



**Final Statement of the Structured Dialogue
Budapest, 19th of May 2011**

We, participants of the Structured Dialogue for an efficient partnership in development:

European and International Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): Development, Environmental, Human Rights Non Governmental Organisations, Trade Unions, Cooperative Enterprises, Chambers of Commerce, Youth Organizations, European Foundations including Political Foundations and the Red Cross,

Local and regional Authorities (LAs) from the European Union,

Representatives of Regional Seminars, Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Delegates from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Neighbourhood Region, East and South, regardless of the respective Countries' relations with the European Union,

Representatives of the Committee for Development of the European Parliament,

Representatives of the European Commission and European Union Delegations

and European Union Member States representatives, present in the Structured Dialogue

Recalling the European and international Policy frameworks and, among others, the Joint statement on the European Consensus on Development¹, the Communication of the Participation of Non-State Actors in EC Development Policy², the Communication on Local Authorities as Actors for Development³, the Council Resolution on Development Education and Awareness Raising⁴, the recommendations of the Court of Auditors Report on NSA involvement in EC Development Cooperation⁵; the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action⁶; and the global commitments for development to respect and promote Human Rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability.

Recognizing that the Structured Dialogue has been launched at the initiative of the European Commission to discuss the involvement of Civil Society organizations and Local Authorities in European development cooperation; and it has been conceived as a non-binding confidence and consensus-building process;

Valuing that the Structured Dialogue aims at increasing the effectiveness of all stakeholders involved in EU development cooperation so as to build mutual understanding, trust and common knowledge, in order to strengthen partnerships and explore ways to improve the European Commission and its main partners working methods and practices;

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/european_consensus_2005_en.pdf

² http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2002/com2002_0598en01.pdf

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0626:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁴ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/fr/01/st13/st13939.fr01.pdf>

⁵ <http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/2722293.PDF>

⁶ <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf>

Recognizing the commitment and dedication of the stakeholders of the Structured Dialogue during the year long process, namely, Civil Society and Local Authorities Organizations, the European Parliament, EU Member States, the European Commission and EU Delegations;

Acknowledging that, with seriousness of intents and high ambitions, for the first time a multifaceted diversity of Development actors gathered in the *Structured Dialogue* format to debate on the (i) role and added-value of CSO and LA in EU external cooperation, (ii) complementarity and coherence with the Aid Effectiveness Agenda and (iii) aid delivery mechanisms;

Emphasizing that outcomes are the result of a wide dialogue held at global level, in Europe and outside of European borders, with around 700 participants from the European Union and Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Neighbourhood region, specifically from 65 EU Partner Countries, with the proactive participation of 51 Delegations of the European Union;

Appreciating the Multistakeholder dimension of the Dialogue, built on inclusiveness, openness, transparency and trust

Acknowledging that the dialogue allowed all parties to:

- Elaborate a shared understanding of the specific roles, responsibilities, mandates, added value and synergies, of the variety of CSOs and LAs active in EU cooperation and explore the potential for an enhanced partnership among the different actors, between European CSOs and LAs and Partner Countries' CSOs and LAs, as well as within International networks;
- Identify ways to reconcile the main principles and requirements of the aid effectiveness agenda with a more strategic involvement of CSOs and LAs in EC cooperation, recognising the need for a balance between this approach and the right of initiative of CSOs, which is their right to develop and implement their own agenda.
- As for Donor support, identify and concretize alternative aid delivery mechanisms to respond to the specific needs of CSOs and LAs beyond the existing grant award system, including the simplification of the current selection mechanisms, in consideration of the significant number of applicants and low success rate of proposals received.

Appreciating the added value of the three Supporting Initiatives on Local Authorities in development, Development Education and Awareness Raising, and Human Rights and Democratization) and their high quality outcomes and specific recommendations;

Being aware that the Structured Dialogue should mark a fundamental step forward in the partnership nature of the relation between the European Union Institutions and CSO and LA from Europe and from Partner Countries;

Bearing in mind that this Declaration is an expression of a shared vision of all stakeholders

Declare

The firm commitment to cooperate for an efficient partnership in development, with full respect of each actor prerogatives, roles and mandates, taking stock of the knowledge acquired through this Multistakeholder dialogue;

Call upon all parties to

To take forward to the extent possible the recommendations elaborated in the concluding document, which constitutes the Appendix II to this very statement as a synthesis of debates, in particular:

Increase and continue all efforts to create the conditions conducive to an enabling environment allowing CSOs and LAs to operate effectively as development actors in their own right in, and as partners of, EU Development Cooperation;

Work for improved results in terms of in-country democratic ownership for development by strengthening civil society and local authorities' participation and enhancing the necessary policy space.

Deepen Partnerships and make full use of specific strengths of each actor and of their synergies from local to global levels;

To adapt methods and support mechanisms for cooperation, in-country as well as globally, to be more focused on the added value of the specific actors and based on a strengthened dialogue with the partners concerned, reinforcing multiple accountability.

Advocate for a more strategic inclusion of civil society and local authorities related issues in the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, and notably in the outcome document of the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, in line with articles 13 and 20 of the Accra Agenda for Action.

Advocate for the recognition of the significant role of CSOs and LAs in EU development cooperation as an outcome of the Structured Dialogue which should also be adequately reflected in the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework;

Acknowledge and explore ways to apply the specific recommendations elaborated in the supporting initiative on Democracy and Human Rights, on Local authorities in development;

Recognize the effort of the European Commission in adopting the recommendations of the Supporting Initiative for Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) and to ensure commitments in this regards.

Ensure the follow-up of the Structured Dialogue 2010-2011, and reinforce political Multi-stakeholder dialogue, broadening its scope to integrate other relevant Institutional and development actors, both in Europe and in Partner Countries;

Ask the European Commission to produce a progress report, elaborated with the participation of the stakeholders of the Structured Dialogue process;

The Concluding Paper annexed to this Statement specifies and further develops on the above mentioned recommendations.

- Appendix I:
List of Participating Organisations with names

- Appendix II:
Concluding paper and technical fiches