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# DRAFTING PLANNING LAW ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL INEQUALITIES

On 29 January 2020, the ESEC was asked by the government to examine the draft planning law on inclusive development and the fight against global inequalities. This referral follows on from previous work on this subject, in particular a 2013 opinion on the draft guidance and planning law on development and international solidarity policy, and a 2016 opinion on French international cooperation policy under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

An examination of the bill reveals significant progress compared to the previous guidance and planning law, which is due firstly to the inclusion of a significant planning component, with financial objectives up to 2022, as well as the incorporation of France's inclusive development policy into the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, and an unprecedented effort to ensure accountability and evaluate Official Development Assistance (ODA). Progress has also been made in terms

of local governance, with the creation of local development councils with the ambassadors.

The ESEC is primarily concerned that the body of the text does not contain any article framing the main objectives, priorities and principles of international solidarity policy as currently proposed, and reaffirming its autonomy within French foreign policy. It is disappointed that the goal of allocating 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI), which France has adhered to since 2015, is subject to the adoption of a new law after 2022. Finally, it believes that the political and strategic management of France's ODA could be made more effective, and that the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) and citizens in this policy could be strengthened to good effect.

## THE ESEC'S PROPOSALS

### STRENGTHENING THE STRATEGIC COHERENCE OF FRENCH POLICY ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL INEQUALITIES

- **In the first article, reiterate the major objectives, priorities and principles of French policy on inclusive development and the fight against poverty and global inequalities, in order to reaffirm its autonomy within French foreign policy.**
- **Better prioritise and articulate French ODA objectives:**
  - distinguish between cross-cutting priorities (climate change, human rights, gender equality) and sectoral priorities, while incorporating them into the framework established by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda;

### non-final text



#### Marie Trelleu-Kane

is a member of the ESEC in charge of Social and Regional Cohesion and Community Life. She is a member of the European and International Affairs Section, the Sustainable Regional Development Section and the Delegation for Forward Planning and Public Policy Evaluation, where she represents the Associations Group.

#### Contact:

marie.trelleu-kane@lecese.fr  
01 44 43 64 04



#### Olivier Mugnier

is a member of the ESEC in charge of Social and Regional Cohesion and Community Life. He is a member of the European and International Affairs Section, the Social Affairs and Health Section and the Overseas Delegation, where he represents the Cooperation Group.

#### Contact:

olivier.mugnier@lecese.fr  
01 44 43 64 16

### Non-final version

- increase to 85% the proportion of annual commitments made by the French Development Agency (AFD) for which gender is a main or significant objective;
  - include the objective of supporting decent work and freedom of association, as well as developing local civil societies, in the priority related to the strengthening of local democracies and governance;
  - regarding education, give special emphasis to the rights of the child, girls' education, the social and professional integration of young people, and information regarding access to sexual and reproductive rights;
  - ensure that the inclusion of ODA beneficiary countries in world trade is accompanied by support for local sustainable development, particularly for VSEs and SMEs, both through bilateral aid and through the forthcoming agreement between the European Union and the ACP States.
- **Specify the geographic and sectoral priorities of France's cooperation with Mediterranean countries and middle-income or emerging countries, and increase the proportion of commitments benefiting the least developed countries to at least 0.15% of GNI by 2022.**

## **BOLSTERING THE PROGRESS MADE IN TERMS OF BUDGET TRAJECTORY AND ODA ASSESSMENT**

### ➤ **Strengthen the budget trajectory of French ODA:**

- clearly state in the bill France's objective of devoting 0.7% of GNI to ODA by 2025 at the latest;
- raise the revenue cap in the solidarity tax on airline tickets and the tax on financial transactions earmarked for ODA, and allocate part of the future GAFA tax to finance it;
- double the percentage of ODA channelled through CSOs over the period 2020-2022 and strengthen the legal framework for their right of initiative on ODA eligible projects.

### ➤ **Improve ODA transparency and accountability tools:**

- establish an ODA results framework that includes impact indicators linked to the SDGs, and ensure that ODA assessment relies on a diverse range of public and private expertise and includes the views of actors, particularly non-state actors, in the relevant countries;
- add the appropriate section of the ESEC as one of the bodies to which the relevant ministers will report annually on the progress of French policy on inclusive development and the fight against global inequalities;
- in the presentation on the budget trajectory, clarify the proportion of bilateral and multilateral ODA relating to grants and subsidies, debt relief, loans and other tools, and include an accounting of the funding allocated by priority country.

## **IMPROVING ODA GOVERNANCE BY STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

### ➤ **Improve ODA governance to make it more effective:**

- strengthen the powers of the Minister for Development so that he or she has sole supervision over the AFD, full authority over the ODA mission and increased interministerial coordination capacities;
- merge the National Development Council and the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) and require a mandatory meeting of the CICID at least once a year, preceded by a meeting of the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI);
- include a representative of the Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition on the boards of the AFD and Expertise France, and at least three representatives of non-state development actors;
- systematically include representatives of non-state development actors and local civil society on Local Development Councils.

### ➤ **Strengthen the role of civil society and citizens in the management, implementation and evaluation of French ODA:**

- supplement the membership of the CNDSI by including representatives of overseas municipalities and youth movements, and make this council a recipient of the annual evaluation report on inclusive development policy;
- involve the organised diaspora more in the management and evaluation of ODA, and give greater recognition and support to diasporas involved in the development of their countries of origin (reduced transfer fees, tax exemptions for donations, etc.);
- include in the bill France's commitment to develop civic service programmes alongside international solidarity volunteering, and to support those involved in development and international solidarity education, both in partner countries and in France.