

The commitment of regions before the 2022 Effective Development Cooperation Summit

The 6th High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation takes place in a complex context, with multiple crises, democratic setbacks and new risks for the cohesion of our societies. With human development indexes reverting, and in the face of serious and urgent needs, it becomes more necessary than ever to coordinate international action and organize the efforts of the large development community, in order to safeguard progress against the global challenges we face.

Regional governments have actively followed the international debate on effectiveness and participated constructively in the work of the Global Partnership. In our opinion, the principles of ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability remain valid in this fragmented and complex scenario. Therefore, regions assume the following commitments with the firm intention of contributing to consolidate and further the process and results of the Global Partnership.

1. Convinced of the validity and relevance of development cooperation effectiveness, we commit ourselves to continue disseminating and promoting its principles among our regions, as well as fostering their integration in the planning, monitoring and evaluation cycles of cooperation policies and regional development. The regional governments and their networks, represented by ORU-Fogar, are also renewing their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We will continue to promote regional SDG plans, as well as monitoring reports, that are aligned with national and local priorities and that can be the basis of international cooperation. We will also continue to support exchange, mutual learning and knowledge creation on the SDGs and development cooperation, and on how to better integrate the principles and results of sustainable development into public policies.

2. Regional authorities have stimulated national development dialogues, a fundamental instrument for aligning objectives, priorities and resources across the different levels of governance, and promoting communication and mutual trust. We will continue to do so, with inclusive processes that allow the participation of a greater number of territorial actors, including the Local Economic Development (LED) methodology. Specifically, we will strive to ensure that development cooperation and the resources it mobilizes are a catalyst for an inclusive and multilevel policy dialogue, and not a factor of competition between administrations or fragmentation of priorities.

3. The building of technical capacities, often based on a horizontal, peer exchange, is one of the distinguishing features of decentralized cooperation. It is a completely relevant modality in the present context, which is marked by the existence of common challenges and the need to learn together and build joint solutions. Regions are committed to giving a new impulse to the creation of technical capacities by identifying larger projects, and partnering with new agents and alliances that can provide our actions with greater scope. Specifically, we will make an effort to connect with national, international and European Union initiatives and programmes, joining forces to expertise of regional public administrations.

4. The fight against poverty, which has been the focus of our efforts for many years and on which we thought we had made considerable progress, is today once again an urgent priority. In our territories and cities we clearly see how factors of difficulty and exclusion intersect with each

other to create multiplies inequalities, and threaten to exclude an increasingly important part of our populations from opportunities and prosperity. We commit ourselves to promoting regional development strategies that are explicitly oriented towards combating poverty and exclusion, and incorporate localized, gender-disaggregated indicators to leave none behind.

5. Regions recognize the need to improve the availability, capacities and infrastructures for data generation, in order to improve the public policy cycle, monitoring and accountability. We commit ourselves to vigorously introduce this objective in our decentralized cooperation priorities, and endeavour to improve the granularity of the data, its level of disaggregation and its orientation to social and territorial specificities, and to do so in collaboration with national and international statistics agencies. Together with partners such as Platforma – the confederation of European decentralized cooperation agents – we shall continue our efforts to improve the information available on the resources allocated to cooperation by of regional and local public budgets, and the creation of platforms and digital instruments that allow easy and reliable appropriation, by decentralized agents, of their spending on ODA.

6. Finally, we commit to renew our participation in the Global Alliance space and to actively take part in national monitoring exercises. We will continue to generate analysis allowing us to better assess the behavior of the regional level in relation to the principles of effectiveness, and to provide guidelines to improve the performance of regional development cooperation based on the evidence obtained. We also undertake to follow up on the commitments contained in this declaration.