



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

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# Petersberg Communiqué on European Development Policy



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# Petersberg Communiqué on European Development Policy

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the European Union, representatives of the Member States of the European Union and the European Commission met at the Petersberg near Bonn. They recalled the objectives, values and principles of **European development policy** outlined below and declared the following:

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## 1. Objectives and values

Based on the “European Consensus on Development” (2005) the primary and overarching objective of EU development cooperation is the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In this endeavour, **European development policy** operates on the basis of democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principle of equality and the principle of solidarity. The EU reaffirms that development is a central goal in itself; and that sustainable development includes good governance, human rights and political, economic, social and environmental aspects.

With these objectives, **European development policy**, as a policy area in its own right, is one element of a wider set of EU external actions, all of which should be coherent and take account of the objectives of development cooperation. In many regions of the world, it has become a defining component of wider European external relations.

## 2. Human rights as a fundamental component

Human rights are both the prerequisite for and the goal of sustainable development. We reaffirm the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the UN's human rights covenants and declarations, particularly its Declaration on the Right to Development, and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The realisation of human rights in developing countries is a key factor in decisions on the form and volume of **European development cooperation**.

## 3. Gender equality

**European development policy** affirms the equal rights of men and women. True gender equality and the active involvement of both men and women in social progress are fundamental to poverty reduction. Gender equality must be mainstreamed across all aspects of **European development policy**.

## 4. Children – our future

Children are the most vulnerable members of society and therefore need the most protection and most assistance. Reducing child mortality is therefore one of **European development policy's** foremost responsibilities. Basic health care and protection against preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS are other key tasks.

One of the keys to sustainable development is the provision of wide-ranging support for education in our partner countries. Through its development policy, Europe is supporting both primary education and vocational training. Particular attention is devoted to girls' education.

## 5. Peace and security as a vital prerequisite

Sustainable development will not be possible without lasting peace, and vice versa. EU action for development uses civilian means to support the peaceful resolution of armed conflicts and prevent new violent conflict through support for peace negotiations, demobilisation, demilitarisation and reintegration and support for security sector reform. It is also our aim to control European arms exports and to help limit the proliferation of weapons in areas of conflict in general. Further steps will be taken through **European development policy** to counter the illicit spread of small arms and light weapons and their ammunitions.

## 6. Ownership and governance

**European development policy** is geared towards the needs and performance of our partner countries. By providing extensive support for democratic governance, it is making an active contribution towards strengthening effective and transparent public financial management and predictable and responsible government action in Europe's partner countries. In this way, we are encouraging our partners to mobilise their own resources for development and assume ownership of and accountability for their own development. Key aspects in this are the participation of civil society and respect for the role of the parliament.

## 7. More aid and better aid

Europe reaffirms its objective of implementing the Monterrey decisions and the decisions on increasing Official Development Assistance and improving aid effectiveness. In addition to this, we reaffirm the Member States' pledge to increase their development assistance to a total of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2015 and to collectively achieve the interim goal of 0.56 per cent by 2010. The Member States that joined the Union after 2002 will endeavour to achieve an ODA level of 0.17 per cent of GNI by 2010 and 0.33 per cent by 2015. In total, 50 per cent of Europe's additional ODA funding is to benefit sub-Saharan Africa. Additional budgetary funding, further debt relief and innovative sources of finance will make a major contribution to achieving Europe's ODA timetable.

The European Union has made a strong commitment to implement the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. Coordination of **European development policy** as a whole will be improved so as to further increase the effectiveness of Europe's development assistance. The EU will strive for harmonisation and a better division of labour. In addition to projects and programmes, increasing use will be made of direct budget support so as to keep down transaction costs for our partners.

## 8. Environment as the foundation, energy and climate change as major challenges

A healthy environment is the foundation of human life. No one can survive for long without clean water and healthy food. That is why **European development policy** is at the forefront of global efforts to achieve sustainable economic activity. Through its development policy, Europe is helping developing countries to implement multilateral environmental agreements and is supporting pro-poor environmental initiatives. It affirms its determination to campaign for a sustainable energy policy and to take effective measures to counter climate change. It also advocates a more integrated international environmental governance structure.

## 9. Addressing the root causes of migration

Migration issues are a central element in the EU's relations with a broad range of third countries, including, in particular, the regions neighbouring the Union, namely the eastern, south eastern and Mediterranean regions. Through **European development policy**, the positive effects of migration are reinforced and we shall continue to strive to make migration a positive factor for development. **European development policy** is making an important contribution to addressing the root causes of migration and to ensuring that men and women in the partner countries do not have to leave their home countries for economic reasons.

## 10. Decent work as the first step out of poverty

Decent work is the first step out of poverty. That is why **European development policy** supports the internationally agreed agenda on decent work for all, i.e. the worldwide implementation of core labour standards, the creation of more employment that generates an adequate income, the realisation of social protection and the facilitation of social dialogue between the main partners within a common strategic framework.

## 11. Trade and development

Trade is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for economic growth and poverty eradication. **European development policy** is campaigning for improved market access for developing countries, the elimination of export subsidies and the reduction of the market-distorting support payments provided by the state in industrialised countries. These efforts take the interests of more vulnerable countries into account and seek to achieve an open, fair and properly regulated multi-lateral trade regime. In this context, voluntary social and ecological initiatives, such as Fair Trade, can be an important instrument in sustainable development and poverty reduction. The partner countries, for their part, should ensure that public revenue from international trade, particularly in commodities, is used for development purposes. **European development policy** is therefore engaged in ensuring that the Economic Partnership Agreements between the ACP partners and the EU are pro-development.

## 12. Culture, knowledge and development

Culture actively reflects processes of change in our societies. A strong cultural identity is an asset for a society in its collective investment in a chosen future. **European development policy** can help to reinforce those cultural identities which promote diversity, cultural exchange and peace-building values.

Reflecting the gradual emergence of knowledge-based economies on a global scale, European development policy likewise addresses a shared and broad-based access to information which benefits all. **European development policy** will also support the increased use of information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide.

## 13. The European model – regional integration and multilateralism

Europe used to be a continent of war. Through the sustained process of European integration, the European Union has become Europe's most successful project for peace of all time. Europe's development over the last 50 years shows that regional associations can achieve political and economic success for the benefit of the people and that the future lies in regional and global multilateralism.

Through its development policy, and based on its own positive experience, Europe is therefore lending the developing countries particular support in the process of regional integration.

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