



P R E S S R E L E A S E

EUROPEAN UNION PROVIDES 1.6 MILLION EURO TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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The European Union (EU) has provided 216 million Vatu (1.6 mill Euro) to the Government of Vanuatu to integrate better civil society in the process. The intervention will be carried out through a project in support to Non State Actors and Community Based Organizations in Vanuatu.

Both the Government of Vanuatu and the Commissioner for Development of the European Union express their satisfaction that this EU funding will increase the efforts of the Government of Vanuatu to implement its Priorities and Action Agenda 2006-2015. This intervention comes after extensive consultation which has involved both government's officials and representatives from civil society organizations.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the successful achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in Vanuatu through promoting the effective participation of civil society in the development process. The project will particularly contribute to the achievement of MDG 3 (promote gender equality) and 7 (ensure environment sustainability, and in particular sub-MDG on water and sanitation).

The main results expected from the project "Support to Non-State Actors (NSA) and Community-Based Organizations (CBO) in Vanuatu" are the strengthening of the capacity of NSA and CBO to implement projects and therefore assume an increasingly important role in the development of the country, to promote visibility and their voice in the national dialogue and consultations, while integrating the important challenges of sustainable development and climate changes.