Date xxxxx

Dear Minister of Finance for [insert country and name],

On behalf of [insert here name of national platform/organisation], we are writing to express our concerns regarding the EU budget 2018 negotiations, referring in particular to Heading 4 – Global Europe.

A strong EU development cooperation budget can help developing countries – and the international community – end extreme poverty by 2030. The EU’s ability to project leadership in global fora and exercise credibility in shaping sustainable development policy depends on maintaining the levels of EU external spending required to tackle long term challenges such as poverty, insecurity and climate change.

In proportion to other EU budget headings, Global Europe is one of the smallest in size, but one of the most visible in expressing European solidarity with people in poverty and crisis in the world. European citizens strongly support the EU’s humanitarian and development engagement outside Europe, which is regularly reflected in the Eurobarometer[[1]](#footnote-1). Despite crisis within Europe, 85 % of European citizens support development assistance (with 67 % even advocating for an increase) and 90% support the EU’s humanitarian aid engagement.

 **[insert name of national platform/organisation] calls on EU Member States to:**

1. **Signal strong EU ambition on development cooperation**
	* The EU needs an external aid budget fit for purpose. This EU Budget for 2018 is the last budget with contributions from all member states and which should signal the EU’s ability to meet its commitments and maintain its credibility to shape the Sustainable Development Agenda.
	* The EU has also reaffirmed its commitment to provide 0.7% of GNI on Official Development Assistance by 2030.[[2]](#footnote-2) EU Member States must therefore support a development cooperation budget in line with this ambition, rather than scaling back their commitment.

# Maintain global leadership on principled aid

* The reorientation of EU aid towards the neighbouring countries, via the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), is undermining the global approach of Heading 4. With the disproportional increase of aid via ENI the EU is retreating to a regional power status, undermining the ambition of the Global Strategy.
* The EU needs not only to be a global leader for development aid but also to continue to be a standard setter in ensuring that development aid focuses on poverty eradication, and that humanitarian aid goes impartiality where needs and suffering are greatest.
* The EU should support the role of development assistance in key sectors which benefit the poorest and most excluded, such as human development (health, education and social protection), food security and nutrition; and support to people suffering in crises.

**This means concretely that we are asking you to reverse the cuts proposed in the Council’s position by supporting the European Parliament’s modest proposal for Heading 4, *Global Europe*, which increases the funds for Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI), notably the allocations for human development (+ €12.5 mln), food security and nutrition (+ € 12.5 mln) and Humanitarian Aid (+ €38.1 mln), recognising that needs are greater than ever.**

We urge you to act on these recommendations in your negotiations on the EU’s 2018 budget, and would be happy to meet to discuss these proposals in detail.

Yours sincerely,

1. <http://ec.europa.eu/malta/news/2015/12.01.2015_eyd_eurobarometer_en.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the 3rd International Conference on Financing For Development, point 51. 13-16 July 2015 (http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\_Outcome.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)