would die each year, and the overall burden of ill health would possibly be halved. This is a major obstacle to inclusive, sustained growth and social cohesion.

"By the time I have finished speaking to you, almost 5,000 people will have died," he said. "There is no denying that global health is a moral imperative for us all."

Commissioner Piebalgs said the foundation of any properly functioning society is a healthy and educated workforce. Yet, poor health is holding back countries' efforts in education, democracy and governance, and is stifling economic growth, stability and progress. The burden of poor health from disease and from years lost due to premature death is three times higher in developing countries than in the EU.

"We have made a real difference to millions of people worldwide. We have made some progress, but we cannot be complacent with what we have achieved in the last decade. We can and must do a lot more. Speedier progress towards reaching the MDGs is one of the core objectives of European development policies," he said.

Commissioner Piebalgs pointed to the EU's €1 billion initiative to support progress towards achieving the MDGs. This additional support could be an opportunity to notably address comprehensive healthcare through health sector budget support.

Yet **John Tedstrom**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, suggested, "We have to go beyond the MDGs. We need to ask 'what is the second act and what is our exit strategy?'"

Too much fragmentation

David Chiriboga, Minister of Health, Ecuador, pointed to addressing fragmentation, and commented that "enormous resources" have been committed to fragmented projects. "There is still no institutional capacity in Ecuador to confront health challenges after 10 years of programmes under the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria," he said

He noted there is a need to identify a universal package of essential services that every person in the world should have access to. Global efforts should be made to deliver these services. Today's efforts neglect many priorities, are typically uncoordinated and unsustainable.



lan Pett, Chief of Health Systems and Strategic Planning at UNICEF, noted that too often, developing country health systems are fragmented, resulting in interventions that do not take a holistic approach to maternal health and childcare. There are "serious gaps" in the continuum of care model, he said, including the treatment of diseases that require 24/7 services. Training village health workers to treat major health risks such as malaria and diarrhoea is one way to help bridge these gaps.

Ensuring a continuum of care for mothers and children

The health of mothers and their children are inextricably linked. If international goals to reduce mortality rates for mothers and young children are to be met, they must be addressed together.

"Women are important for the family, and the well-being of children is important for development," said **Francisco Songane**, former Minister of Health, Mozambique. He noted that improvements in reproductive health and reduction of infant and child mortality rates contributed to 30% to 50% of Asian economic growth between 1965 and 1990. He also pointed out that maternal and newborn deaths could lead to global productivity losses of US\$15 billion annually.

Maternal and child mortality can be used as indicators to assess how country institutions serve their societies, Francisco Songane said.

"To reduce deaths, we need to ensure a continuum of care, from preconception through childhood and adolescence," said **Elizabeth Mason**, Director, Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development, World Health Organization.

The continuum of care concept offers an integrated model of healthcare across the maternal, newborn, child and adolescent lifecycle, and usually includes care provided in settings from home to hospital. Under this model, single interventions can be combined and delivered in packages according to local needs and capacity. "Partnerships can contribute to making this a reality for women and children worldwide," Elizabeth Mason said.

"We need the coordinated work of all sectors," added Francisco Songane. "We have to establish mechanisms to protect the poor and the most vulnerable, such as schemes to ensure social protection. This takes leadership and accountability at all levels. Internationally, we need solidarity, not charity. This means a comprehensive approach in international assistance."

Delivering high-impact health aid

Eric Goosby, Global AIDS Coordinator, United States, called for a comprehensive approach. "Everyone needs to step up to the plate and ask themselves if they are doing enough or whether they could do it better," he said.

Commissioner Piebalgs said the EU must deliver highimpact health aid; respect and support ownership by partner countries; tackle the fragmentation of initiatives and players by implementing aid effectiveness; create credible and forward-thinking global governance in health; and design other key policies in coherence with global development public health objectives.

Towards a global health policy

Paulo Buss, Director, Centre for Global Health, said equitable health initiatives should be brought together in a Global Health Framework. Today's fragmentation, lack of leadership, incoherence with key migration and trade policies, and arbitrary and uncoordinated aid flows, require a framework that can reinforce the democratic process under the World Health Assembly.

"The challenges we face are huge, and the responses complex," Commissioner Piebalgs concluded. "But we are on the right track. We have established our principles in the EU policy on global health. We are determined to work together to reform health policy and work in a renewed partnership, so that partner countries can gradually take control of their primary responsibility – the lives of their citizens. Surely there can be no more laudable goal than that."



David CHIRIBOGA Ann KEELING

Partnerships are vital

Because of the enormous challenges in delivering health services, including declining investments, building collaborative partnerships to achieve the health MDGs are critical. "Working on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria requires collaboration," said **Daniel Low Beer**, Director of Performance, Impact and Effectiveness, Global Fund to Fight AIDS. "There are gaps and we need partners to achieve our goals."

Joelle Tanguy, Managing Director of External Relations, GAVI Alliance, agreed. "In the initial stages we invested in vaccines, and we have saved lives. But we don't do it in a vacuum – to deliver vaccines we need health workers, we must engage civil society," she said. Public-private partnerships are important for developing innovative funding streams, Joelle Tanguy added.



Combating non-communicable diseases

Each year 35 million people die of cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular and chronic respiration diseases. These non-communicable diseases account for 60% of deaths worldwide, especially in low- and middle-income countries. They are a major cause of poverty, a barrier to economic development, and a neglected global emergency, yet they receive only 2.3% of health ODA.

Risk factors such as an unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and pollution increase the likelihood of some non-communicable diseases. **Jean Claude Mbanya**, President of the International Diabetes Federation, said non-communicable diseases remain misunderstood and neglected by many governments. He urged the international community "to allocate funding to non-communicable diseases to prevent the deaths of millions of people".

The MDGs do not mention non-communicable diseases, but these illnesses limit the ability to reach some of the MDGs because they lead to poverty and low productivity. To reverse this trend, Jean Claude Mbanya suggested: "Non-communicable diseases be integrated into the health systems, particularly at the primary health care level."

Ann Keeling, Chair of the Non-communicable Diseases Alliance, the UN High-Level Meeting On Non-communicable Diseases to be held in Brussels in September 2011, stressed the need to raise awareness of the issue.



Mo IBRAHIM Thomas BONI YAYI

Fake medicines:

an urgent threat to public health

It is difficult to measure the extent of the traffic of falsified medicines; but this scourge seriously threatens the life of patients, contributes to increased drug resistance of certain illnesses, and enriches the groups of dealers who sell falsified medicines, often with impunity. Eliminating them is a considerable public health challenge.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), falsified, or counterfeit, medicines are those that are deliberately and fraudulently mislabelled with respect to identity or source. Both branded and generic products are subject to counterfeiting – and both are illegal.

"A real scourge"

Describing the trade in fake medicine as "a real scourge", Dr **Thomas Boni Yayi**, President of Benin, commented: "This is a challenge for public health, and a challenge for the development of African countries. Medicines are important for the whole structure of public health. They are precious in preventing and curing disease so everything must be done to ensure their quality."

"Every human being has the right to respect for his or her health and every state needs to preserve the credibility of its health systems," said **Louis Michel**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair, ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. Calling for an increase in spending on health and in contributions to WHO, he said the fight against diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, measles and malaria is being "undermined by this rampant trade, which must be wiped out".

Philippe Guérin, Executive Director of the Worldwide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN), described the cause and effect between the growing traffic of poor quality drugs in the Mekong region and the appearance of drug resistance to anti-malarial medicine. Yet, all kinds of medicines have been counterfeited, from those for the treatment of life-threatening conditions to inexpensive generic versions of painkillers and antihistamines. Counterfeit medicines can include products with the correct ingredients or the wrong ingredients, without active ingredients, with insufficient or too many active ingredients, or with fake packaging.

In some countries, falsified medicines account for over 30% of all medications for sale. The falsified drug trade is estimated to be 25 times more profitable than sales of illegal drugs.

"Why do we have fake medicines?" asked **Thierry Cornillet**, former Member of the European Parliament. "Because it's the biggest market in the world. It's an incredible market, extremely easy to get into. It's easy to dupe consumers and there are virtually no sanctions against it. It's an extremely hard thing to prosecute. Medicines can be copied legally in Africa – there is no legislation stopping it. International conventions are important, but countries have to implement domestic measures."

Public awareness is critical

"Poor, illiterate people don't know what they are buying. So people must understand there are potentially killing medicines out there. An international campaign is needed," said **Hilde Johnson**, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF.

Dr **Mo Ibrahim**, Founder and Chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, called for a fresh approach to the problem and invited the media to understand the severity of the problem.

"[This issue] is not sexy. You don't see it covered on the news. According to Interpol, 65,000 people died as a result of terrorism over 40 years; this year 200,000 people died from the trade in fake medicine. It should be viewed as a terrorist threat," he said.







Aline PLANCON



Pierre CHIRAC

Hilde JOHNSON

Isabelle DURANT

Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States, said, "We have to increase public awareness and educate people about the existence of this very real danger. Criminals play upon people's ignorance. We need to work with NGOs who are close to the population, and we need to bring in the media so they can help. We also need to build capacity of state institutions."

Donors need to invest in technical capacity – provide technical assistance and quality assurance – and strengthen health systems generally.

"A silent crime"

Fake medicines are also finding their way into the EU, according to Louis Michel, who called for "a stop to this indecent trade".

Hilde Johnson noted that UNICEF is one of the world's largest purchasers of medicines for children. "We need an international agreement to move forward. In many countries, importers are free to make false claims. We have to improve international regulatory agreements," she added.

"This is a silent crime; a crime against humanity," said **Isabelle Durant**, Vice-president of the European Parliament. She said the EU should adopt legislation to criminalise the activity and call it "trafficking in fake medicine".

"We don't know the numbers of criminals involved," said **Aline Plançon**, Head of Medical Products, Counterfeiting and Pharmaceutical Crime Unit, Interpol. "They are often very sophisticated people. This didn't happen yesterday, it's been going on for years. We need a multidisciplinary approach to this problem. Government health sectors, police, WHO, the public, NGOs, and the private sector must work together and share information."

Improve international regulatory agreements

Heads of state and decision-makers have been mobilising since the Cotonou Declaration on fake medicines, launched by the Fondation Chirac in October 2009. The Francophonie Organisation and the ACP countries voted for two resolutions committing Member States to reinforce quality control capacities, secure the medicines distribution circuit, and promote the use of WHO-listed essential drugs.

"One way to fight it is to make quality generic medications available at a reasonable price. There is a need to protect intellectual property, but we need to ensure that generic medications are protected and make sure we don't jeopardise the production of generic medications," Isabelle Durant added.

Poor quality drugs

It is true that counterfeit medicines are a huge problem. However, drugs that are not necessarily fake, but are simply of poor quality, are also an issue that must be addressed, said **Pierre Chirac**, Campaign Advisor on Essential Medicine, Doctors Without Borders.

"We could focus solely on producers that purposefully manufacture fake medicines," he said. "But if we also include medicines that are just of poor quality, this is not necessarily fraud. One is a criminal activity; one is a quality control issue. They are not the same thing. We want to encourage the Fondation Chirac to include improper quality levels in its fight."









Kristalina GEORGIEVA



Robert GLASSER

Louise MUSHIKIWABO

Maria EITEL

Gender equality

in development cooperation

Doris OFORI

Gender equality is fundamental for inclusive and sustainable development. However, despite some progress over the last decades, gender equality remains a remote prospect in many developing countries.

Women and girls need to be at the centre of development activities. First, because they are more affected by poverty than men; and second, because when a woman escapes poverty, she takes her whole family with her.

Moderator **Robert Glasser**, Secretary General, CARE International, kicked off the debate on gender equality and combating poverty by challenging the EU and other development partners to translate their policy commitments into action.

Gender equality is good economics

Fifteen-year-old **Doris Ofori** from Ghana spoke about the challenges she faces being a young girl in a developing country, as well as the opportunities and her aspirations. Thanks to Plan International, Doris Ofori told participants she is receiving an education, enabling her "to become a role model for the girls in my community".

Maria Eitel, President of the Nike Foundation, emphasised the importance of investing in girls as a means to ensure sustainable development. The Nike Foundation's Girl Effect campaign targets 600 million adolescent girls in developing countries. She said programmes must take account of the challenges girls face, including strong taboos surrounding puberty, culture and religion. Nike's latest tool is a powerful video: www.girleffect.org/video.

Girls and women are agents of change. There is limited economic, social, and political development without women playing their rightful role in the economy and in society at large. The Millennium Development Goals will be difficult to achieve without gender equality.



Women's rights in the workplace

There is much work to be done concerning women's rights in the workplace. In particular, there is a need to address the informal job market, a sector where women represent the majority.

Lovely Yesmin, Bangladesh Partnership of Women in Action, said in Bangladesh 84% of the population live on less than US\$2 a day. In an active work force of 60 million, 38% are women. But nine out of 10 work in the informal sector, with no security, benefits, or regulation of wages and conditions. "We need international solidarity," she urged.

Britta Thomsen, Member of the European Parliament, stressed the need to improve women's access to the labour market and turn informal work into decent jobs. Women need education and training, flexible hours, and care facilities for families, leading to wider career choices.

Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, pointed to the benefits of gender equality as a means to reduce poverty. "We believe gender equality is good economics," she declared.

Rwandan Foreign Minister **Louise Mushikiwabo** confirmed that in Rwanda gender equality has proved to be a powerful means to drive development. Many initiatives foster gender equality. For example, a microfinancing scheme has helped women entrepreneurs pursue a career in hotel management or engage in other forms of employment such as exporting fresh fruit to Europe.











Lovely YESMIN

Victoria CORREA

Joanna SZABUNKO

Britta THOMSEN



Breaking the cycle of poverty

Anthony Smith, Director of International Relations, Department for International Development, UK, stressed that gender equality can have a multiplier effect and help break the cycle of poverty in developing countries.

"Investing in girls is probably the most effective development investment to be made," confirmed Melanne Verveer, the US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues. She referred to a World Economic Forum study that shows that many developing countries with the lowest gender gaps are the more prosperous and competitive.

In line with the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development, Commissioner Georgieva referred to the OECD's gender equality marker as a means to track the amount of aid destined to gender equality.

Welcoming the EU's Action Plan on Gender Equality, Anthony Smith said effective implementation is vital. Speaking via video message, Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director, UN WOMEN, praised the Commission's Green Paper on development policy that had a strong gender focus. She referred to the EU Gender Action Plan and emphasised that the EU and UN WOMEN should cooperate.

New EU members - a gap between policy and practice

A lack of resources, political will and expertise are all challenges faced by new Member States when it comes to gender equality and development cooperation. In the new Member States a gap persists between policy and practice, said Carolina Gottardo of One World Action. This is due to lack of political will, scarce resources, lack of policy coherence and experience, and limited capacity for promoting women's rights.

Joanna Szabunko from the Karat Coalition claimed that awareness of development and gender issues in Poland is still low. Her colleague Kinga Lohmann said it is important that new Member States have moved from aid recipients to providers.

Local authorities at the cutting edge

Local governments are key to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. They are at the cutting edge of delivering services to combat poverty and foster development at grassroots level. How to foster women's participation in decision-making, and how to obtain local funding for gender equality were some of the challenges discussed.

"Gender-responsive local services refer to what a dignified human being needs to lead a fulfilled life, including food, education and shelter. [This is] about the affirmation of a woman as a human person with full rights," declared Mary Okumu, Chief Technical Adviser to the Gender Equitable Local Development Programme (GELD), a joint UNCDF and UNIFEM initiative helping to build capacity in local authorities.

Decentralisation helps to make local services more accountable, suggested Justus Kangwagye, Mayor of Rulindo District in Rwanda. Even though lack of experience, knowledge, and women's participation is hampering progress, Mary Okumu was upbeat: "There is a great willingness in local government to learn what to do and how to do it better."

Victoria Correa, Policy Officer for Gender Equality, Directorate General, Development, European Commission, reviewed the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development. The Action Plan includes commitments for all Member States and presents an opportunity to encourage new Member States to adhere to these commitments.



Martin HOPE



Azizou ADAMA



Laurent CORTESE

Dakmara-Ana GEORGESCU

Culture and development –

improved teacher training

The cultural sector generates 2.5% of GDP in the EU – a higher percentage than agriculture. In Mali, culture accounts for 2.4% of GDP, a crucial contribution to the economy of one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

Since 2007, the EU has emphasised culture in development cooperation. Today, these efforts are coming to fruition. "The cultural dimension is essential to the development of our societies," said **Christian Leffler**, then Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Development, European Commission. "It's an important vector of growth, and a source of stability. We must mobilise culture in efforts to resolve conflicts."

Successes include the travelling exhibition, Visionary Africa: Art at Work, combining images by contemporary Africans with works by local artists in a series of pavilions, visiting several African capitals to celebrate 50 years of independence for 22 African states.

A new book and DVD, Culture and Development: Action and Impact, describes successful projects. "For the first time we have real evidence that cultural activities improve living conditions and quality of life and build intercultural dialogue," said **Martin Hope**, Director of the British Council in Brussels.

EuropeAid Director **Francesca Mosca** announced the launch of the first joint EU/UNESCO technical assistance programme, creating a team of international cultural policy experts to support developing countries in strengthening creative industries.

Qualified teachers -

key to achieving quality education

Centre international d'études pédagogiques (CIEP) organised a roundtable to compare strategies to attain Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals.

The roundtable focused on improvements needed in teacher training to enhance quality of education, and strategies to meet large-scale recruitment under budgetary constraints.

Dakmara-Ana Georgescu, Programme specialist, UNESCO International Bureau of Education, said teachers are key actors in pushing pupils' achievements. Investment in teacher training pays off by raising educational levels.

Azizou Adama, Ministry of Education, Niger, identified education as key to reducing poverty. National strategy targets rural areas and gender equality in access to schooling.

Antonio Marquez Camacho from the European Commission stressed EU assistance to support education in developing countries and noted that providing appropriate training to teachers was most urgent in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Laurent Cortese from the EFA Fast Track Initiative (FTI) explained how FTI offers financial and technical support for improving quality education. Four key ingredients are smaller class sizes, teacher recruitment, schoolbooks for all, and regular attendance of both pupils and teachers. He presented a new initiative for dialogue and exchange of good practice, the International Task Force on Teachers for EFA.

Jacques Malpel from the European Commission explained cooperation between the Teachers Task Force and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa. Participants emphasised the importance of teachers' skills development in their initial training and in their careers. An effective tool, as used in Niger, may be a country strategy prioritising teacher training.







Shirin AUMEERUDDY-CZIFFRA

Gay MITCHELL

Ma-Hawa NGAIMA

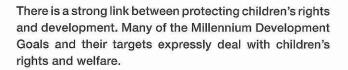


Christopher GRØNSTAD

Véronique DE KEYSER

Development for the next generation:

children's rights are human rights



Since 1990, international efforts to protect children have saved 12,000 children from premature deaths per day. However, much more needs to be done because 22,000 children still die each day prematurely.

Because they account for 50% of the population in many poor countries, children should be at the centre of development efforts, said **Patrick Watt**, Director of Development Policy, Save the Children, United Kingdom. Reaching children with nutrition assistance is particularly critical.

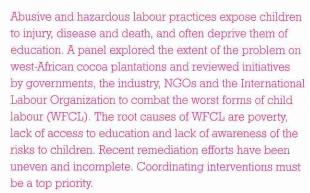
The Commission's Green Paper on development policy notes that malnutrition hampers development efforts and undermines economic growth, with up to 3% of GDP loss. It is the leading cause in child deaths. For those who survive, malnutrition can have irreversible effects on mental and physical development. Addressing nutrition has a "multiplier effect" in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Children's rights are "integral to all important policy issues", argued **Hilde Johnson**, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. The EU has a strong role to play in protecting children.

The EU attaches increasing importance to children's rights. Under the Lisbon Treaty, in its external relations, the EU "shall ... contribute to ... the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child". **Gay Mitchell**, Member of the European Parliament, noted: "Children's rights must be mainstreamed into development policy."

"When young people are involved in development planning, it becomes more efficient," argued **Christopher Grønstad**, Vice President, European Youth Forum. One way for older children to have a voice in policy-making is through children's parliaments, said **Ma-Hawa Ngaima**, Speaker of the Liberian Children's Parliament, Regional Youth Forum Against Violence.

Fighting abusive child labour



The rights recognised in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be summarised by 3Ps: "protection, provision and participation", noted **Wouter Wandenhole**, Professor, University of Antwerp. When children are young, they need protection. "As they grow, they have increasing rights to participate in decisions affecting them," he said. Children should be taken seriously, not only because they represent society's future, but also because children's rights are human rights.

Fighting violence against children

Children are the "targets of violence, abuse and merchandising all over the world", observed **Véronique De Keyser**, Member of the European Parliament. "We need greater aid efficiency and closer linkages between human rights and actual conditions on the ground."

Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, Ombudsperson for Children, Former Minister for Women's Rights and Family Affairs, Mauritius, said much violence against children occurs at home. Confidence building mechanisms are needed to equip children to speak up.



Ester ASIN

Amarah KONNEH

Natural resources

for development

Many developing countries have a unique opportunity to use the responsible extraction of their natural resources to move from poverty to prosperity. The responsible development of natural resources emerged as the leading environmental-development concern.

Climate change was the topic of last year's European Development Days held in Stockholm. This year's new discourse on natural resources reflects both a shift in focus from aid to other kinds of assistance and a more cooperative attitude in the relationship between the EU and developing countries.

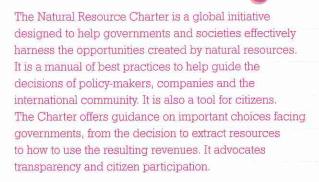
Good governance, transparency and accountability – on all sides of all equations, encompassing the public and private sectors on all continents – dominated the discussion. Empowerment, both of developing country governments and local communities, was viewed as the most viable solution.

Wealth under their feet

"The countries of Africa and elsewhere could be ready to transform natural resource extraction into prosperity," said Professor **Paul Collier**, Director, Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford, UK. "This could be a critical stage for them. The most important source to finance development over the next ten years in Africa is under the ground – the natural resource base. The goal should not be to keep the resources in the ground, but to use them."

That bold statement kicked-off a frank and lively debate about how to leverage natural resources into a development opportunity of unprecedented proportions. In theory, this could all take place without the intervention of the development community. However, external assistance can help ensure that dividends reach the people who need it most to the maximum benefit for sustainable social and economic development, without undue environmental degradation.

Natural Resource Charter



"The Charter will help us form a strong coalition that can advise governments on how to negotiate 'strong' with these companies and also understand the real value of what we have," said **Amara Konneh**, Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Liberia.

From aid to empowerment

To achieve this, the international development community needs to reaffirm a change in thinking that has been emerging in recent years – a shift from aid to empowerment, from handouts to cooperation. "We must realise that development is more than building schools and hospitals," said **Ester Asin**, EU Representative, Care International. "We have to realise why people are poor."

This change in thinking dominated the discussion about the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). Originally conceived as a way to address rapid deforestation by paying people to refrain from cutting down trees in countries with the most threatened forests, the programme has been expanded. Meanwhile, what seemed to be a great and simple idea turned complex – especially when people tried to answer the question of "Whose carbon is it?" said **Marcus Colchester**, Director, Forest Peoples Programme.



Timo MAKELA

In many cases, people who live in the forests do not hold legal title to the places where they live and derive their livelihoods. Thus, all too often, they receive no benefits for behavioural changes they have been required to make to reduce forest degradation. This has engendered a debate about whether REDD can play a real role in development or whether it is at best a way to protect forests and reduce carbon emissions. Tony Long, Director, European Policy Office, WWF, asked, "Is it really an environmental tool masquerading as a developmental tool?"

Learning from history

No discussion of natural resources in Africa or much of the developing world can be held without referencing history. Referring to the European Commission's proposal for ensuring secure access to raw materials, Claude Kabemba, Director South Africa Resources Watch, said: "The Raw Materials Initiative cannot proceed without taking into account the past relations of Europe and Africa - the past of pillage. The partnership has failed. It has not produced development in Africa, but it did in Europe."

Claude Kabemba also drew attention to more recent history in international relations, the pro-free market Washington Consensus that emerged in the 1980s. "The Washington Consensus, to make a climate conducive for investment, has killed a continent," he said. "There has been no trickledown effect."

Good governance, transparency and accountability

When good governance, transparency and accountability are discussed in development fora, it usually involves donors talking down to recipients. This theme did not disappear during European Development Days, but it was accompanied by calls for improvement on all sides, encompassing the public and private sectors on all continents.

In the area of forest governance, Timo Makela, Director for International Affairs at Directorate General Environment, pointed to the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade initiative (FLEGT), which combats illegal logging. Under FLEGT, Voluntary Partnership Agreements made with partner countries are expected to promote good governance of the forestry sector and contribute to long-term sustainable management of the sector.

Much of the discussion concerned how the EU can ensure that European multinationals behave responsibly. "We should insist that extractive companies maintain high standards," said Paul Collier. Added Claude Kabemba: "Corporate social responsibility must be legislated."

Paul Collier and Vanessa Herringshaw, Director, London Office, Revenue Watch Foundation, called upon the EU to follow the lead of the US to increase the reporting requirements of publicly traded resource companies. The US Cardin-Lugar amendment will force publicly traded corporations to include country-by-country figures for payments to governments around the world.



Revenue Watch Index 2010

The Index measures the information made available to the public about oil, gas and mining operations in 41 countries. One of the underlying principles is to help "citizens hold governments accountable" for the way they manage natural resources and how they invest the cash generated from their exploitation, according to Juan Carlos Ortiz, Policy Analyst, Revenue Watch Institute.

While most "supply inadequate information" a group of countries stood out, explained Antoine Heuty, Deputy Director, Revenue Watch Institute. "The countries with the largest reserves have the least transparency."





Ingrid FISKAA





Vanessa HERRINGSHAW

Madelaine TUININGA

"This is amazing," she said. "From a transparency point of view, it is a major step." Vanessa Herringshaw noted the EU passed a similar resolution in 2007, but it has not been given the teeth required for proper implementation. She suggested the EU go beyond the US law to add other elements such as profits on a country-by-country basis: "The Americans have taken the lead, but this could be extended to other factors." Both the development community and investors want this information.

Europe could use improved transparency to compete with China to gain access to Africa's resources, some believe. "We need transparency, not only from Africa but also from European companies," said Claude Kabemba. "Western countries have not implemented transparency programmes, so China can say, 'we are the same'."

Empowering governments

Madelaine Tuininga, Deputy Head of Unit, Industrial Sectors, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission, outlined three factors essential to harness natural resource exploration for development: good governance, infrastructure for investment, and geological knowledge and skills.

Even well meaning and responsible policy-makers in the developing world find it hard to negotiate good deals with multinationals. "Corruption and bad governance are known, but there is also the issue of how the international commodity markets are structured," said **Alfred Hickey M'Sichili**, Trade Policy Officer, Comhlámh and Alternatrade Project. "Developing countries get very little of the money. Most of the money goes to the multinational corporations."

Claude Kabemba queried whether weak African states have the capacity to negotiate favourable contracts with foreign companies. "Africa should not negotiate contracts, but should set guidelines," he said. In addition, as the 2010 Revenue Watch Index noted, contracts in most counties are secret, presumably to protect privileged information. However, five countries – Colombia, Liberia, Peru, Timor-Leste and the US – do publish contracts, effectively refuting that argument.

Norway is a successful model of how to manage natural resources and use the revenues to improve citizens' standard of living. Since Norway discovered petroleum deposits in the North Sea in the 1960s, oil and gas exports have become the heart of its economy. "Norway was once the poor nation of Scandinavia," said **Ingrid Fiskaa**, Norway's State Secretary for International Development. "We have experience in managing natural resources that may be useful for other countries."

Foreign companies were invited to exploit Norway's reserves under strict conditions that included high taxes, investment in local industrial and electric generating plants, the use of local suppliers and technology transfers. An oil development fund was established to manage the revenues and support social and economic development. Ingrid Fiskaa cautioned that the experience could be difficult to reproduce elsewhere because success relied on strong local institutions, including influential labour unions.

African governments should not hamstring their policy-making ability through clauses in international accords such as the proposed Raw Materials Initiative, which some believe would restrict export taxes, said Alfred Hickey M'Sichili. "Governments need policy space for economic reasons and for political reasons."









Philomena JOHNSON

Gie GORIS



Affordable insurance for the poor

When a claim is made on an insurance policy, an agent generally investigates the damage and determines whether a payout is warranted. But in rural areas of developing countries, this approach is difficult, time consuming and costly, implying that poor farmers have no access to insurance. Thus, when disaster strikes, people lacking insurance, even those who succeeded in climbing above the poverty line, are knocked below it.

The European Commission, the World Bank and others launched a series of initiatives to develop affordable ways to offer insurance to the poor, including farmers. The increasingly popular "index-based system" makes payouts based on a threshold in an objective measurement. Pilots have been promising and index-based insurance is being expanded through public-private partnerships, for instance by the Global Index Insurance Facility (GIIF).



Insurance and natural disasters

In the last 30 years economic losses caused by natural disasters have increased, but few have been insured. This is due mainly to low insurance penetration, especially in emerging markets.

The tendency is to rely heavily on post-event financing, but the objective should be a more balanced risk financing mix. A number of index-based insurance mechanisms have emerged, including the MultiCat Program in Mexico that offers index-based insurance payouts against earthquakes and hurricanes.

There is a specific niche for insurance in the spectrum of disaster financing instruments. Partnerships, including public-private partnerships, are necessary.

Empowering citizens

Governments sometimes do the right thing of their own accord, but usually they need convincing. Often the poor must negotiate with or push their governments for economic and social development. "Mineral resources are not for governments. They are for the people," said Philomena Johnson, Director of Caritas, Ghana. "They are only invested in the government to ensure they are developed for the people. The government tends to see [mineral resources] as its property, and makes it impossible for citizens to know what is going on - as if civil society had nothing to do with it."

Added Marcus Colchester: "Research on forest land tenure shows that reform is only meaningful when local organisations push for it. When development organisations and governments act in a top-down fashion it is not effective."

REDD offers an example of how difficult it can be to ensure that the benefits of resources are channelled into development. "REDD will only benefit communities and individuals if you change policy," he said. Issues to be addressed include:

- Land rights.
- Guarantee of the rule of law and access to the legal system.
- Improved governance and reduced corruption.
- Respect for local knowledge.
- A commitment to share REDD's benefits with forest communities.

One encouraging example of local organising is Ghana Forest Watch, a coalition of local civil society organisations founded a few years ago. "There was a need for a credible national forum," explained Ester Asin. "[Now] many different organisations are working together."









Ahmed EL MIDAOUI

Eva JOLY

Governance, human rights

and development

There are powerful connections between development progress, democracy, good governance and respect for human rights, including children's rights. Participants explored how improved governance can bring better services to people in developing countries, and took stock of EU support for democracy and human rights. They also explored the relationship between media and development.

The Commission's Green Paper on development policy emphasises improving governance in partner countries. Bad or weak governance provides fertile ground for terrorism, piracy, trafficking and criminality; and adversely impacts citizens' daily lives.

To meet these challenges, EU cooperation strategies focus on democratic governance, human rights, the fight against corruption, and the rule of law, as well as institution and state building. The Green Paper states: "A continued focus on using aid as a catalyst for improvements in governance as an integral part of development partnerships has to remain a priority of the EU's development policy; and in some partner countries, much remains to be achieved."

Better service delivery through improved governance

Poor delivery of public services often results from governance failures, including lack of transparency and accountability, corruption, and insufficient checks and balances.

"Corruption hits poor people everyday," said **Caroline Anstey**, Vice-President for External Affairs, World Bank Group. For example, in India, people must pay bribes for public services beginning at birth for a birth certificate. Fake drugs and fertilisers, and teachers who do not show up for work all injure poor people.

The annual cost of corruption is equal to more than 5% of global GDP (US\$2.6 trillion); with over US\$1 trillion paid in bribes each year, equivalent to the total GDP of the African continent, by far exceeding Official Development Assistance (ODA) resources.

Corruption and bad governance are major obstacles to development objectives and the Millennium Development Goals. They thwart development in key public sectors such as education, health, transportation and water. They affect public institutions and citizens as well as different processes in societies, heavily impacting on the redistribution of growth outcomes and hampering investment and trade opportunities in developing countries.

Eva Joly, Chair of the Development Committee, European Parliament, said the International Monetary Fund estimates about US\$1 billion per year, 10% of Angola's oil revenues, is lost to corruption. "This money should be invested in health and education. Tax havens are a problem. We should not tolerate a financial system that permits stealing money and resources," she argued.

Donors - pragmatism over dogmatism

Koos Richelle, then Director General, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission, noted that sometimes aid has been given for the wrong issues or geopolitical reasons or in the wrong way. The EU now emphasises good governance and the fight against corruption in its development policies. But there is inconsistency in donors' approaches to governance problems. The EU and Member States are trying to achieve coherence.

Donors are sometimes complicit in official corruption, agreed Eva Joly. "Why don't we stop payment when we know the money is being misused? Because we don't want to hurt the poor."

The relationship between governments and citizens in Africa also fuels corruption, explained **Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa. Citizens are passive and governments treat them as though they "don't count". This leads to low tax collections, which in turn leads to corruption. "The fight against corruption should begin at the local level," he added.



Abbot MALUMALU Morgan TSVANGIRAI

"Good governance cannot be imposed from the outside. You need political will in the partner countries," said Caroline Anstey, who argued that donors had several tools to combat corruption. They can send money through NGOs, refrain from giving budget support, send funding to the local level, and withhold payment until there is proof that aid has actually been delivered.

Towards an inclusive "accountability system"

"There is a strong link between budget transparency and the delivery of services," said **Ahmed El Midaoui**, President of the Court of Auditors, Morocco. **Warren Krafchik**, Director, International Budget Partnership, agreed: "Where there is greater access to budget information and greater opportunities for civil society to engage in the process, the quality of government expenditure increases and... there is improvement in government services... and in poverty reduction, which is after all what we are aiming to achieve." Officials must be "possessed with the public interest," he added.

"Traditional audits are insufficient," noted Ahmed El Midaoui. There must be "integrated verification" and financial reports conforming to law and ethics. Auditing institutions should analyse whether public resources are being used wisely and assess the impact of public spending. Partner countries must be able to handle the money properly, using professionals with appropriate management skills. In addition, each country should be required to create an independent audit group.

Civil society organisations should work with national audit societies to promote transparency and accountability, he argued. They can provide training for civil servants and promote public communication and awareness. An "accountability system" is needed that includes legislatures, courts, auditors, the public and civil society.



Tsvangirai:

"New tyranny in Zimbabwe"

In a keynote address, **Morgan Tsvangirai**, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, warned that in the lead up to elections in 2011, there has been a new wave of violence in his country perpetuated by the army. "Democracy is under threat and the new tyranny in Zimbabwe can threaten its neighbours," he said. Some leaders in Africa "think they should rule forever".

This is what happens when governments refuse to be accountable to their people. "Development is unsustainable in the long run without democracy. Oppressed people need solidarity with the international community, but they must fight for and own their own democracy... The people of Zimbabwe have not lost their appetite for freedom," Morgan Tsvangirai concluded.

"We have to talk about an accountability system that works opposite the government with civil society as a major player, but it also includes parliaments, supreme audit institutions, the media and the judiciary. We need to talk about how these actors interact," said Warren Krafchik.

Democracy and human rights - lessons learned

Participants debated four questions concerning human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, justice and elections that explore the linkages between human rights, development and democracy.



Human rights defenders face difficult times

Fifty-six percent of participants believed it is more difficult today than in the past to be a human rights defender. **Thijs Berman**, Member of the Development Committee, European Union Chief Observer to Afghanistan and Ethiopia, noted that human rights defenders now often work in conflict areas. "If you work in Afghanistan, you risk your life every day," he said.

The world is more complicated, observed Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General, UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. However, human rights workers now have better tools, such as information and communication technologies, which make the work easier. Eva Gamboa, National Council for Indigenous Women, Argentina, agreed human rights defenders are having a more difficult time now.

Better investigative techniques exist, observed **Abbot Apollinaire Muholongu Malumalu**, President, Independent Electoral Commission, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), but human rights defenders "face powerful governments and economic interests". "They must work together in networks," he urged.

Noting the recent election crisis in the Ivory Coast, **Gérard Latortue**, former Prime Minister of Haiti, Head of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie missions to the Ivory Coast, Togo and Gabon, observed that human rights defenders have been persecuted and people have been terrorised to prevent them from complaining. He commended the international community for its unanimous condemnation of the Ivory Coast election results.

The international community has not sufficiently supported human rights defenders and has ignored human rights violations in Afghanistan, argued **Soraya Rahim Sobhrang**, winner of the Frontline Award 2010 and Commissioner, Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan.

Thijs Berman complained that human rights are not a priority in EU foreign policy and that there has been a "political failure by the EU" in Palestine, Afghanistan and Ethiopia.

Justice and reconciliation

After violence and conflict, are justice and reconciliation compatible? Sixty-four percent of participants agreed, 25% disagreed; the remainder were undecided.

According to Soraya Rahim Sobhrang, there are not enough women on the Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Council. The international community wants to leave Afghanistan, but if it does, she warned, "All progress will be lost. Women will be back in the 19th century. Reconciliation is fine, but there must be protection of women's rights. Peace without justice and justice without equality are impossible."

History must be acknowledged before justice and reconciliation are possible, added Thijs Berman. Abbot Apollinaire Muholongu Malumalu agreed: First, the truth must come out. "Collective memory is crucial... Both justice and reconciliation are needed, but we must fight against impunity," he argued.

Indigenous people only know "the path of reconciliation", Eva Gamboa observed. "We believe in reconciliation, but also in reparations."

Indigenous peoples and self-determination

Indigenous peoples' rights involve issues of culture, land and self-determination, believed 73% of participants. People are being killed protecting their land, said Eva Gamboa. "Without land, there is no self-determination."

In the DRC, the Pygmy tribe's land has valuable natural resources. Some people defending the Pygmies "may have ulterior motives", Abbot Apollinaire Muholongu Malumalu warned. Today, people are afraid to use the term self-determination. "Why do some peoples get self-determination, while others do not?" he asked. Filippo Grandi added that there is a problem with the uniformity the modern nation state tries to impose on indigenous peoples.



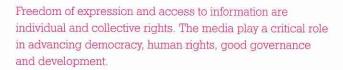




Ahmed GHAZALI

Marie-Christine SARAGOSSE

Media play a critical role



When governance fails, "the media are often the first victim", said **Marie-Christine Saragosse**, Director General, TV5 Monde. There is a correlation between press freedom and corruption, **Jean-François Julliard**, Secretary General, Reporters Without Borders, added. "Countries with less corruption show greater respect for press freedom."

The media carry many messages that can promote development. Simply by broadcasting news, they support freedom of speech and democracy. By employing women presenters, they demonstrate important roles women can play.

"Presenting programming about development and culture in Africa, the media convey important messages that Africa is changing, its people have many talents and there is development progress," Marie-Christine Saragosse argued. Programming that explores key political, environmental and health issues increases public awareness and participation.

There is an important relationship between media regulation and development, noted **Ahmed Ghazali**, President of the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, Morocco. Regulators can be "agents of change" in developing countries by promoting pluralism, equal access for all political parties and development of media markets.

Regulators have a critical role in democracy by ensuring that the media act in the public interest, added **Babacar Tourré**, Journalist and President of Sud Communications, Senegal. However, regulators must be financially independent to protect against corruption and improper political influences.

Journalists are under attack in many parts of the world, Jean-François Julliard noted. According to him, over 150 journalists and even more bloggers are in prison. About 60 journalists are murdered each year and recently many have been kidnapped.

Election expectations

Are elections in developing countries creating expectation that cannot be met? Seventy-four percent of participants said yes, 23% no.

Thijs Berman noted that going into the 2004 elections, the Afghani people were very optimistic. But the West failed to respect their hopes. "You should not send election monitoring missions if you are not going to follow through," he advised.

As a member of the international observation team for the recent lvory Coast elections, Gérard Latortue warned that the international community must not let incumbent President Gbagbo thwart the will of the people. "Another civil war may occur. We have to support elections, freedom and democracy," he said. The greatest expectation arising from elections is real democracy, observed Filippo Grandi. But in many countries this has not happened. Elections alone are not sufficient. There must also be "investment in justice, education and security".

According to Eva Gamboa, elections in some developing countries have problems because some people lack identity papers, and some cannot read or write, particularly women.





Anthony SMITH



Georges SERRES

François BOURGUIGNON

European Report on Development -

completing the development jigsaw in Africa

The second edition of the European Report on Development (ERD) – Social Protection for Inclusive Development: A new perspective in EU cooperation with Africa – addresses the complex challenge of building social protection systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and how the EU can best support home-grown African initiatives in the region.

The report stresses that together with conventional development policy measures, social protection could help Sub-Saharan Africa combat poverty by reducing its vulnerability to shocks and promoting inclusive development and growth.

European Commissioner for Development **Andris Piebalgs** said: "Social protection is often taken for granted in Europe. In fact, it has played an important historic role in eradicating poverty in Europe and, if well designed and managed, building on Africa's own priorities and specificities, it could deliver similar success in Africa."

Social protection - "feasible and affordable"

Giorgia Giovannetti of the European University Institute, the lead author of this year's report, is reasonably optimistic: "A number of African countries already have social protection programmes in place. It is increasingly on the policy agenda of African leaders and several EU donors already support social protection based on the belief that it is both a human right and a catalyst for promoting inclusive development and pro-poor growth."

The report concludes that piecemeal efforts are not enough. Social protection needs to become a central and coordinated component of the development policies of African countries, the EU and its Member States, and other donors. "Our analysis shows that it is feasible, affordable, and that the time is ripe," Giorgia Giovannetti concluded.

Anthony Smith, Head of International Relations, Department for International Development (DFID), UK, said: "We need to strengthen growth in developing countries, but we also need to protect against shocks."

"The economic crisis has shown that we need a safety net, not just in industrialised countries but also in Africa," noted **Georges Serres**, Deputy Director-General, Global Affairs, Development and Partnership, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France. He said the quality of research in the report clearly demonstrates how Europe can create excellent knowledge to support development policy.

"The ERD comes at exactly the right time and is right on target," said **Michael Cichon**, Director, Social Security Department, International Labour Organization, noting that social protection has evolved into a pan-African policy in its own right. "You have to invest in people as a first step – because only people who are well-nourished, healthy and educated can be productive."

François Bourguignon, Director of the Paris School of Economics, warned that "social protection should not become another fad," like large infrastructure projects, for example, once were. "It is a piece in the larger development puzzle, and it needs to be treated as one of many policy instruments."

The ERD seeks to enhance the EU's perspective on development issues on the basis of independent knowledge, excellence, innovation and enhanced bridges between top-level academics and policy-makers. The European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, and the UK support the initiative.



Lorenzo Natali Prize –

awarding journalists

The European Commission's Lorenzo Natali Prize recognises journalists committed to human rights, democracy and development. This year's winning articles covered an array of issues from the women's fight against domestic violence in South America, child abduction in China and Ivory Coast, rape, premature marriage and prostitution of women in Africa, to problems of pollution and pesticides in India.

Yader Francisco Luna Garcia is the 2010 Grand Prize Winner. His article Palabra de Mujer – A Woman's Word was chosen by an independent jury from more than 1,100 articles from five regions of the world. The award-winning article explores the success of a small radio station in a Nicaraguan community that denounces wife-beaters. "The Messenger Witch", the most popular programme of the radio station, recounts stories of men who beat their wives.

The article describes a burst of harsh laughter and the noise of a breaking window to announce her arrival. She is an 86-year-old woman who lives on a hill and goes to the radio cabin every morning. A rheumatic and sickly sorceress, she acquired by sheer strength the title of defender of women. On air, she gives details about the men's lives and work, warns them, but also gives them advice.

"Good governance, human rights, and freedom of media are recognised as key conditions for social and economic development of countries. With the Lorenzo Natali Awards today, I'm proud to reward the excellent work of journalists from all continents," said **Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Development. "Their commitment and professionalism provide us with many eye-opening stories. By reporting human stories and realities, journalists contribute to promoting development and democracy all over the world."

The award ceremony took place at Brussels City Hall on 6 December. TV journalist **Femi Oke** hosted the event. Prizes were presented by the Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, Dr Lesley-Anne Knight; Founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Dr Mo Ibrahim; the Secretary General of Friends of Europe, Giles Merritt; the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Filippo Grandi; Member of the European Parliament Development Committee, Thijs Berman; Director of FIOCRUZ Centre for Global Health, Paulo Buss, and Commissioner Piebalgs.



About the prize

Created in 1992, the Lorenzo Natali Prize is open to journalists from worldwide media. This prize is an integral part of the European Commission's development policy, which considers the protection of fundamental freedoms, freedom of expression, democracy and human rights as essential.

To organise the 2010 Lorenzo Natali Prize, the European Commission worked with some of the most renowned world press associations, such as Reporters Without Borders, winner of the 2005 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, which represents more than 18,000 publications in five continents.

More info: www.nataliprize2010.eu



Liu XIAOBO masks



Salam FAYYAD

European Development Days -

unique, diverse, meaningful... colourful and creative

Freedom, democracy and human rights

Free him!

Participants paid tribute to jailed Chinese dissident **Liu Xiaobo**, winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. Liu Xiaobo won the prize for "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights". Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was among those in the audience who stood up and held a mask displaying the dissident's face.

Free at last!

Burmese opposition politician and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner **Aung San Suu Kyi** was freed from house arrest 13 November 2010 by Burma's generals. She has been detained for 15 of the past 21 years. Introduced by European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs as an "extraordinary example of civil courage," she participated in the Closing Ceremony via video address.

"Dialogue and networking are crucial to the foundation of an environment in which democratic values can prosper. We [in Burma] are simply trying to create a society in which people will be allowed to work freely and responsibly towards their own betterment. EDD is in a unique position to help us in our endeavours."

Respect for international law

Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority **Salam Fayyad** told participants that difficulties in getting the Middle East peace process back on track remain as basic as getting the Israeli government to stop expanding settlements.

Calling for the establishment of safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank to be put back on the negotiating table, the Prime Minister said: "The difficulty of getting Israel to stop expanding settlements should never stop the international community from expecting Israel to deliver all other aspects of international law."

Salam Fayyad thanked the EU for its "steadfast and longstanding support in our quest for nothing more than to live in freedom and dignity".

He added that progress in upgrading Palestinian infrastructure had been made possible by the assistance of the international community led by the EU. This has made it possible to focus on small projects throughout the country, including road works, water, and electricity that had been marginalised in the past.



Atmosphere

Development Village

98 exhibitors over 1374 m² of creative space

543 stakeholders

Thousands of visitors









Two EU contests against poverty

Music Against Poverty 2010

Antonia (17) and Mareike (18) from Germany are the winners of the 2010 Music Against Poverty Contest. Their song, "A Story of Ignorance", was selected from among 200 submissions by a jury of music professionals, led by the internationally renowned Malian singer Salif Keita, Marcin and Mariusz from Poland won the online voting by Internet users with their song "Together". Both groups performed at European Development Days. The winners will be able to record their songs in a professional studio.



Young Reporters Against Poverty

The European Commission launched this contest in September 2010 in cooperation with the Brussels-based European Journalism Centre. The contest called on students in journalism, communication, development and political science to submit a report on the EU and development aid. In November, 33 finalists were selected to attend a workshop, 4 to 7 December and to report live from European Development Days on a dedicated platform by uploading articles, radio reports, videos and Twitter updates.



What they said



"[The Ivory Coast] is the story of democratic elections whose results were not accepted by those who were defeated, thus putting at risk the stability and peace in their country. Political leadership, statesmanship and respect of the will of the people are an integral part of the development equation. We deeply need it to overcome together the challenges of development."

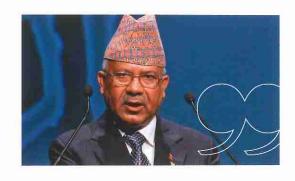
José Manuel Durão Barroso,

President of the European Commission

"The forthcoming UN Conference in Istanbul in May 2011 is an opportunity for all of us to come forward with an ambitious and results-oriented outcome that considers the challenges of LDCs in a holistic manner, from human development to economic revitalisation, and come up with integrated support mechanisms."

Madhav Kumar Nepal,

Prime Minister of Nepal





"We need whistle blower protection. We need a lot of new institutions to be able to act. If these institutions were built up it would be progress, because that puts distance between an inquiry and the people in power."

MEP Eva Joly,

Chair of the Development Committee, European Parliament

"We are in for big discussions. There are budget deficits in many rich-countries and there is a growing debate about what aid is going to bring about. We hear questions like, 'After 60 years in development cooperation, what did it produce?' Not one poor country came out of poverty because of development cooperation alone. So, what can we do to make it better for the future?"

Koos Richelle,

then Director-General, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission



"Partnerships bring new attitudes and skills. Business people always see opportunities. We see problems."

Robert Jan Scheer,

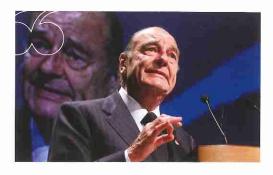
Strategic Policy Adviser, Sustainable Economic Development Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands



"In the face of an entrenched system, you need to negotiate with the entrenched to give the people a chance to move forward. The people of Zimbabwe will not fail."

Morgan Tsvangirai, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe





"With its billion inhabitants and its human resources, with its mining resources, its energy resources, with its arable land which has not yet been exploited, Africa is in the process of becoming a giant."

Jaques Chirac, former President of France

"Many of the countries that need help today will be able to help others in the future."

Krzysztof Stanowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland





"Developing countries face problems of red tape. We still have to do something to ensure that funds released reach people on time for real development impact to be made."

Philomena Johnson, Director of Caritas, Ghana

"We are in the process of making a new development policy fit-for-purpose in the 21st century. Our consultative Green Paper tackles or tries to tackle these challenges. Support for our Green Paper seemed quite clear during the panel discussions, from both developed and developing countries, NGOs and foundations. This gives me great encouragement going forward."

Andris Piebalgs,

European Commissioner for Development





"Development is an issue that enthuses people and encourages solidarity. It also helps promote the common management of the world's heritage. During these two days we have been able to look in more detail at issues such as the Millennium Development Goals and the Africa-EU Summit. We have also discussed some very promising approaches to innovative financing."

Charles Michel

Minister for Development Cooperation, Belgium

"The MDG-Plus-10 summit in New York and the current Cancun meeting [on climate change] have made clear the scale of the challenges that lie before us. We can only tackle these if we are open to the mutual recognition of our differences and our diversities. European Development Days is an extraordinary platform for bringing together all the protagonists involved in development aid to help find solutions."

His Royal Highness Prince Philippe of Belgium





"We must work with partners on an equal footing on democracy, peace and security, and new challenges such as climate change and food security. We should have a good opportunity now. We have the knowledge, money and instruments – we need to coordinate them better."

Gunilla Carlsson,

Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden



"Despite the crisis, we are strongly on course to achieve the development aid target of 0.7% of GNI. Human beings must be at the centre of development. They must be able to make their own decisions. This is the context of sustainable development."

Yves Leterme

Prime Minister of Belgium

"[Because of] your good management and strong leadership, the [Palestinian National] Authority is less and less dependent on financial assistance and humanitarian assistance. While [aid] is still necessary, it is not the leading force for good – that is the role of the Palestinian National Authority. We in the EU stand by you."

Kristalina Georgieva,

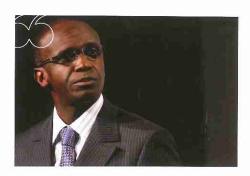
European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response





"The attitude of some Members States is damaging development as they act like neo-colonialists."

Louis Michel,
Member of the European
Parliament, Co-Chair, ACP-EU
Joint Parliamentary Assembly



"Bad governance is a major obstacle to development and corruption is a symptom of bad governance. This impacts on public policy at national, local and international level in a world that has become interdependent and global("

Mactar Silla.

Board Member of Panos West Africa and West Africa Democracy Radio



"The cultural dimension is essential to the development of our societies."

Christian Leffler

then Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Development, European Commission "The best way to move forward is to generate growth in low-income countries. Aid should design itself out of existence."

Donald Kaberuka,

President of the African Development Bank



"[The Natural Resources Charter] represents a process to get the train of decisions right and build an informed government and informed society to gain maximum benefit together with sustainable development of local economies. This is the biggest opportunity Africa has ever had."

Professor Paul Collier,

Centre for the Study of African economies, University of Oxford





"One finds on the Internet and one finds in the street markets huge quantities of fake medicines.

This trade must be eradicated."

Dr Thomas Boni Yayi,

President of Benin



Speakers

HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium HRH Prince Philippe of Belgium

Α

Hussaini Abdu, Director, ActionAld, Nigerla

Andres Mejia Acosta, Institute for Development Studies, Sussex Isabelle Adam, Secretary General, European Cocoa Association Azizou Adama, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Education, Niger Neila Akrimi, Regional Project Manager, Association of Netherlands Municipalities

Aftab Alam Khan, Asia Regional Coordinator on Food and Agriculture, Head of International Right to Food Programme, ActionAid International

Hans Allden, Head of the EU Delegation in Peru

Helen Allotey, Director, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ghana

Caroline Anstey, Vice-President for External Affairs,

The World Bank Group

Ester Asin, CARE International

Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, Ombudsperson for Children, Former Minister for Women's Rights and Family Affairs, Mauritius

B

Angelo Baglio, Head of Unit, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission

Jorge Balbis, Chairman, Reality of Aid Network, Director, Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción

Kris Balderston, Managing Director, Global Partnership Initiative, State Department, United States

Günther Barnet, Bureau for Security Policy, Federal Ministry of Defence, Austria

Kristian Bartholin, Secretary of the Group of experts who prepared the Council of Europe draft Medicrime Convention

Tamsyn Barton, Director General for External Relations,

European Investment Bank

Laetitia Bazzi-Veil, Head of the Child Protection Programme, UNICEF, Ivory Coast

Thijs Berman, Member of the Development Committee, European Parliament, European Union Chief Observer to Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Sam Biesemans, Member of the European Development Education Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group, European Union Unit, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs, Belgium

Fatih Birol, Chief Economist, International Energy Agency

Simon Bishop, Head, Room to Breathe Programme, Shell Foundation Roberto Bissio, Coordinator, Social Watch

Nick Blazquez, Managing Director, Diageo Africa, Chairman, Private Investors for Africa

Jean Bossuyt, European Centre for Development Policy Management Aristotelis Bouratsis, Director, Thematic Operations,

EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission

Hélène Bourgade, Head of Unit, Social and Human Development and Migration, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission

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