

# Fighting inequalities & injustice

## The European NGOs' perspective

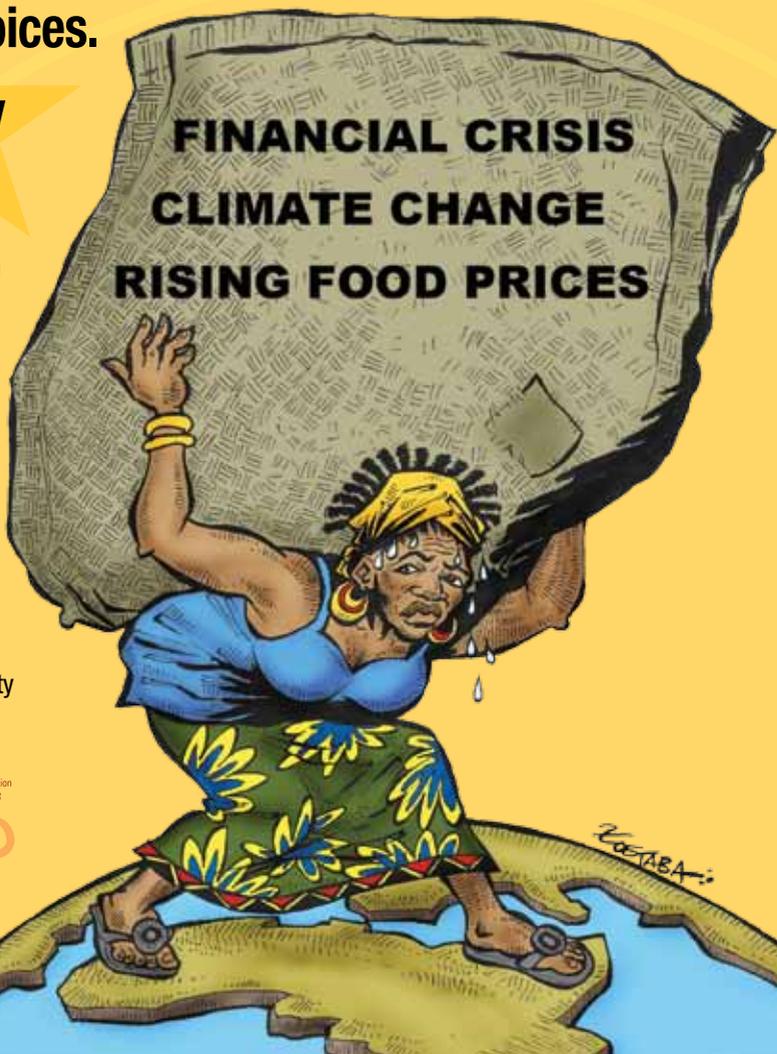
A sustainable European Union international development framework should support people. It should address the causes of poverty - inequalities and discrimination - by building an environment that is conducive to the realization of all human rights.

European Union Development policies are not supposed to pursue unilateral European interests. Legally, they are to support sustainable and human development in developing countries. This is even more crucial in an increasingly interdependent world.

### We have choices.

### Another way is possible

This new deal requires an honest implementation of the Lisbon Treaty's binding commitments to Policy Coherence for Development. It requires an ambitious and transparent political dialogue with partner countries. It requires the meaningful participation of citizens and Civil Society organisations.



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# EU responsibilities for a just and sustainable world

## Extract from “CONCORD Narrative on Development”

**Fighting inequality and discrimination:** The eradication of poverty is the main objective of EU development cooperation and policies. These are more than noble ambitions; the Lisbon Treaty provisions on development are binding and enforceable.

**Policy Coherence for Development:** All European policies should be coherent with development objectives, especially trade, energy, environment, migration, agriculture, fisheries and foreign policy. The President of the European Commission should be responsible and accountable to ensure Policy Coherence for Development.

**Pro-poor growth:** Economic growth alone does not reduce poverty and inequality. Pro-poor growth is based on decent job creation, functioning health services, universal access to education, a productive agriculture, and good governance. If inclusive growth is to be a foundation of EU Development policy then it must address how to make it inclusive rather than how to generate growth.

**Resources:** EU Member States need to adopt binding national legislation or action plans setting out how they will meet their promises to allocate 0.7 % GNP to ODA by 2015. Other resources must be delivered immediately such as financial transaction taxes or fast-start finance. An impact-driven versus disbursement-driven aid approach is needed as well.

**Food Security & Agriculture:** It is essential that the future Common Agricultural Policy regime promotes European food security and sustainable farming in a globally responsible manner and does not violate the right to food of the world's poorest. The growing global demand for food does not legitimise subsidising European exports.

**Gender & Human Rights:** All Development policy and programmes must begin from a Human Right Based Approach. Only by securing women's rights can the MDGs be met. All governments should respect, promote and fulfil these rights and empower poor communities to lead their own development efforts.

**Transparency and Accountability:** are two conditions for aid-effectiveness. Citizens, parliaments and populations have the right to know and to engage on decisions that impact on their lives.

**Political dialogue:** Global challenges and real cooperation can not be addressed without a genuine political dialogue on equal terms. Today, governance structures and agreements do not allow all actors to come to the table as equal partners.

**Support from citizens:** Any development process will only be sustainable and people driven with the strong support and engagement of local communities and citizens. Development education and awareness raising are key to achieve this ambition.

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CONCORD is the European confederation of relief and development NGOs (NGDOs). Its national associations and international networks represent over 1 600 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe. CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European institutions and other civil society organisations.