

*Federal Ministry for European
and International Affairs
Minoritenplatz 8
1010 Vienna*

Brussels, 24 August 2023

Subject: Ensuring a Global Gateway of Values

Dear Minister Schallenberg,

Ahead of the Informal Foreign Affairs Council (Development) meeting on 4-5 September, CONCORD and the Austrian Platform *Global Responsibility* would like to bring to your attention our concerns in the context of the Global Gateway strategy. We hope this contribution will strengthen the outcomes of your discussions.

The Global Gateway is currently dominating the EU's public communication about its international partnerships around the world. In its rapid evolution, the Global Gateway is now promoted as the EU's "values-based offer" to partner countries and as a means to strengthen European influence. A key vehicle for this will be to use Global Europe funds and Team Europe resources to mobilise private sector investment. While the European Commission's commitment to also implement the new inequality marker (I-Marker) in Global Gateway projects is very welcome, many dimensions of living up to European shared values require more attention if the Global Gateway is to truly represent a "values-based offer".

Global Gateway and ensuring its EU added-value: The European Commission has voiced its intention to align all Global Europe programmes with the Global Gateway in the ongoing mid-term review. We are concerned that this could mean that the EU intends to mobilise private sector involvement and blended finance for all cooperation programmes. However, as experience has shown over many years, there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach to cooperation, and especially not one that relies so heavily on the private sector. This would, in many cases, be detrimental to people and the planet, leading to inequitable provision of public goods and services, to unsustainable development and would most certainly leave people behind. Furthermore, it is not clear that Global Gateway initiatives will contribute to transformative change for women and girls in all their diversity, which is a key stated aim of the EU.

EU ODA is a finite and already scarce resource of added-value in international cooperation that needs to be used in the most effective and efficient way. We call on you to ensure that the roll-

out of Global Gateway focuses on infrastructure, energy and connectivity specifically as means to tackle inequalities and achieve the SDGs, and without reducing Global Europe engagement in partner countries to this strategy. The EU's added-value goes far beyond those sectors.

Strengthening CSO involvement: While CSOs have largely been excluded from reflections on the Global Gateway thus far, we hope that this will change with the establishment of a global CSO advisory platform. We count on you to support a meaningful dialogue with civil society on an equal footing with other stakeholders. However, we would like to flag two issues of crucial importance which remain unresolved:

- 1) in partner countries, civil society must be consulted and involved in the different projects throughout the project cycle. This is a key to ensuring relevance and impact for people and so that projects do not leave anyone behind. It is a task that requires effort, transparency and, in many cases, financial support from each EU Delegation.
- 2) the mix of implementation modalities chosen must enable civil society to be involved. Since the adoption of the Team Europe approach, the increasingly common choice of delegated implementation has meant that many CSOs do not feel they have access to the EU or its funds.

CSO involvement is critical to ensure that Global Gateway investments contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and to the reduction of inequalities. The EU must therefore commit to involving CSOs from local-to-global levels in Global Gateway implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

If the EU is truly committed to connecting people and places in a sustainable way - creating links and not dependencies - CONCORD and *Global Responsibility* urge you to ensure that the mobilisation of the private sector is not the first answer in all sectors and to reap the benefits of including civil society, especially in partner countries, in the implementation of Global Gateway.

We thank you for your attention and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how we can work together on these important matters.

Your sincerely,



Lukas Wank
Director, Global Responsibility



Tanya Cox
Director, CONCORD Europe

cc: Josep Borrell, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships

NATIONAL PLATFORMS	Global Responsibility European Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid	BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGIE CONCORD CNCB-HUMANITÄIT ACODEV	BPID Bulgarian Platform for International Development	Platforma za međunarodnu građansku solidarnost Hrvatske Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity CROSOL	FORS	GLOBAL FOCUS
AKÜ	fingo	COORDINATION SUD	VENRO ASSOCIATION OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOs	Hellenic Platform for Development	HAND	dóchas The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations
Network of NGOs in Europe for Inclusive & Territorial CONCORD ITALIA	LAPAS Latinian Platform for Development Cooperation	Cercle de coopération des ONGD DU LUXEMBOURG	SKOP Solidarjetät u Koperazjzoni	PAR TOS	ZAGRANICA	ONGD PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA
FOND Fondus Organized in Representative and Decisive in Europe	Ambrela Platform for Development Organisations	SLOGA Slovenian Global Action	LA COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES PARA EL DESARROLLO	C&NCORD SWEDEN	bond	NETWORKS
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CIDSE together for global justice	euCORD European Confederation of NGOs for Human and Development	GNDR	Habitat for Humanity	handicap international humanity inclusion	IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network	LIGHT FOR THE WORLD
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