

## European development aid in the post-2015 period

The development aid provided as part of the Millennium Objectives has led to significant progress in terms of reducing poverty and infant mortality, as well as in health, education and access to drinking water. However, much still remains to be done: in 2015, 40% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is still living in extreme poverty, and crises and wars can result only too quickly in existing gains being lost.

Sustainable development objectives have just been adopted by the United Nations after consultations with a million people. They maintain the course already taken, but also have a much broader ambition: to ensure decent living conditions for all of humanity. The number of objectives has increased from eight to 17 and they now include measures to combat inequality and create an environment of peace and justice. Environmental concerns are also an integral part of development policy: droughts, hurricanes and floods brought on by climate change may drive millions of people back into poverty.

As the world's main development-aid donor, the European Union made 15 billion euros available in 2014, i.e. 60% of global public aid, through its programmes implemented within the UN framework, and made 2015 European Development Year. This initiative will be concluded under the presidency of Luxembourg, one of only four countries in Europe to exceed the objective of contributing 0.7% of GNI to development. This objective, which was set in 1970, should be achieved in 2015. The European Commissioner for Development thus called upon the Member States to increase their contributions, despite the financial difficulties with which they may themselves be faced. The European Parliament echoed the call by reiterating the commitment by developed countries to increase the value of their measures to combat climate change to 100 billion dollars by 2020, in accordance with the United Nations framework agreement (COP 15) adopted in Copenhagen in 2009.

Development aid for the post-2015 period is more ambitious, as it will have to face new challenges in a more complex world:

- ensuring consistency between development-aid policy and other policies in areas such as agriculture, energy, the environment and migration, which will be major issues in the years to come;
- nurturing partnerships between a greater number of more varied development stakeholders: these include not only traditional stakeholders such as the United Nations and EU Member States, but also emerging countries and Foundations. Building a solid global partnership that involves beneficiary countries and civil society is one of several keys to success in this area;
- the issue of funding, the subject of last July's Addis Ababa conference, concerns not only the amount and form of public aid (i.e. grants, loans and new taxes) but also the capacity to raise funds from private

sources and the development of beneficiary countries' resources, whether in the form of fiscal resources or income derived from exploiting natural resources;

- the issue of measurement: reliable and readily accessible statistical data are essential for devising appropriate development policies and reacting to health crises such as the Ebola epidemic: 61% of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa do not have sufficient data to monitor changes in poverty levels.

These challenges are well known and have been clearly identified by the United Nations and the EU institutions (the Commission, the Council and the Parliament). The objective of this first round table is now to identify the responses being proposed for the next 15 years.