

Prioritizing children at the Financing for Development conference

Addis Ababa July 2015

Introduction

An advocacy event involving representatives from the EU institutions, EU Member States, the European Parliament and child-focused agencies took place in Brussels on June 25th hosted by World Vision and Child Fund Alliance. The purpose of the event was to call on the EU and the international community to make clear commitments to investing in children at the Financing for Development (FfD) conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015, when the main Means of Implementation for the new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework will be agreed.

Speakers at the event included **MEP Linda McAvan**, *Chair of the EP's Committee on Development*, **Lila Peters** *Director of UNICEF's Brussels office*, **Stine Bosse**, *member of the UN Millennium Development Goal Advocacy Group*, **Deirdre de Burca**, *Director of Advocacy, World Vision Brussels*, **Helen Gonnord**, *the European External Action Service's Human Rights and Democracy Division*, **Chantal Marijnissen**, *European Commission DG DEVCO "Aid and Development Effectiveness and Financing"*, **Līga Andersone**, *Latvia EU Presidency and CODEV Chair* and **Ester Asin**, *Director of Save the Children EU Office*.



Summary of recommendations from child-focused organizations present:

- i. The means of implementation for the SDGs to be agreed at the FfD conference must deliver for children globally.
- ii. The EU should use its influence at the FfD conference to mobilize international support for an SDG agenda that prioritizes children’s protection from violence and exploitation globally and that promotes their survival and development
- iii. A global partnership to protect children from all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse, should be supported as part of the new global sustainable development agenda.
- iv. A new social compact should inform the means of implementation for SDGs, with an emphasis on inclusive policies and access to essential social services for all children.
- v. The EU 2013 Recommendation on “Investing in Children” could serve as an important standard for a universal, rights-based approach to social investment in children everywhere.
- vi. The needs of children in fragile, conflict affected and post-conflict states must be prioritized if the promise of the new SDG framework to “leave no-one behind” is to become a reality.
- vii. EU Member States should allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to official development assistance *at the latest* by 2020.
- viii. The EU needs to ensure proper resourcing and Implementation of its recently published “EU Action Plan on Democracy and Human Rights” in order to achieve its objective of supporting partner countries to implement and further strengthen child protection systems.
- ix. Robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms must be agreed at the FfD conference in order to allow meaningful review and follow-up of SDG commitments relating to children.
- x. The means of implementation for the SDGs that are agreed at the FfD conference must ensure greater consistency between internal and external EU action with respect to promoting children’s rights, protection and well-being.

