



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2014/2017(INI)

3.3.2014

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the recommendation to the Council on the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly
(2014/2017(INI))

Rapporteur: Kriton Arsenis

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

Post-2015 development agenda

1. To recognise that significant and substantial progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – including halving the number of people without sustainable access to improved sources of drinking water, reducing significantly the proportion of urban slum dwellers, obtaining remarkable gains in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis and visible improvements in all health areas as well as in the access to primary education; to deplore, however, the fact that most African countries are off-track in meeting the MDGs;
2. To highlight the fact that the global efforts towards the achievement of MDGs should be strengthened during the remaining time before the 2015 deadline and focused on areas where the process is lagging behind the most;
3. To emphasise that special focus needs to be directed towards the needs of the least developed countries and of conflict and post-conflict countries, as a lack of peace and security remains one of the main obstacles to sustainable development, and one and a half billion people live in such vulnerable countries which have not met a single MDG;
4. To work towards making the process of seeking to achieve the post-2015 goals as inclusive as possible in order to ensure ownership of these goals by developing countries; to urge the international community to create an enabling and participatory environment in which parliaments, civil society organisations and local authorities are able to assume their policy-making, monitoring and implementation roles;
5. To ensure that poverty eradication remains a priority in the new single and integrated framework, along with the fight against inequality and the promotion of sustainable development; to make sure that other human development indicators besides income are taken into account in the definition of poverty, given that poverty involves many forms of deprivation in people's lives, covering spheres such as access to education and health care, energy, employment, food and housing; to point out that an appropriate mix of clear quantitative and qualitative indicators is necessary to monitor the sustainability and inclusiveness of the development process;
6. To pursue a human rights-based approach and ensure that human rights in their universality will be at the core of the post-2015 framework;
7. To stress that food is not merely a commodity and that access to food is a universal human right, and to underline the UNGA's responsibility to contribute to global food security by allowing and supporting developing countries to increase and diversify their own production, with an emphasis on small-scale, environmentally sustainable and organic farming and on the free use of local seed varieties, in order to become more food-secure and meet demand on their local markets; to call, in this connection, for increased efforts to

combat land-grabbing practices by international corporations and to secure respect for the right to land of local populations and indigenous peoples;

8. To call for stricter land planning which, in addition to improving access to food and markets, especially for forest communities, maintains or increases the proportion of land covered by forest and protects road-free areas, is in full compliance with UN conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), especially the REDD+ programme, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with a focus on the Aichi targets;
9. To underline that policy coherence for development is an essential principle to be followed in post-2015 framework, paying particular attention to the possible conflicts between development policies, on the one hand, and agriculture, fisheries and energy policies, and international trade and investment agreements, on the other, with particular emphasis on the investor-state dispute settlement clause that threatens to lock countries into low regulatory frameworks;
10. To promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women as a stand-alone goal; to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed across all future development goals, ensuring sector-specific attention and gender-disaggregated data collection;
11. To call on the members of UNGA to make full transparency of corporate reporting and the combating of corruption, money laundering, tax havens, illicit financial flows and harmful tax structures an overriding priority in the agendas of international finance and development institutions;
12. To stress that development gains will not be sustainable without good governance and accountable and democratic institutions and the rule of law; to ensure, therefore, that a clear commitment to democratic governance is reflected in the new framework;

Financing for development

13. To make sure that new ambitious goals will be backed up by equally ambitious and innovative development financing; to emphasise that financing related to climate change and access to sustainable energy should not come at the expense of a commitment to spend 0.7 % of GNI on ODA, including 0.15 % to 0.20 % for the least developed countries, but should be additional to it; to work towards aid efficiency and better donor coordination; to take a leading role in ensuring that the financial sector contributes, for instance through the financial transaction tax, to the achievement of the new global goals;

Environmental sustainability

14. To point out that global challenges remain and are expected to increase, and that climate change and environmental degradation threaten to reverse the progress made in achieving the MDGs; to point out also that particular attention needs to be directed towards climate change mitigation and adaptation and towards disaster risk reduction and resilience, with the focus being on the poorest and most marginalised people in the post-2015 agenda; to stress that investing in disaster risk reduction measures in advance of disasters is far more cost-effective than funding disaster response;

15. To agree, before the UNGA session, on a 50 % reduction target for EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, which is fully consistent with the objective of limiting global warming to 2°C and with the EU's target to reduce its emissions by 95 % compared to 1990 levels by 2050, thus enabling the EU to exercise leadership in combating climate change at international level; to use the opportunity provided by the UNGA session to call on other important emitters of greenhouse gases to radically cut their emissions and on all countries to help minimise global emissions, respecting the 2°C objective as well as humanitarian and development rights and needs;
16. To recall the commitment made by the developed countries at COP16 in Cancún (2010) to provide USD 100 billion in 'new and additional' financing annually by 2020, in order to address climate change needs in developing countries; to point out that this funding should ensure a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation;
17. To draw attention to the potential adverse effects of biofuel production on food security and on the land rights of local populations and of indigenous peoples; to demonstrate a strong EU commitment to the prevention of such effects and only to use efficient and socially responsible means in the pursuit of greenhouse gas emission reduction.

Peace and security

18. To work towards a ceasefire and towards stopping the bloodshed in Syria; to try to achieve respect for humanitarian principles; to make every effort to gain access to the affected population in Syria which, according to estimates, will amount to nearly three quarters of the country's 22 million people in 2014; to ensure that the removal, transfer and destruction of chemical weapons found in Syria is done in a fully transparent manner that is respectful of the environmental regulations in place, and that the operation will not result in any effluents, chemicals or by-products being released into the air or sea;
19. To condemn the attacks on aid workers and assets, the interference in relief activities and the large-scale looting of supplies that has taken place in South Sudan and that severely hamper efforts to reach civilian populations in need;
20. To condemn the dangers faced by humanitarian workers in the Central African Republic, and the widespread violations of human rights taking place in that country;

The EU at the UN

21. To continue the fruitful cooperation in support of multilateralism and global governance, and to highlight the importance of the strategic partnership between EU and UNDP, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in February 2014;
22. To spread awareness that 2015 will be declared the European Year for Development, which will create an unprecedented momentum for raising public knowledge in Europe about the global challenges and the importance of the new development goals to be agreed upon.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.3.2014
Result of final vote	+: 10 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Véronique De Keyser, Eva Joly, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Michèle Striffler, Ivo Vajgl
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Kriton Arsenis, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Isabella Lövin, Csaba Óry, Judith Sargentini