

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY POLICY GUIDANCE AND PLANNING BILL

The government has submitted to the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC), for their opinion, the international development and solidarity policy guidance and planning Bill. Our assembly welcomes this Bill that it had wished for, which is in line with the conclusions of its members on international development and solidarity, and with the specifications of the post-2015 international development agenda. By equipping itself for the first time with a planning law and thus opening up a real debate on national representation, France shows its willingness and ambition to include its policies in a new dynamic and to give more stability and visibility to its actions on the national and international stage.

### OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF FRENCH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY POLICY

The ESEC endorses the general objectives of the aid policy for the development of France: promoting sustainable development; combating extreme poverty and reducing inequalities; defending fundamental freedoms; respect for the principles and international standards relating to human rights, development and the environment.

However, it would have more explicitly placed emphasis on:

- **the importance of the defence of human, civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms;**
- **the need for a definition of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as the environmental and social responsibility of businesses and organisations;**
- **the role of humanitarian aid as a major component of international solidarity.**

ESEC approves both selected transversal priorities:

- **the involvement of women as principal stakeholders in development;**
- **the fight against climate change**

However, ESEC would favor a genuine hierarchy of intervention sectors organised around two major axes:

- **the fight to eradicate poverty through combating hunger by consolidating small scale farming and peasant food production, the strengthening of actions in the areas of health, social security and education;**
- **support the economic advancement of poor countries, in particular by focusing on infrastructure, strengthening the role of SME-SMIs, social and economic solidarity and an acceleration of the market towards a green and inclusive economy.**

*The actions of France, in this area as in others, fit into a context that has deeply changed with an increase in interdependence between States and the emergence of new powers and new global challenges, such as the scarcity of natural resources, climate change...*



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## THE COHERENCE OF SECTORAL POLICIES IN FRANCE

The search for greater coherence is a constant concern of the ESEC. Accordingly, it would like to emphasise:

- At the international level, a reevaluation of the role of the WHO, FAO and the ILO and the creation of a world environmental organisation;
- At the European level, the search for greater cohesion in the context of the “European Consensus on Development” between the actions of the EU and its Member States and between various EU policies;
- At the national level, the possibility for the newly created National Council of International Development and Solidarity (CNDSI) to comment on and propose revisions for all policies created by France that are likely to affect the development of southern countries.

## EFFECTIVENESS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF FRENCH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY POLICY

The ESEC acknowledges importance afforded to the principles of transparency and accountability of aid. However, it notes the inconsistency of France’s actions in this area. Also, it calls for:

- Greater traceability of aid at all stages of the process of allocating funds;
- Enhanced measures against corruption and tax evasion;
- A renewed system of annual aid assessment based on a series of established indicators on the basis of consultation with the CNDSI.

*The ESEC emphasises the need to move towards a greater traceability of aid. Improvement of the efficiency of the administration and institutions must be at the heart of France’s contractual relationship with recipient countries.*

## THE “MAJOR INSTRUMENTS” OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY POLICY

As the representative assembly of organised civil society, the ESEC wishes to focus its comments on:

- The need to offer more support to trade unions’ solidarity actions on the themes of social dialogue, decent work and social security...
- The indisputable effectiveness of multi-stakeholder alliances formed by companies, cooperatives, agricultural organisations, local metropolitan and overseas territorial authorities, universities;
- The lack of predictability of the budget allocations to NGOs and the insufficient certainty surrounding the tax arrangements for private donations.

## FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

If the report annexed to the Bill insists on private and innovative sources for funding development, it does not include any reference to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget. The ESEC calls attention to:

- son approbation à la mise en place de ressources additionnelles selon des modalités garantissant its approval of the introduction of additional resources in accordance with procedures ensuring the transparency of the collection and use of funds;
- Nevertheless, the non-substitutability of these resources for private funding for the ODA;
- the maintenance of the objective of 0.7% of the GNI as a cap to tend towards according to a progressive and realistic trajectory based on budgetary shifts.

*Public aid for development of France represented 0.46% of the GNI in 2011, while it had reached 0.50% of the GNI in 2010, and it had therefore seemed possible to approach the European intermediate target of 0.51%.*