

UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Public Consultation on revising the European Consensus on Development

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

(1) Introduction

The year 2015 was a strategic milestone for global governance, poverty eradication and sustainable development. It marked the target date of the UN Millennium Development Goals and a point to reflect on the progress made to date and the challenges ahead in addressing their unfinished business. 2015 also saw a series of landmark international summits and conferences over the course of the year (the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the COP 21 [Paris Agreement](#) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) which have collectively re-cast the way the international community, including the EU, will work to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication for many years.

Importantly, and in contrast to the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda, including its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, is a universal Agenda which applies to all countries. It reflects many core European values and interests and provides an international framework for tackling global challenges such as climate change. The EU response to the 2030 Agenda is moving ahead in a range of ways:

- Firstly, as part of EU efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, the [Commission Work Programme for 2016](#) announces an initiative on the next steps for a sustainable European future which will explain how the EU contributes to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and map out the internal and external aspects of EU policies contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Secondly, the High Representative will present the [EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy](#) that is expected to steer the different EU external policies contributing to the global vision of a more stable, prosperous and secure world. It should set out the strategic direction for the full range of EU external action, and as such will help guide EU implementation of the 2030 Agenda in external action.
- Thirdly, the EU will review its development cooperation policy. Existing leading policy documents (including the [2005 European Consensus on Development](#) and the [2011 Agenda for Change](#)) are currently framed around the Millennium Development Goals and need to adapt to incorporate the 2030 Agenda. Given its direct relevance to the EU's overall relations with developing countries, this review will be carried out in full consistency with the ongoing work on the future of the partnership between the EU and the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, under a post-[Cotonou](#) framework.

Views from this consultation will be used to inform the way forward on the initiatives above and in particular the revision of the European Consensus on Development and other external aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation. The consultation seeks your views on **how development policy, in the context of EU external action as foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty**, should respond to the range of landmark 2015 summits and conferences, and also to the rapid changes happening in the world.

Replies can include views which could apply only to the EU institutions and also to both the EU and its Member States – it would be helpful to clarify this in your response. This open public consultation will run for 12 weeks from 30 May 2016 to 21 August 2016. A brief summary and analysis of all consultation contributions will be published by November 2016 and all individual contributions will also be made available on the consultation website (unless respondents ask for their contributions not to be published).

(2) Information on respondents

- * 2.1 Received contributions may be published on the Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Please state your preference with regard to the publication of your contribution.

Please note that regardless of the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under [Regulation 1049/2001](#) on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In such cases, the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable [data protection rules](#).

- ☐ I do not agree that my contribution will be published at all
- ☐ My contribution may be published but should be kept anonymous; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication
- ☒ My contribution may be published under the name indicated; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication

- * 2.2 Are you registered in the EU's Transparency Register?

Please note: Organisations, networks, platforms or self-employed individuals engaged in activities aimed at influencing the EU decision making process are expected to register in the transparency Register. During the analysis of replies to a consultation, contributions from respondents who choose not to register will be treated as individual contributions (unless the contributors are recognised as representative stakeholders through Treaty provisions, European Social Dialogue, Art. 154-155 TFEU).

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

- * 2.2.1 If yes, what is your registration number?

FERN587363040

- * 2.3 Name (entity or individual in their personal capacity)

Fern

2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

- ☐ Government institution / Public administration
- ☐ University / Academic organisation
- ☒ Civil society (including Non-Governmental Organisation, specialised policy organisation, think tank)
- ☐ International organisation
- ☐ Private sector or private company
- ☐ Citizen/private individual
- ☐ Other

2.6 Please specify

Fern's mission is to achieve greater environmental and social justice, focusing on forests and forest peoples' rights in the policies and practices of the European Union

* 2.7 What is your place of residence (if you are answering as a private individual) or where are the headquarters of your organisation situated (if you are answering on behalf of an organisation)?

- ☒ In one of the 28 EU Member States
- ☐ Other

2.8 Please specify

Legal Status and Classification: Dutch Foundation
Year Founded: 1995
Main Office Locations: Moreton in Marsh, United Kingdom; Brussels, Belgium

(3) Context: why a change is needed

The EU and its Member States are determined to implement the 2030 Agenda through internal and external actions as well as contribute to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, given the strong interlinkages. In this context, our policies, should take into account changing global conditions and trends, to ensure that they remain fit-for-purpose across the time-horizon to 2030.

The global landscape has changed significantly compared to the time of adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. While much has been achieved, with more than one billion people having been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, great challenges remain and new ones are emerging. At global level, more than 800 million people still live on less than USD 1.25 a day. The world is witnessing multiple conflicts and security tensions, complex humanitarian and global health crises, deteriorations of human rights, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, urbanisation and migration. Migration flows across the world will continue to have important impacts, and present both a risk and an opportunity. The EU needs to address global security challenges, including tackling the root causes of conflict and instability and countering violent extremism. Climate change can continue to amplify problems and can severely undermine progress. Important changes include demographic trends, a new distribution of wealth and power between and within countries, the continuing globalisation of economies and value chains, an evolving geography of poverty and a proliferation of actors working on development. Projections also suggest important challenges are ahead (for example, continuing unprecedented urbanisation, and other demographic challenges including ageing societies for some and the potential for a demographic dividend for others). Continued attention will be given to a democratic, stable and prosperous neighbourhood. A revision to EU development policy should take into account these trends (including anticipating those that will remain central in future) whilst retaining a core focus on eradicating poverty and finishing the job started by the Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, the EU Consensus needs also to adapt to the Lisbon Treaty, which provides for all external action policies to work within the frameworks and pursue the principles of objectives of Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union. In particular, coherence between the different parts of EU external action and between external and internal policies is crucial.

The EU will need to address these new global challenges, many of which require coordinated policy action at the national, regional and global levels. The 2030 Agenda provides a framework which can guide us in doing so.

3.1 There is a range of key global trends (e.g. changing geography and depth of poverty; challenges related to climate change, political, economic, social, demographic, security, environmental or technological) which will influence the future of development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Which of these do you think is the most important?

Environmental challenges, climate change and unequal distribution of resources are key global trends that need to be addressed. The future of development will first and foremost be determined by the planetary limitations and how people respond to these limitations. To date people have acted as if the earth is an infinite source of resources, commodities, and a dumping space for unwanted products and pollutants including greenhouse gases (GHG). Unless planetary limits are being recognized and consumption is restricted to sustainable levels – including reducing fossil fuel emissions to zero by 2035 – there will not be much chance for development. Agenda 2030 specifies that ‘we are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet’. It must be recognized that to free the human race from poverty requires a more equal sharing of resources; to heal the planet climate change needs to be mitigated and biodiversity levels increased. In that light it should be recognized that:

- (1) the world produces currently enough food to feed all and that by far most of this food is being produced by small local farmers;
- (2) climate change is likely to dramatically change food production patterns with the main negative impact being felt by small local farmers in developing countries, creating more inequality and probably resulting in less food production; and
- (3) life on the planet in general will be unrecognizable to the world of today and not conducive to development, unless we reduce GHG emissions to zero by 2035 in the developed world; halting deforestation and restoring ecosystems (forests and oceans specifically) to increase their carbon absorption capacity is imperative.

3.2 How should EU policies, and development policy in particular, better harness the opportunities and minimise the negative aspects of the trend you identified in the previous question?

EU policies should be judged on their impact on both the environment and specifically the climate (and hence forests and oceans specifically), and on small farmers and local communities. Recognition of customary tenure rights of local communities and farmers is a pre-requisite for equitable development.

Concerning climate :

The Paris Agreement states (Article 4.1) “In order to achieve the long term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to

undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty". To limit warming to below 1.5° or 2°C temperature rise we must stay within tight carbon budgets. There is roughly only 200 GtCO₂ left in our budget, meaning we cannot emit more than 200 GtCO₂ and still aim for a maximum temperature rise of 1.5°C rise. This means GHG emissions must be reduced to zero as fast as possible. Even a reduction of ten per cent of GHG emissions per year in energy sectors in developed countries would give us only a 33 per cent chance to stay below 2o. This scale of ambition is not foreseen in any published mitigation scenarios, and highlights the EU target of 40 per cent emission reduction by 2030 as grossly inadequate. Hence, all EU policies, including development policies, should be scrutinized on whether they meet these targets. Without that the planet becomes unlivable for the poorest and hence development is not really possible

With only 200 GtCO₂ left until the global carbon budget for 1.5°C is blown, it is highly likely that there will be a need to increase removals of CO₂ from the atmosphere to limit warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C. This should be done through halting deforestation and forest degradation, restoring degraded forests, and reforesting previously deforested land. These actions would go some way to restoring historically depleted land carbon stocks. EU development policies should therefore contribute to halting deforestation and restoring ecosystems. This can and should go hand in hand with recognition of local peoples' customary tenure rights and development models that are based on recognition of customary systems.

Forests and land do not offset fossil fuel emissions. Plants, trees and soils remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, but this does not offset the release of CO₂ when fossil fuels are burnt. Increasing carbon sequestration in plants, trees and soils repays the land carbon debt accumulated from historical land use change. Enhanced carbon sequestration repays the land carbon debt, and does not compensate on-going emissions. To mitigate climate change we must reduce emissions from the fossil fuel and the land sector, not offset one against the other. No EU policies should therefore allow for offsetting emissions and all should reduce emissions.

Concerning farmers' and communities' tenure rights:

As noted by many studies the empowerment of local peoples and recognition of their customary rights has powerful social, economic, and environmental impacts. Evidence also shows that to reduce deforestation, demand-side measures need to go hand in hand with systemic national governance and tenure reforms to tackle land-based emissions at scale, reducing poverty and sustaining healthy ecosystems. A recent study by the World Resources Institute showed that community-owned and managed forests not only have superior community benefits but also greater carbon storage.

Despite overwhelming academic evidence, the connection between strengthening

Indigenous Peoples and local communities' forest rights, poverty reduction and mitigating climate change is rarely made. It is important for both poverty and climate angles that EU policies, and the EU development policy in particular, articulate efforts to reduce poverty and mitigate climate change with measures to empower communities.

(4) Priorities for our future action: what we need to do

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require sustained EU efforts to promote a more just world, including a strong focus on the need to address gender equality and women's empowerment. Peace, inclusiveness, equality and good governance including democracy, accountability, rule of law, human rights and non-discrimination will need particular emphasis. The 2030 Agenda also requires recognition of the close interconnectedness between poverty, social issues, economic transformation, climate change and environmental issues.

To achieve poverty eradication, EU development policy will need to take into account key demographic and environmental trends, including challenges related to climate change, and concentrate effort on least developed countries and fragile states. The EU will also need to strengthen our approach to fragility and conflict, fostering resilience and security (as an increasing proportion of the world's poor are expected to live in fragile and conflict affected states) and to protect global public goods and to maintain our resource base as the prerequisite for sustainable growth. Peace and security, including security sector reform, will have to be addressed also through our development policy, as will the risks and opportunities related to migration flows. Tackling social and economic inequalities (both within and between countries) is a crucial element of the 2030 Agenda as is addressing environmental degradation and climate change. Job creation will be an important challenge in which the private sector has to play an active role. Finishing the job of the Millennium Development Goals requires identifying and reaching those people throughout the world who are still not benefitting from progress to ensure that no one is left behind.

To achieve lasting results, EU development policy will need to foster transformation and promote inclusive and sustainable growth. Drivers of inclusive sustainable growth, such as human development, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and healthy and resilient oceans should be an important part of our efforts to implement the new Agenda as will efforts aimed at tackling hunger and under-nutrition. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require a multi-dimensional, integrated approach to human development. Implementation will also require us to address vectors of change, such as sustainable urban development and relevant use of information and communication technology. Our development policy will have to engage and identify new ways of partnering with the business in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, industrialisation and innovation. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will also require cooperation with partner countries and regions on science, technology and innovation. In all aspects of our external action, the EU will need to ensure that our approaches, including development cooperation, are conducive to achieving the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals and that the EU intensifies efforts to promote pursue coherence between our policies and our internal and external action.

4.1 How can the EU better address the links between achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and addressing other global sustainable development challenges?

The Paris Agreement is legally binding and is rooted in Nationally-Determined Contributions that are then integrated in an international framework. The SDGs are aspirational and need to be translated in national policies and actions. Many of the SDGs are aligned with the NDCs and the NDCs themselves contribute to some of the SDGs. The EU has a role in connecting the dots through its political dialogue with developing countries and the development policy. It is important that the EU supports creating 'virtuous' and concrete feedback loops between these two frameworks by ensuring that they are coherent, consistent and continuously speak to one another. In particular, the EU must ensure the implementation of the agreements after the conferences and propose concrete measures increasing the interlinkage and coherence of relevant EU policies, enabling Europe to contribute to the attainment of global environmental and development objectives. Subsequently:

- The EU should assist developing countries to develop long-term sustained strategies in all sectors in order to identify their capacity and financing needs, and work across sectors. These long-term strategies should embrace decarbonisation and zero deforestation with countries setting concrete deadlines.
- The EU should ensure that participation and transparency are central elements in implementing, monitoring and evaluating both at the global and national level. A voluntary and state-led monitoring approach is not sufficient in order to ensure the set objectives are reached. Appropriate mechanisms are needed to ensure EU and national commitments are reached.
- The EU should include NGOs, CSOs and local communities in the design (where possible), implementation (monitoring, reporting and evaluation) of specific objectives on which they are experts.
- The EU should ensure that developing countries have access to finance, and ensure that support in terms of finance, and capacity building is provided to them and local CSOs, to facilitate the implementation and achievement of the SDGs and climate objectives. There is a need to make policymakers in developing countries climate-sensitive and to look at the local community rights dimension to climate change and that funding from the EU genuinely contributes to climate commitments and the SDGs.

4.2 How should the EU strengthen the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its internal and external policies, and in particular in its development policy?

Adherence to a human rights based approach and policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) should be at the heart of the new consensus for development to ensure a balanced integration of all dimensions of sustainable development.

The Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action plan is a good example of initiatives that use these mechanisms. Adopted by the EU in 2003 to fight illegal logging, the plan is a blend of demand- and supply-side measures with both a development and a trade dimension. It uses market incentives to improve forest governance and law enforcement in timber producer countries. Development aid plays a complementary role by supporting local actors in reaching its objectives. The measures covered by the FLEGT Action Plan, and in particular the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), have played a significant role in reducing illegal logging and empowering civil society organisations and forest communities in a number of tropical forested countries, enabling them to take a greater role in national policy processes.

Forests cover 30 per cent of the earth's land surface and more than 1.6 billion people globally depend on forests indirectly . It is therefore key that EU action to end poverty focuses on halting deforestation, but also ensuring that aid and trade policies are based on respect for local communities' tenure rights and pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies.

The EU should strengthen and build on the FLEGT Action Plan, and especially its two central planks, the VPAs and the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). The EU should also consider developing an instrument like the EUTR for other illegal forest risk commodities and undertaking bilateral agreements with partner countries to support the legal and sustainable production of forest risk commodities.

4.3 What are the main changes you would like to see in the EU's development policy framework?

Against the background of a fast-changing multi-polar world and the turmoil of recent events, we expect a new consensus for development which is ambitious, visionary and truly transformative. "People", including vulnerable groups such as forest communities as well as "planetary boundaries" should be at the heart the new consensus for development.

First, it is important that the new consensus for development affirms that development is about challenging power imbalance and weak governance. Tackling poverty and the inequality gap means addressing the root causes and the power and the politics that keep people poor, vulnerable and unequal. Improving governance of development cooperation means more effective participation of civil society actors in political processes that affect their lives and well-being. Decisions made through participatory processes enjoy more ownership by people affected by them and are therefore more sustainable. The benefits of a participatory process are illustrated by the successes booked by civil society participation in the national FLEGT VPA processes . Political and financial support for independent civil society is required to empower critical voices that can provoke change. This includes more support and protection of human rights defenders and environmental activists working on forest and land governance issues.

In this era where the EU seems to have lost connection with citizens, the SDG agenda offers an opportunity to develop a real and effective contract between institutions, governments and citizens. Connecting people requires an appealing and inclusive approach and investment in dialogue also with southern actors.

Second, the new consensus should fully integrate the EU's Rights Based Approach (RBA) encompassing all Human Rights and reiterating explicitly its key principles of transparency, accountability and participation. The fulfillment of human rights is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. The human rights impacts of operations of businesses and development finance instruments such as DFIs need specific attention. International human rights law should be more instrumental to re-frame international development cooperation.

Third, the EU needs to move beyond the vision of inexorable GDP growth as the only engine for development, by supporting alternative and inclusive development models that recognize planetary boundaries and cater for future generations.

4.4 In which areas highlighted above would you expect to see greater consistency between development policy and other areas of the EU external action in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

We expect greater consistency between development, trade, agriculture and climate policies that have an impact forests and forest peoples' rights. These policies should aim at ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns and contribute to halting deforestation, strengthening production by smallholders and ensuring food security and community rights. The current EU consumption of commodities such as palm oil, beef and leather, cocoa and timber leads to deforestation and negative economic and social impacts on local communities. As deforestation is driven by EU consumption the EU has a role to lead on an effective strategy to address the drivers of deforestation. The EU should strengthen and build on the FLEGT Action plan to develop ambitious policy measures such as a regulatory and legally binding framework to ensure that all supply chains feeding the EU market are sustainable and free from deforestation and forest degradation.

The EU should also enhance targeted financial and technical assistance to producer countries to protect, maintain and restore forest ecosystems, uphold forest peoples' rights alongside policy measures to reduce food waste and overconsumption.

The EU and its member states should also avoid funding projects that drive deforestation while EU donors spend millions of Euros halting deforestation. This kind of contradictions needs to be addressed .

Ensuring all Member States and the EU have procurement policies that favour legal, sustainable and deforestation-free products should be a key element to meet the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

This will reinforce the EU's position as a leader on sustainable development and the implementation of the SDGs, as well as demonstrating the EU's added value on global issues that EU citizens care about and which Member States cannot address individually.

4.5 In which areas does the EU have greatest value-added as a development partner (e.g. which aspects of its development policy, dialogue or implementation arrangements or in which category of countries)?

While emerging economies are increasingly taking centre stage, the EU remains a global leader on aid and trade. As such, the EU has access to the key centers of power worldwide. The EU's network of delegations and presence of Member States all over the globe are instrumental for pro-active strategic development diplomacy. The EU does not need to reinvent the wheel. Lessons learned from decades of development cooperation and the existing policy instruments, action plans (such as the FLEGT Action plan to combat illegal logging) and approaches (such as policy coherence for development and human rights based approach) provide valuable ground which the EU can draw from.

The four areas where the EU has significant added value are:

1. The fight against illegal logging: With the development of a Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action plan in 2003 the EU has shown leadership in the fight against illegal logging. FLEGT is a mix of demand and supply side measures to halt harvesting and trade of illegal timber. Evidence shows that Voluntary Partnership agreements (VPAs) have contributed to the improved forest governance (increased participation of civil society, improved transparency, increased security of community rights,...). By addressing the root causes of governance failure the VPAs are a vector for development. The VPA model is a source of inspiration for other areas and commodities.

2. Universal Human rights including rights of forest communities and indigenous people: The promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and rule of law worldwide is one of the foundations of the EU. Sustainable peace, development and prosperity cannot exist without respect for human rights. This commitment underpins all internal and external policies of the EU . The European Charter of fundamental rights, the Action Plan on human rights and the EU's Rights Based Approach (RBA) endorse the EU's human rights commitments and guide all development policies, initiatives and programmes. Development cooperation contributes to meet the EU's human rights commitments. The EU has a role to guide MS to respect and protect human right in the light of the SDG agenda. Particular attention needs to go to business and human rights.

3. Climate change: As one of the world's biggest polluters, the EU has a responsibility to lead on the Paris agreement commitment and support partners to undertake collective action to address human-made climate change.

4. Category of countries: the EU has a role in supporting fragile states and neighbouring countries or countries that share historic ties

4.6 How can the EU refine its development policy to better address inequalities – including gender inequality – in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

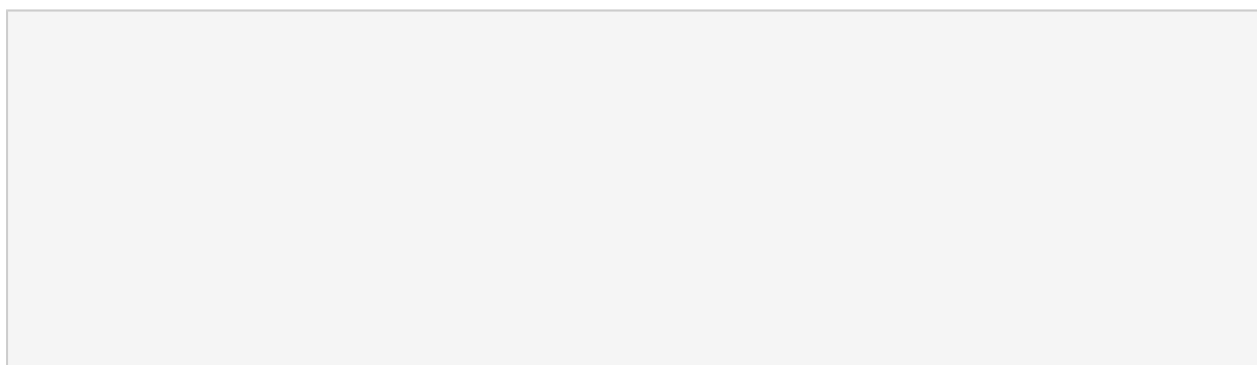
4.7 How can the EU development policy make a stronger contribution to the security of people? How can EU development policy contribute to addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility and contribute to security and resilience in all the countries where we work?

The New Consensus for Development, to be designed in the spirit to leave no one behind, should prioritise the recognition and securing legal rights of the most vulnerable people. Forest communities and indigenous people are often marginalized as their rights (customary and collective rights) are seldom recognized nor secured. This is increasingly leading to social unrest and violence. Recognising and securing rights empowers people, closes the inequality gap and contributes to justice and development.

In many developing countries, land disputes cause conflict and social strife. Tackling the root causes of these conflict means improving land governance and clarifying who the land belongs to. Securing land and forest rights of communities requires investment in mapping, monitoring how rights are respected in practice and complaint and redress mechanisms in case things go wrong. Forest and land deals are often not done in a transparent way. Publishing the contracts, update an open access data base presenting an overview of all land deals and contracts worldwide could contribute considerably to improved governance and subsequently minimise conflicts.

Improved governance through increased transparency, accountability, participation and ownership are key for conflict prevention, management and resolution. This should receive sufficient attention in the New Consensus for development.

4.8 How can a revised Consensus on Development better harness the opportunities presented by migration, minimise the negative aspects of irregular migration on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and better address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement?



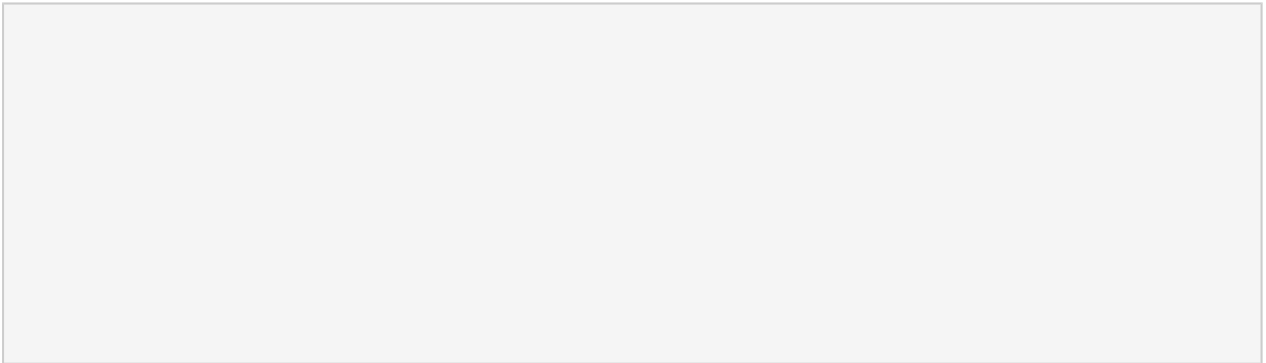
(5) Means of implementation: how do we get there?

The principle of universality underpinning the 2030 Agenda will require a differentiated approach to engagement with countries at all levels of development. Official Development Assistance will continue to play an important role in the overall financing mix for those countries most in need (particularly the Least Developed Countries). The EU and its Member States should continue to progress towards achieving their commitments. However, in all countries our development cooperation will need to take account of other sources of finance, including by leveraging other (non-Official Development Assistance) sources of finance for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The delivery of the 2030 Agenda means that our work helping countries raise their own resources (domestic resource mobilisation), the provision of aid for trade, blending* and partnering with the private sector should be priority areas of focus. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, provides a framework for our efforts, including for our work supporting the right enabling policy environment for sustainable development in our partner countries. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should be closely coordinated given the strong interlinkages. Engagement with middle income countries, notably the emerging economies, will be important to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, considering the role they can play in promoting global public goods, what they can achieve within their respective countries on poverty eradication and sustainable development, and the example they can set within their regions as well as their role in regional processes. Here differentiated partnerships can play an important role (examples include different forms of political, economic, and financial investment as well as cooperation in science, technology and innovation). Specific attention and focus should also be given to Least Developed Countries, as acknowledged by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The EU's implementation of the 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity for enhancing consistency between the different areas of the EU's external action and between these and other EU policies (as outlined in the Lisbon Treaty and in [EU's Comprehensive Approach to external conflict and crises](#)). The EU will continue to pursue [Policy Coherence for Development](#) as a key contribution to the collective effort towards broader policy coherence for sustainable development. In our external action, the EU needs to consider how we can use all policies, tools, instruments at our disposal coherently in line with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda.

* Combining EU grants with loans or with equity from other public and private financiers with a view to leveraging additional resources.

5.1 How can EU policies, and EU development policy in particular, help to mobilise and maximise the impact of the increasing variety of sustainable development finance, including in particular from the private sector?



5.2 Given the evolving availability of other sources of finance and bearing in mind the EU's commitments on Official Development Assistance (e.g. [Council Conclusions from 26 May 2015 on "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015"](#), and inter alia, paragraphs 32 and 33), how and where should the EU use its Official Development Assistance strategically and to maximise its impact?

The EU should use its development assistance to mitigate climate change and empower local farmers and communities. The EU has been a leading player in attempts to reduce deforestation. The FLEGT programme rightly argues for a focus on improving forest governance and recognition of tenure rights to tackle illegal and unsustainable logging practices, and is supporting a wide range of innovative projects to that end.

The EU is the largest driver of deforestation, often illegally. Hence the EU should aim to tackle the drivers of deforestation, including the agricultural sector. In seeking to address commodity production and supply chains, instead of programmes reliant on highly uncertain forest carbon crediting and trading, the EU would show global leadership.

We propose that adequate support goes to a mixture of regulatory demand-side measures and measures that stimulate local community-based small and medium forest enterprises. Crucially, effective approaches to tackling deforestation have been shown to work when they involve an inclusive multi-stakeholder process which involves the private sector, government and civil society in identifying and tackling drivers of deforestation.

Available evidence indicates that large scale industrial logging and agricultural concessions have not contributed to poverty reduction and have increased carbon emissions not reduced them. In contrast, there is much evidence demonstrating that small holder farming and agro-forestry schemes – embedded within a diverse landscape supporting multiple land uses and providing multiple environmental and livelihood services – contribute to

reducing emissions and poverty .

To be effective the EU should channel its ODA to (1) support locally controlled community-based private enterprises and local livelihood systems, for which (2) secure tenure and user rights are preconditions, and (3) regulate supply chains for commodities such as palm oil and soya in order to minimise negative impact of EU consumption of forest and agricultural products.

One of the EU's objectives should be to encourage better smallholder production of forest and agricultural commodities and maintaining diverse and sustainable landscapes. Research indicates that the three enabling conditions for locally controlled forestry and agricultural practices are (1) accessible commercial rights to land and forest, including secure tenure rights (2) enterprise-orientated social organisation and (3) infusion of business skills.

We, therefore, believe that the EU must give emphasis to channelling funds to 'enabling investments' which promote these conditions, as well as support advocacy for pro-community enterprise, formal recognition and registration of community rights and capacity development. This will help create an enabling environment for investment by the private sector. In many forestry situations, such private sector investment is possible only if preceded by public investment. The EU should thus build innovative public-private partnerships which demonstrate how investment in strengthening local rights and increasing capacity for enterprise can achieve the sustainable management of forests and reduce emissions and poverty.

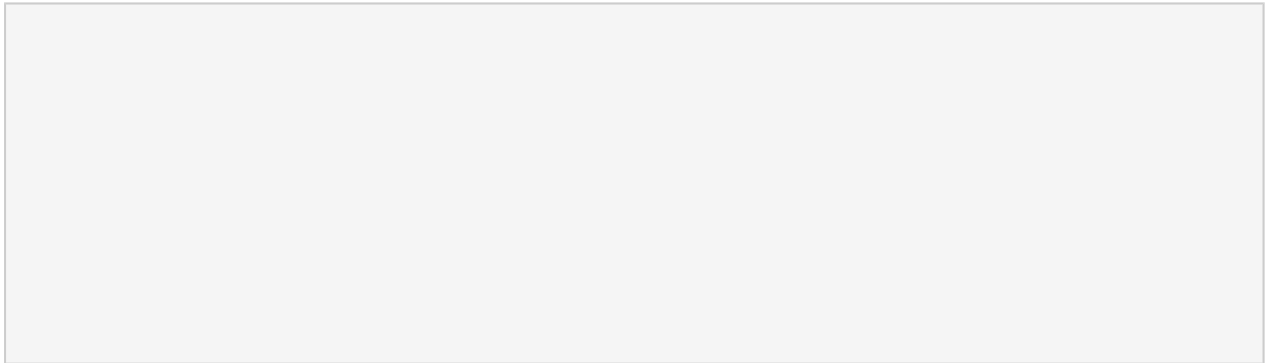
5.3 How can the EU better support partner countries in mobilising their own resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development?

Developing countries that are well endowed with natural resources should use their revenues to reduce poverty and inequalities, provide essential social services, and create employment but many of them have mismanaged their natural resource revenues so far and suffer from the so called 'resource curse'.

The EU should assist developing countries to build robust oversight bodies to tackle rent-seeking and corruption, and strengthen national institutions in charge of revenue collection, saving and investment. The EU should support initiatives at EU and global level that improve transparency and accountability in natural resource management such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the VPAs.

The EU should also assist developing countries to invest in increasing human and physical capital in the domestic economy rather than in foreign investment funds and promoting inclusive and pro-poor development models that are more sustainable, inclusive and rights oriented (e.g. agro-forestry, small scale farming, etc.).

5.4 Given the importance of middle income countries to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, what form could differentiated partnerships take?



5.5 Given experience so far in taking into account the objectives of development cooperation in the implementation of EU policies which are likely to affect developing countries (e.g. [Policy Coherence for Development: 2015 EU Report](#)), how should the EU step up its efforts to achieve Policy Coherence for Development, as a key contribution to the collective effort towards policy coherence for sustainable development? How can we help ensure that policies in developing countries, and internationally contribute coherently to sustainable development priorities?

Policy coherence for development should be supported at a higher political level involving a wide range of stakeholders: Commissioners, Member States and Heads of Cooperation in EU Delegations, but also Heads of Government and Heads of Delegations. During a workshop organised by the European Parliament on policy coherence for development: the challenge of sustainability in April 2016, it was suggested to devote a European Council solely to Policy Coherence for Development and instituting an annual meeting to familiarise Heads of Delegations into the concept of policy coherence for development . Then, the EU should develop a stronger monitoring and evaluation system of its policy coherence for development. External impacts assessments should be conducted with the participation of civil society organisations both from the EU and from the global south. Increased participation of CSOs from partner countries would enable the EU to have a reality check on the ground of its policy coherence for sustainable development.

The different services of the Commission should also work in closer collaboration - DGs work too often in silos - and coordinate their efforts to achieve the different dimensions of sustainable development. Such coordination mechanisms should be implemented already at the policy development stage.

Policy coherence for development should also be pursued by the EU at international level through multilateral and bilateral dialogues. The achievement of the sustainable development goals should be a core issue of all political, trade and cooperation dialogues led by the EU with third countries. A particular attention should be paid to the strengthening of dialogue with emerging development actors such as China and India.

(6) The actors: making it work together

An important feature of the new Agenda is that all governments, developed and developing, will need to work with a wide range of stakeholders (including the private sector, civil society and research institutions) to improve the transparency and inclusivity of decision-making, planning, service delivery, and monitoring and to ensure synergy and complementarity.

The EU must continue to work collaboratively with others and contribute to a coordinated approach. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda puts national plans for implementation (including associated financing and policy frameworks) at the centre. To maximise our impact, EU development policy should be based on a strategic and comprehensive strategy for each country, which also responds to the country-specific context.

Our partner countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda will inform our overall engagement and our development cooperation dialogue with them and will help shape our support for their national efforts. The EU should also help partner countries put in place the necessary enabling policy frameworks to eradicate poverty, tackle sustainable development challenges and enhance their policy coherence.

There is a need for a renewed emphasis on the quality of development cooperation, including existing commitments on aid and development effectiveness made in Paris, Accra and Busan* and through work with the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#).

An updated EU development policy should also provide a shared vision that guides the action of the EU and Member States in development cooperation, putting forward proposals on how to further enhance coordination, complementarity and coherence between EU and Member States. Strengthening [Joint Programming](#) will be an important part of this. Improving the division of labour between the EU and its Member States in order to reduce aid fragmentation will also contribute to increased development effectiveness.

* See [Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action](#) and the [Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#)

6.1 How should the EU strengthen its partnerships with civil society, foundations, the business community, parliaments and local authorities and academia to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (including the integral Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change?

The lesson from the FLEGT Action Plan is that approaches that engage multiple parties (multi-stakeholder processes) at national level can support, for example, ‘zero deforestation’ alliances or platforms working on removing the incentives for ‘unjust deforestation.’ These are more powerful than voluntary initiatives alone. The US, The Netherlands, the EC and Germany would certainly be supportive of such approaches.

As regards to civil society in particular, NGOs have made important contributions to the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda contribution, including a very active early role in the drafting process. Over the years, they have served as partners in a wide variety of programme areas and they have brought valuable information and expertise to many EU institutions. The EU has on many occasions invited NGOs to participate in its work including through funding. As the EU searches for greater relevance and effectiveness, it could do so by involving NGOs closely in the implementation of the 2030 and climate agendas as this could reinforce the EU efforts to tackle and solve global challenges.

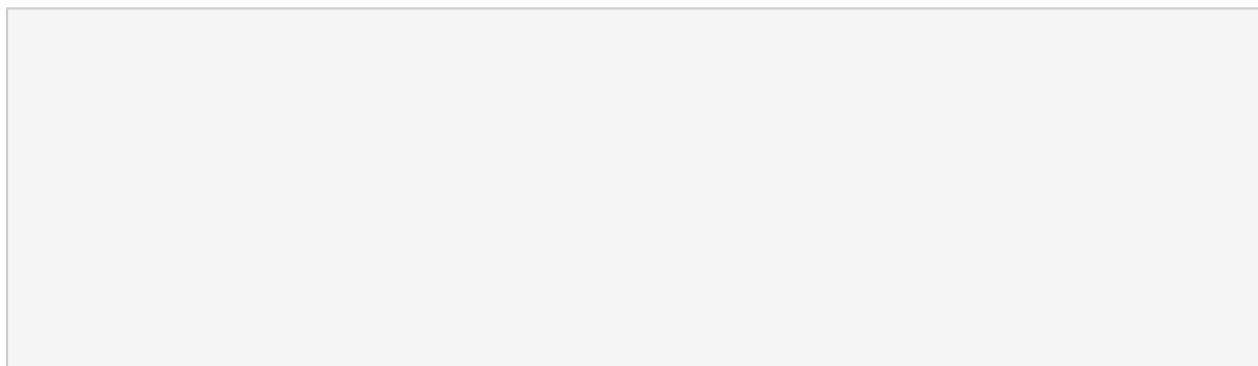
- The EU should develop methods to strengthen consultation with NGOs that would ensure sustained and effective dialogue between its institutions and NGOs. This approach would build on current best practices, notably public consultations, participation in working committees, regular informal dialogues, briefings and public events.

- The EU should develop a formal role for NGOs including regularising some of the many informal relations that have built up over the years particularly when it comes to information sharing and exchange of views. NGOs should be duly consulted when new consultation processes are set up for the SDG and 2030 Agenda purposes. NGOs should be able to themselves decide on their representatives, based on relevance, expertise and equitable representation.

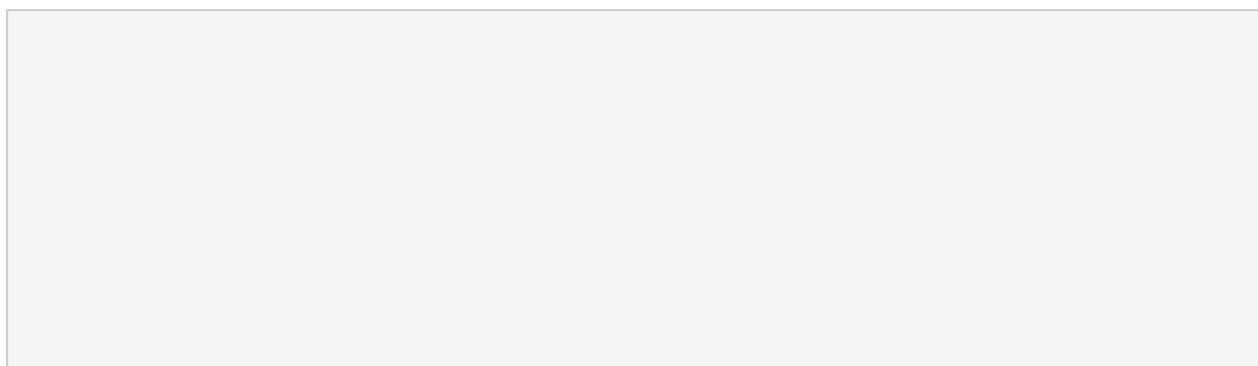
- The EU should support NGO consultation with governments at the national level which is indispensable, and should receive due attention. In addition, appropriate funding will help ensure greater involvement of civil society representatives from developing countries.

Partnership with the business community should be handled carefully. Private-public partnerships (PPPs). PPPs have been heavily criticized for having resulted negative impacts on human rights and developments especially investments in large scale commercial agriculture. The new consensus needs to frame its choice for PPPs adequately and ensure the EU’s policy is coherent with its human rights based approach .

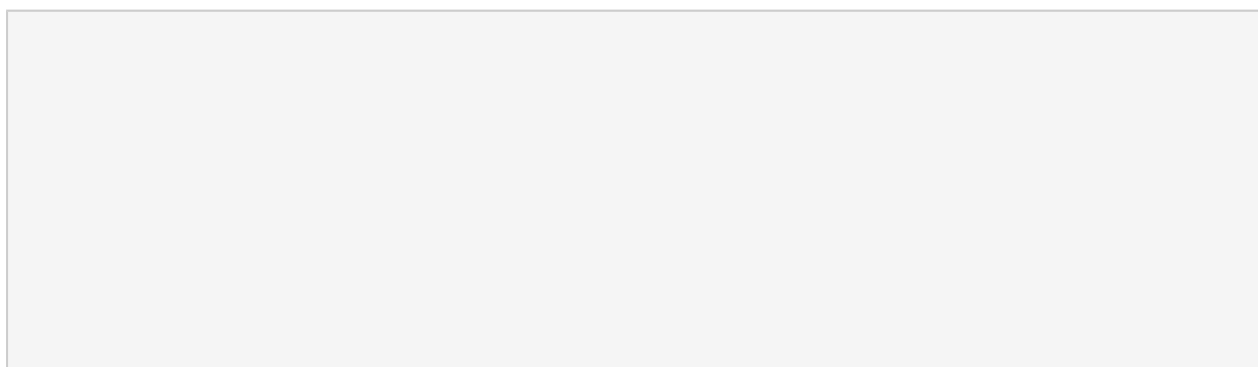
6.2 How can the EU promote private sector investment for sustainable development?

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6.3 How can the EU strengthen relations on sustainable development with other countries, international financing institutions, multilateral development banks, emerging donors and the UN system?

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6.4 How can the EU best support partner countries to develop comprehensive and inclusive national plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

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6.5 What are the best ways to strengthen and improve coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and the Member States in their support to help partner countries achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development?

The need for more coherence, complementarity and coordination (CCC) in EU external policies is widely acknowledged by most academics and practitioners and critical if the EU is to strategically prioritise its resources. Over the past few years, the EU has developed a number of good technical solutions to tackle this problem. However, the main challenges of inadequate EU coordination are linked to political commitment and adequate guidance. A scenario where CCC is escalated could involve improving guidance based on existing best practices, joint policy formulation, joint programming at country level including monitoring and evaluation, and joint for interacting with key stakeholders including non-state actors. This would imply effective buy in from member states on 'sharing' competence in areas of development /external policies where this could save transaction costs and draw on the EU's comparative advantage.

6.6 How can EU development cooperation be as effective as possible, and how can we work with all partners to achieve this?

6.7 What further progress could be made in EU Joint Programming, and how could this experience be linked with other EU joined-up actions in supporting countries' delivery of the 2030 Agenda?

(7) Keeping track of progress

The EU will need to contribute to the global follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. Keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda. The EU is actively contributing to the setting up of a Sustainable Development Goal monitoring system at global, regional and national level. Demonstrating results and impact from our efforts and the promotion of transparency will be important priorities for EU development policy, as part of a wider move to strengthen accountability, follow-up and review at all levels.

7.1 How can the EU strengthen its own use of evidence and analysis, including in the development field, to feed into its regular review on the Sustainable Development Goals to the UN?

Evidence gathering should be a collective and living exercise that is meaningful for all stakeholders working towards the achievement of the SDGs. Involving actors at different levels right at the start will result in greater ownership and contribute to the quality of the evidence.

Evidence should be gathered and also analysed in a participatory way (across services within the Commission, across countries). It should be a vehicle for in-country and multi-stakeholder dialogue. EU delegations could bring the stakeholders in one country around the table to discuss SDG process and present, collect and discuss evidence of SDG process.

It is important that stakeholders involved can easily access the evidence gathered and the analysis. Collecting of evidence is not a goal in itself. It should be clear how the evidence will be used.

A system should be set up to easily contribute to the evidence gathering. In order to collect credible data and evidence lessons may be learned from longstanding monitoring experiences in the forest sector. Forest monitoring has evolved considerably over the last decade. Today there are a lot of valuable forest monitoring systems around which use accessible technical devices which allow communities to be involved directly.

7.2 How can the EU help to ensure the accountability of all actors involved in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the private sector? How can the EU encourage a strong and robust approach to the Follow Up and Review of the 2030 Agenda from all actors?

The EU and its Member States should have a strategy and plans of implementation of the SDGs which include clear governance mechanisms to ensure the accountability of all actors involved and encourage a credible approach to the Follow Up and Review of the 2030 Agenda.

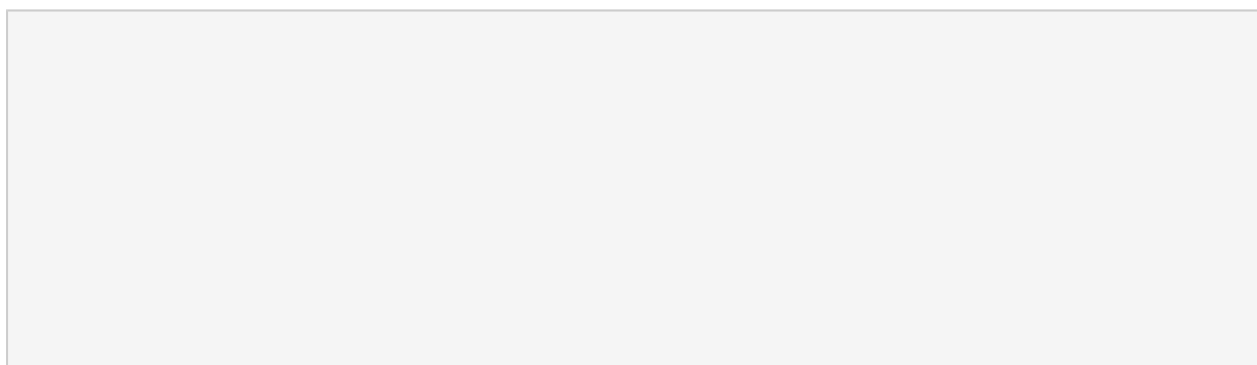
Monitoring should be transparent, participatory and inclusive and focus on clear and measurable indicators. Progress on the achievement of the Agenda 2030 should be made accessible for the general public. CSOs both from the EU and from partner countries but also citizens should be encouraged and supported to participate in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda's implementation. Actual technologies of information and communication create new opportunities to promote community- and citizen-based monitoring approaches. This means that sufficient resources should be allocated to build capacity for monitoring.

The implementation of the SDGs in the EU should be supported by legally binding measures when possible and relevant. Only regulatory frameworks aiming at ensuring a right balance of all dimensions of sustainable development can make stakeholders, in particular the private sector accountable. Again, FLEGT and its central planks (VPA and EUTR) are great examples of legally binding measures which contribute to greater accountability of various stakeholder when they are enforced. FLEGT-VPA achieves this by strengthening each partner country's legal and regulatory frameworks, making them more accountable and transparent and by building capacities and institutionalizing multi-stakeholder participation in decision-making.

The EU and the EU Member states should use the realm of international human rights law pro-actively and in an innovative way to ensure that human rights are also protected and respected by the private sector. The EU and its member states should assume extraterritorial jurisdiction over corporate human rights abuses committed by European companies.

The EU should ensure that ODA recipients are accountable to the commitments they have made to international human rights instruments and their own national human rights legislation.

7.3 How should EU development cooperation respond to the regular reviews on progress of the partner countries towards the 2030 Agenda goals?



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