

2016-11

FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

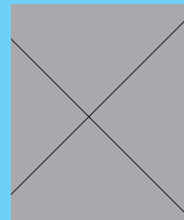


In a letter dated 2 June 2016 the Prime Minister referred the issue of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the COP 21 commitments in France's international development and cooperation policy to the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC).

In 2015, there were three landmark world summits held on the global agenda for development: the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis-Ababa, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York and the COP 21 in Paris. The adoption of the new global sustainable development agenda in New York and the Paris Agreement are historic achievements by their dimension and, amid global inequality, crises and conflicts, they pave the way for all nations worldwide to fall into step in their efforts to progress towards a development model where economic growth would

be inseparable from social cohesion and environmental protection.

In this context, France must adopt a strategy for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and commitments of the Paris Agreement, which requires it to re-examine and, where necessary, adapt the priorities of its international cooperation policy decided back in 2013 during the last Interministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development (CICID) and enshrined in the July 2014 Framework and Planning Act on the International Solidarity and Development Policy (LOPDSI).



Philippe Jahshan

is President of Coordination Sud and the Mouvement associatif and a member of the Associations Group.

At the ESEC he sits on the Section for European and International Affairs where he represents the Associations Group.

Contact:

philippe.jahshan@lecese.fr
+33 (0)1 44 43 64 04

THE ESEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS

➤ Make a fully-fledged political project of sustainable development

- draw up a national strategy for implementing the sustainable development agenda which ensures consistency across the national public policy spectrum;
- reposition the General Commission for Sustainable Development under the Prime Minister's authority;
- ensure the progress of this strategy is reported on to the ESEC;
- reach a national consensus on a cooperation policy for sustainable development;
- place citizens at the heart of sustainable development concerns;
- call on municipalities, *départements* and regions to encourage community involvement and public debate on the SDGs and the climate;
- support the action of associations, particularly at local level;
- encourage broad-scale implementation of sustainable development advocacy initiatives.

➤ Guarantee an indivisible, universal agenda which binds the parties

- adopt a cross-cutting, territorial and multisectoral approach to cooperation programmes and policies;
- put an end to the North-South paradigm;
- support a relationship based on the exchange of cultures, know-how and expertise between all nations, between the North and South, between local areas and non-state actors;

- call for all nations to commit to drawing up national strategies for implementing the agenda and to carry out a public review of them at regular intervals;
- ensure France's commitment in the matter and the public review of its strategy before Parliament and the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI).

Strengthen political coordination and streamline the institutional architecture of international cooperation

- set up an official ministry responsible for sustainable development cooperation;
- assign this ministry a strong remit (cross-government coordination reporting to the Prime Minister, sole supervision over France's national institution working for development, the AFD, nomination of French representatives in multilateral bodies, monitoring of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) mission);
- make the annual CICID meetings, as stipulated by the LOPDSI, effective;
- promote a systemic integration of sustainable development priorities in all AFD projects;
- build capacity to associate urgent projects with development projects;
- take advantage of the partnership between the AFD and Caisse des dépôts et consignations (CDC) to increase innovation, mutual expertise and engineering exchange programmes between partner countries;
- ensure the accountability of the development assistance and cooperation policy by improving assessment;
- revise the indicators of the LOPDSI to tailor them to the 2030 Agenda;
- make the Observatory for the Development and International Solidarity Policy operational;
- step up Southern countries' statistical means.

Equip ODA with appropriate resources in light of the sustainable development priorities

- shift the balance of ODA in favour of donations;
- shore up the development cooperation policy with budget planning;
- honour the promise to achieve 0.7% of GNI for ODA by 2022.

Find a solution to the tricky issue of how to finance international development

- increase the fiscal resources of developing countries;
- lend developing countries a hand with strengthening or setting up reliable and fair fiscal governance;
- scale up the international fight against tax avoidance;
- firmly clamp down on corruption and misappropriation of funds;
- raise the profile of innovative financing;
- encourage effective cooperation between ODA recipients and providers on the issue of the private financialisation of development assistance.

Support the non-governmental development assistance stakeholders

- involve civil society organisations and local authorities more closely in implementing the cooperation policy, and highlight the value of their contributions further;
- increase the share of ODA channelling through civil society to reach the average of OECD countries in this respect;
- support the structuring of civil society organisations, particularly unions, in Southern countries;
- highlight the value that migrations make to development;
- boost research for development;
- encourage closer ties between research institutes, the AFD, the CDC and civil society organisations;
- allow Overseas territories to play a greater part in French cooperation policy;
- enable businesses to become properly involved in sustainable development;
- introduce CSR criteria in all public procurement opportunities and make access to public funds conditional upon their fulfilment;
- develop the capacity of public stakeholders to manage public-private partnerships and involve civil society in such partnerships.

Fine-tune France's geographic priorities

- develop a partnership agenda with the new emerging and middle-income countries by tapping into the strengths of the French social model;
- shore up a specific, priority agenda for the least developed countries and countries in crisis, by more effectively coordinating humanitarian aid and development assistance instruments;
- back up immediate crisis management with long-term cooperation policies.