



6 December 2019

Dear EU Heads of State and Government,

Re. EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

We are writing to you in advance of the European Council on 12-13 December in order to present our **recommendations on Heading VI (Neighbourhood and the World) of the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**.

We are a group of civil society networks active in the fields of sustainable development, development finance, human rights, democracy, peacebuilding, social, environmental and climate justice and humanitarian aid. We are made up of hundreds of member organisations in your countries and supported by hundreds of thousands of people in Europe and elsewhere.

The next MFF should enable the EU to respond to the multiple challenges confronted by people and the planet, to deliver on the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to ensure that no one is left behind. The EU's contribution to addressing these global challenges is overwhelmingly supported by EU citizens, and should be further strengthened. We therefore urge you to ensure that **climate action, development cooperation, human development, human rights and democracy, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding continue to be prioritised under Heading VI**.

Almost 18 months after the European Commission published its proposal for the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), we are increasingly concerned that the Council of the EU has not yet adopted a position on whether the European Development Fund (EDF) and/or the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) should be included in it. We urge you to **reach an agreement on the structure of the proposed NDICI Regulation** so that it can be adopted in 2020 and the EU can continue to fulfil its role as a leading global actor beyond 1 January 2021.

In addition, as you discuss the MFF figures presented by the Finnish Presidency, we urge you to reconsider the following recommendations on Heading VI:

1. **Maintain the level of resources for Heading VI at no less than 10% of the overall MFF** and ensure that the integration of the EDF into the EU budget does not result in a decrease in funding for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries;
2. **Restate the EU's long-standing commitment to contribute 0.7% of GNI to official development assistance (ODA);**
3. **Update the commitment which was made in the February 2013 European Council regarding the amount of the external action heading to be classified as official development assistance (ODA) so that at least 95% of Heading VI is ODA.**

We encourage you to be bold and visionary to ensure the EU and its Member States deliver on citizens' expectations by translating policy commitments into action.

We hope that you will take our recommendations into account during your discussions on the next MFF and we look forward to continued engagement with you in 2020.

Yours sincerely,



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cc.

Mr Charles Michel, President of the European Council

Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Budget and Administration

Ms Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships

Mr Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management

Mr Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement



Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 160 member organisations from 35 European countries, representing over 1.700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.



CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development. With the support of our 57 members, our confederation, representing over 2,600 NGOs, is the main interlocutor with the EU institutions on development policy and international cooperation. Since 2003, CONCORD works towards a world where people enjoy their human rights.



Eurodad (the European Network on Debt and Development) is a network of 47 civil society organisations from 20 European countries. Eurodad works for transformative yet specific changes to global and European policies, institutions, rules and structures to ensure a democratically controlled, environmentally sustainable financial and economic system that works to eradicate poverty and ensure human rights for all.



Established in 2006, ENoP, the European Network of Political Foundations, independent actors in democracy promotion, development cooperation and political dialogue, brings together 53 member foundations and three affiliated entities, coming from 23 countries within the EU and serves a platform for these political foundations to exchange with the EU institutions, civil society organisations and research institutes about democracy support, development cooperation and political dialogue.



The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) is the independent civil society platform of European NGOs, networks of NGOs and think tanks which are committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict.

EPLO aims to influence the EU so that it promotes and implements measures which lead to sustainable peace between states and within states and peoples, and which transform and resolve conflicts non-violently.



The Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) is an informal grouping of NGOs operating at the EU level in the broader areas of human rights, democracy and peace. HRDN's vision is that human rights and democracy are placed at the heart of the EU's internal and external policy agenda. This vision should manifest itself in an EU which effectively protects human rights at home and is a force for positive change in the world.

In pursuit of this vision, HRDN aims to influence EU and EU Member States' human rights policies and the programming of their funding instruments to promote democracy, human rights and peace.



VOICE is the network of 85 European NGOs promoting principled and people-centred humanitarian aid. Collectively, VOICE aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the European Union and its Member States' humanitarian aid. The network promotes the added value of NGOs as key humanitarian actors.