

Information on respondents

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2.2 Are you registered in the EU's Transparency Register? If yes, what is your registration number?

48655305058-87

2.3 Name (entity or individual in their personal capacity)

WaterAid, Simavi, German Toilet Organisation, German WASH Network, Coalition Eau, PVDP Sindh Pakistan, Aquiva Foundation Deutschland, WASH United, FENRAD NIGERIA, Protos, Climate is Water, IRC, Tanzania Association of environmental engineers, Liberia CSOs WASH Network, Medical Care Development International, End Water Poverty, Oxfam, Women for Water, Plan UK, Plan Netherlands

2.4 Contact details (address, telephone number, email)

2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

Civil society (including Non-Governmental Organisation, specialised policy organisation, think tank)

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

WaterAid is a registered NGO in the UK and Sweden

(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?

We identify a number of global trends which will influence the future of development and the implementation of Agenda 2030 which are all interlinked. Of these, we believe the most important are environmental and climate change, public health threats including undernutrition, inequalities including gender inequalities, growing scrutiny and demand for results from development cooperation. What advancements are made towards universal, equitable and sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), water resource management and the response to climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures by 2030 will determine the efficacy of actions in these areas and, ultimately, the global response to these trends.

Inequalities including gender inequality

- If we really are truly to “leave no one behind” with Agenda 2030, there must be clear incentives to deliver lasting progress against all goal areas for everyone everywhere. It is unacceptable that large inequalities in access to basic services such as water and sanitation remain at all levels. Open defecation – practiced by nearly 1 in 7 people (946

million, two-thirds of whom live in Southern Asia)¹ - is one of the clearest manifestations of extreme poverty. In Sub-Saharan Africa, rich people are more than twice as likely as poor people to have access to safe water, and almost five times as likely to have access to improved sanitation². Inequalities predominantly affect individuals and groups suffering multiple human rights deprivations. Many patterns of discrimination, such as those based on gender, age and disability status, are consistent across the world. Other inequalities, such as those based on minority status or caste, vary across countries. All must be addressed through cooperation between development partners.

- There are entrenched and complex barriers to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEWE). Ensuring GEWE will require gender-sensitive action across the broad spectrum of sustainable development goals, not least on Goal 6 on water and sanitation and related water targets.
- Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis for biological, cultural and social reasons. These include childbirth, menstruation and household division of labour (for example, collecting water).
- With inadequate access to safe water, safe sanitation and hygiene, the living standards of women and girls in particular are impacted in various different but mutually reinforcing parts of their lives: education, health, nutrition, reproductive health, privacy and dignity, economic opportunities, safety and security, and personal development.
- Equally, achieving universal and equitable access to WASH will not come about without explicit attention to the specific gendered ways in which women and girls experience and access WASH³.

Environmental and climate change

- Climate change will affect people most through water-related issues: hydro-meteorological hazards, unpredictable rainfall and monsoons, exacerbated water stress and scarcity. It could also affect the sustainability of existing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, and make extending them to new users more difficult.
- An estimated 8% of the global population would see a severe reduction in water resources with a 1°C rise in global mean temperature (compared to the 1990s), rising to 14% at 2°C and 17% at 3°C⁴. Global water crises have been identified by the World Economic Forum, in its 'Global Risks Report 2016', as the third most impactful risk to economies, environments and people for the next 10 years, ahead of involuntary migration and severe energy price shocks⁵.
- There is an urgent need for better protection of water resources as well as a more sustainable and equitable balance of uses and allocations between domestic needs, energy, agriculture, industry and nature.
- Reliable access to a sustainable water source is essential to develop and maintain many of the mitigation responses in energy production and low carbon solutions. Water resource management is therefore essential for adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Securing sustainable and equitable water resource management – including WASH - will in turn build resilience and support disaster risk reduction efforts.

¹ http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

² WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (2010) Progress on sanitation and drinking-water, 2010 update. Comparison of WASH access levels between the richest and poorest 20% of the population

³ <http://static1.squarespace.com/static/536c4ee8e4b0b60bc6ca7c74/t/56f41cee2fe131a7e0b9651c/1458838767309/Achieving+gender+equality+through+WASH+-+April+2016.pdf>

⁴ Arnell, N et al (2014) Chapter 3. Freshwater resources, IPCC Working Group II Report "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability"

⁵ The Global Risks Report 2016, 11th Edition, the World Economic Forum

- The World Bank has done some scenario-building work on the effects of water scarcity on GDP in 2050. It estimates that countries with sound water policies and management of water and sanitation may actually see their GDP increase by 6%. Lack of policies, infrastructures and sound operational and governance bodies conversely could induce losses of up to 6% in GDP⁶.

Public health threats including undernutrition

- Safe water, a clean living environment and a clean body are essential for good human health. A lack of safe water, adequate sanitation and good hygiene practices is directly linked to fatal diseases and conditions such as cholera and diarrhoea.
- With half of hospital beds in developing countries estimated to be filled with people suffering from diseases caused by poor WASH, the burden on public health systems is unsustainable⁷. Public health systems could be far more efficient globally if they weren't overwhelmed with treating patients with preventable diseases.
- Diarrhoea is the second biggest killer of children under five years old worldwide⁸. 90% of cases of diarrhoea are linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene⁹.
- Almost half of all under-five child deaths globally are attributed to undernutrition¹⁰. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 50% of undernutrition is associated with infections caused by unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or insufficient hygiene¹¹.
- 42% of healthcare facilities in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to safe water¹². Poor WASH provision in healthcare facilities increases the risk of healthcare acquired infections, and undermines global and national efforts to improve maternal, neonatal and child health. The implications of which were tragically demonstrated in the 2015 Ebola outbreak.
- Establishing adequate WASH standards in all healthcare facilities is an attainable goal; and is required to ensure the achievement of universal health coverage and improved health outcomes, without which we cannot meaningfully achieve universal health coverage (UHC).
- Basic hygiene for infection prevention is the first line of defence against the emergent threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)¹³.
- Better integration of WASH into nutrition and public health policies, strategies and plans, with relevant targets and indicators to measure progress is needed. Similarly, objectives on nutrition and public health should be included in national plans and programmes for the WASH sector.

Competing pressures on aid and the need to demonstrate lasting results

- The EU's ODA budget is under more pressure than ever before, due to the rise in humanitarian, economic, climatic and social global issues. However it is crucial that the

⁶ World Bank. 2016. "High and Dry: Climate Change, Water, and the Economy." World Bank, Washington, DC

⁷ AFGH & WaterAid (2014) Making Health a right for all: discussion paper

⁸ Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group (CHERG) 2012

⁹ World Health Organization (2008) Safer water, better health: Costs, benefits and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596435_eng.Pdf

¹⁰ Black RE, Victoria CG, Walker SP et al. (2013) Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries. *Lancet* 382: 427–51

¹¹ WHO (2008) Safer water, better health: Costs, benefits and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health.

Available online at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596435_eng.pdf

¹² WHO/UNICEF, 2015

¹³ http://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/160525_Final%20paper_with%20cover.pdf

EU maintains the delivery of poverty eradication and sustainable development where needs are greatest as the overarching values guiding its ODA spending.

- While finance is required to combat the increasing number of global crises, including both humanitarian and migration crises, the EU must be careful to not pit disasters against each other and divert spending from development budgets and away from building the capacity of partner governments to deliver basic services in an equitable and sustainable way. Doing so would be counterproductive.
- Aid continues to play a catalytic role in the reduction of inequalities and progress against many SDG areas, particularly for water and sanitation¹⁴. Aid cannot be the “silver bullet” that delivers universal access to WASH, but it is, and will continue to be, catalytic in helping low income and developing countries deliver these essential services in the short and medium-term, which is essential to ensure that, in time, they become less dependent on external assistance¹⁵. It is essential that the EU and its Member States continue to recognise and champion ODA as a pivotal tool in the external implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Public and political scrutiny of development expenditure and the political drive to demonstrate tangible returns are becoming ever stronger. A results-based approach can help deliver sustainable and transformational change, however only as long as results are measuring the ‘right’ thing.
- Within the water and sanitation sector, for example, functionality is not a sufficient indicator of sustainability or service provision. Instead it tends to offer a binary ‘yes/no’ measure relevant to the time of the assessment only. A more systemic set of measures that attempt to understand service levels and reliability, and, the duration and frequency of downtime and water quality issues is needed.

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?

The new EU development policy must be a comprehensive policy covering all aspects of sustainable development, recognising interlinkages across SDG areas. It must focus on countries, populations and regions where the needs are greatest. This would include areas of greatest inequalities, high levels of poverty and limited domestic capacity to respond.

In order to better harness the opportunities and minimise the negative aspects of the trends identified above, EU development policy must identify and prioritise areas for community action which can deliver lasting results against multiple policy objectives.

Universal access to safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) - within a policy framework on sustainable and equitable water resource management - should be identified as a community priority for action in the new development policy. Safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) has a catalytic role for inclusive growth and sustainable growth.

Achieving universal access to WASH is identified as a priority by EU partner countries. This is apparent in initiatives such as the 2025 Africa Water Vision. Also, 93% of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) submitted under the UNFCCC Paris agreement mention water measures in their adaptation chapter as a key priority. The EU should tighten their support to the implementation of NDCs and assist in transforming these intentions into operational programs.

¹⁴

¹⁵ http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Essential_element.pdf?la=en

Progress on SDG 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030 is a prerequisite for progress on many other Sustainable Development Goals. There are strong links between water and sanitation and progress in most other goal areas, for example:

- Goal 1. End poverty – One in 3 people in the world live without access to adequate sanitation facilities, of them nearly one billion people defecate in the open, and 1.8 billion people are forced to drink water contaminated with faeces¹⁶. Goal 1 cannot be achieved without ensuring that everyone everywhere has equal access and rights to sustainable water and sanitation services as well as control over water resource management.
- Goal 2. End hunger– Around 50% of undernutrition is estimated to be associated with poor WASH, for example people cannot retain the nutrients they take in which contributes to a range of other diseases¹⁷.
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives - Diarrhoeal diseases, which are primarily spread through combination of water, sanitation or hygiene, kill more than 2,300 people a day. A lack of safely managed WASH is the third biggest cause of disease in Africa¹⁸.
- Goal 4. Quality education – Due to a lack of adequate facilities combined with cultural and social taboos around menstruation, many girls may skip school or drop out altogether when they reach puberty. In one school in Ethiopia, for instance, 50% of girls surveyed reported missing 1-4 days of school per month due to menstruation¹⁹.
- Goal 5. Gender equality – Women and girls are responsible for collecting water in nearly three-quarters of households in developing countries.²⁰
- Goal 7. Affordable and clean energy – Energy has a large water requirement; 75% of all industrial water withdrawals are used for energy production²¹. Equitable and sustainable management of water resources – including for hydropower – will be essential for attaining the target to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- Goal 8. Economic growth: The total global economic loss associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation has been estimated at US\$260 billion annually²². Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could cost some regions up to 6% of their GDP²³.
- Goal 9. Resilient infrastructure and industry - Progress made in improving and extending water and sanitation systems, in addition to improved WASH approaches (such as flood-resilient sanitation systems and improved early-warning systems for disasters), effectively builds resilience to climatic variability and change. Meanwhile, unsustainable

¹⁶ http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_82419.html

¹⁷ WHO (2008) Safer water, better health: Costs, benefits and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health. Available online at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596435_eng.pdf

¹⁸ <http://www.washwatch.org/en/blog/unpicking-global-health-statistics/>

¹⁹ ref. number 32 in GAD WASH briefing

²⁰ http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

²¹ WWDR 2014

²² Hutton G (2012) Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage, p26. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland. Available at:

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2012/global_costs/en/index.html

²³ World Bank. 2016. "High and Dry: Climate Change, Water, and the Economy." World Bank, Washington, DC

water resource management and growing water scarcity jeopardise industrial growth, which accounts for 18% of all freshwater withdrawals²⁴.

- Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities – Those in remote and rural locations are much less likely to have a reliable water source. However, even in cities, the poorest people are often socially excluded, and rarely consulted or involved in decisions about water services. The proportion of people in urban areas without access to improved sanitation has declined by just 3 per cent since 1990²⁵. 'Slums' and informal settlements are often not served with water services at all and, where residents are regularly facing eviction attempts, even informal water connections are difficult to maintain.
- Goal 12. Sustainable consumption and production – Agriculture, and especially irrigated agriculture, is the sector with by far the largest consumptive water use and water withdrawal. It accounts for 70% of water extracted from lakes, rivers and aquifers²⁶.
- Goal 13. Climate action – An estimated 8% of the global population would see a severe reduction in water resources with a 1°C rise in global mean temperature (compared to the 1990s), rising to 14% at 2°C and 17% at 3°C²⁷.
- Goal 15 on ecosystems - 90% of wastewater in developing countries flows untreated into rivers, lakes and coastal zones²⁸.
- Goal 16. Governance and peace – The ambitions of goal 6 and other SDGs can only be met if corruption is eradicated, public institutions across sectors function effectively and respond to the needs of the population and if peace and security is maintained.

(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

²⁴ FAO, Aquastat 2014

²⁵ http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

²⁶ <http://www.oecd.org/tad/sustainable-agriculture/49040929.pdf>

²⁷ Arnell, N et al (2014) Chapter 3. Freshwater resources, IPCC Working Group II Report "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability"

²⁸ World Water Assessment Programme (2012), The United Nations World Water Development Report 4: Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk. P. 67. Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002156/215644e.pdf>

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 most effective way the EU can address the links between the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and addressing other global sustainable development challenges is by ensuring that poverty eradication and sustainable development, including inclusive growth, remain the overarching objectives for EU development cooperation and external action. The new EU policy must be binding for the institutions and Member States.

EU development policy and plans should align with the Sustainable Development Goals and national plans for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and support the implementation of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) presented within the Paris agreement. It is the responsibility of the EU to keep its own promises for the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions by EU and Member States.

EU development policy should commit the community and individual Member States to the *progressive* realisation of individual and collective commitments to 0.7% of GNI as ODA (0.33% of GNI as ODA). Reaching this target 'within the time-frame of the post-2015 agenda'²⁹, the current commitment, could mean peak aid flows are not reached until well after progress on the SDGs is expected. This agreement is therefore hugely inconsistent with existing EU development policy and international commitments. EU ODA should be targeted to address areas of greatest inequalities, for populations, areas or countries suffering high levels of poverty and where countries have limited domestic capacity to respond.

As a donor and global leader on climate change, the EU must ensure that international adaptation finance focuses on ensuring we meet the SDGs in a way that is robust to climate change.

The EU should ensure that global funds do better in explaining how climate finance can be used to help countries meet their development objectives. Funds can go one step further by making sure governments design their own plans to help communities adapt to climate change. Funds should also prioritise those countries whose ability to meet the SDGs will be most hampered by climate change. The use of climate sensitive indicators for sustainable development policies and programs (of the EU and Member States) must also be encouraged.

²⁹ Mimica N, answering a Parliamentary Question (European Parliament) on 03/07/15
[<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2015-006481&language=EN>, accessed 12/08/15]

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?

EU internal and external policies should prioritise community action on thematic areas - such as water resources management, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) - which cross-cut the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, environmental and human development).

- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are essential building blocks for good health and nutrition, enabling better attendance and productivity at school and work. Through this, WASH underpins individual prosperity and, more widely, sustainable and inclusive growth. The World Health Organisation estimates that for every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of at least \$4 is returned in increased productivity. Conversely, the total global economic loss associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation has been estimated at US\$260 billion annually³⁰.
- The link between climate change and water security is evident. As described in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report, changing patterns of rainfall and melting snow and ice are altering freshwater systems, affecting the quantity and quality of water available in many regions. In terms of climate projections, droughts and floods are likely to increase and coastal systems will be affected by submersion, coastal flooding and sea level rise. Both population growth and economic development, especially in poor and middle-income developing countries, will reinforce the negative effects of climate change. Sustainable and equitable management of water and sanitation is essential for resilience building and adaptation to environmental and climate change. Climate change will compound non-climatic drivers (income, water-use efficiency, water productivity, industrial production) of water stress with far-reaching implications for water availability for socio-economic activities and aquatic ecosystems³¹.
- Universal access to the basic human rights to water and sanitation and associated sustainable behaviour changes will be a keystone to the wider strategy of tackling social exclusion and the enjoyment of other human rights. It is unacceptable, for example, that the practice of Chaupadi (the isolation of a woman from the household and community during her menstruation) continues in Nepal or that in Uganda, 19% of surveyed disabled people were stopped from accessing water points because they themselves were considered 'dirty'³².

Achieving universal access to permanent WASH services requires improvement in integration and alliance-building with other thematic areas, including gender equality, good governance and anti-corruption, health and nutrition, education, energy, finance and the environmental sustainability and resource management. Better integration may mean new institutional arrangements including changes to job descriptions, closer dialogue and partnerships between teams in DEVCO as well as with other relevant DGs.

³⁰ Hutton G (2012) Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage, p26. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2012/global_costs/en/index.html

³¹ IPCC Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability: https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg2/WGIIAR5-Chap3_FINAL.pdf

³² <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Undoing-inequity-wash-programmes.pdf?la=en>

It was an extremely positive signal that the EC included indicators on WASH access in the new Gender Action Plan. The EU should continue in this direction by integrating WASH into gender equality, health and nutrition, education, finance and the environmental sustainability and resource management policies, strategies and plans, with relevant targets and indicators to measure progress. Similarly, targets and indicators for relevant areas should be included in EU plans and programmes within the water and sanitation sector.

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

EU policy on water and sanitation should be more consistent and reflect the role of water and sanitation as a cross-cutting element and prerequisite for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The central importance of water, sanitation and hygiene for inclusive growth and sustainable development was neglected in Agenda for Change. This was a significant failure. In its new development policy, the EU should adapt the aims of its integrated water resource management (IWRM) policy framework, as outlined in the European Consensus for Development, to better align with Global Goal 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

We suggest the following amendments to the objectives (*underline denotes additional text):

1. Ensure a supply of safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene to everyone everywhere and ending open defecation by 2030 and paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
2. Establish a framework for the long term protection of all water resources, improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally by 2030
3. Promote sustainable and equitable water use between users and substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity by 2030
4. By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

The EU development policy should recognise that achieving sustainable results requires a change in behaviours from development partners, including the EU institutions and Member States. Both the EU institutions and Member States should adopt behaviours and frameworks for strengthening sector governance such as the OECD Water Governance Principles³³. Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partners have identified Four Collaborative Behaviours that, if adopted by countries and their development partners including the EU, can improve the way that they work together to improve the long-term sector performance needed to deliver sanitation, hygiene and water for all, everywhere and forever³⁴. The behaviours see all partners collaborating to:

- Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes

³³ <http://www.oecd.org/governance/oecd-principles-on-water-governance.htm>

³⁴ <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours/>

- Strengthen and use country systems
- Use one information and mutual accountability platform
- Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies

EU development policy should commit the community and individual Member States to the *progressive* realisation of individual and collective commitments to 0.7% of GNI as ODA (0.33% of GNI as ODA). Reaching this target 'within the time-frame of the post-2015 agenda'³⁵, the current commitment, could mean peak aid flows are not reached until well after progress on the SDGs is expected. This agreement is therefore hugely inconsistent with existing EU development policy and international commitments. In order to reach the SDGs' objectives and "leave no one behind", ODA should be targeted to address areas of greatest inequalities, for populations or areas or countries suffering high levels of poverty and where countries have limited domestic capacity to respond.

The EU should continue to be a global leader on investment into water, sanitation and water resource management. In the current programming period, priority given to water (and sanitation and hygiene) has been lowered and water has been integrated as a cross-cutting issue rather than dedicated priority. This has resulted in a much lower allocation of resources specifically to water (€81 million earmarked in the Global Public Goods Budget) with objectives to highlight the water's leverage effect on economic sectors e.g. environment, cross-border cooperation etc. Water is a focal sector for development cooperation in just 13 countries.

Under the programming period 2007-2013, more than €2.5 billion were committed in the water sector, which was a focal sector in 28 countries mainly for WASH actions and major initiatives were launched such as ACP-EU Water Facility (9th & 10th EDF): €712 million and MDG Initiative for water and sanitation: €266 million. One strength of the Water Facility was that it directly allocated EU funding to actors from European and ACP countries, both local and national, to drive progress in the water supply and sanitation sector. This financial instrument was immediately successful, proving highly effective at leveraging co-financing from other donors and at fulfilling the expectations of local actors. EU should build upon successful past mechanisms such as this one.

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?

There can be greater consistency between EU development cooperation on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and EU external action on human rights, good governance and anti-corruption, new opportunities through responsible sourcing of minerals, environment and climate change, and water diplomacy.

First and foremost, poverty eradication and equitable and sustainable development should remain the overarching objectives for EU development cooperation and external action.

- The EU should prioritise strengthening the human rights to water and sanitation: Recognition of water and sanitation as human rights was reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council in numerous resolutions adopted by consensus since 2010. To fully realise these human rights, the EU must encourage and support the governments of partner countries to deliver and maintain the basic services as well as

³⁵ Mimica N, answering a Parliamentary Question (European Parliament) on 03/07/15 [<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2015-006481&language=EN>], accessed 12/08/15]

systematically address inequalities in access, improve their transparency and accountability, and encourage and support the building of strong civil society.

- WASH must be at the heart of EU action on climate change:
EU development policy and external action must make a stronger contribution to enhancing the water security of people and communities, including ensuring they have access to sustainable and resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This is a critical component of the climate-compatible development that is needed to help people adapt to change. All progress made in extending access to WASH, in addition to improved WASH approaches (such as flood-resilient sanitation systems and improved early-warning systems for disasters) effectively builds resilience to climatic variability and change. It is therefore both logical and necessary that a significant proportion of EU climate finance is directed towards the enhancement of water security, and that within all water security projects the basic drinking and sanitation needs of poor people are prioritised³⁶.
- The EU should ensure that its WASH and WRM programmes systematically address governance issues, including mitigating corruption risks through measures on strengthening integrity, transparency, accountability and participation. At the same time, broad governance programmes on public financial management, decentralization, rule of law and anti-corruption should take into account the realities and needs of the WASH sector and support institutions in charge of WASH and natural resources management in implementing reforms.
- The EU should help ensure the responsible sourcing of minerals:
For countries in which extractive industries have a dominant role in the economy, effective Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) for sustainable development – including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on clean water and sanitation – will depend on a strong and positive contribution from extractive industries in both the public and private sectors. The EU can build the capacity of partner country governments in managing additional revenues effectively and the capacity of civil society to monitor whether these revenues result in better services for the people and to hold governments accountable. The EU can also hold EU companies to account to ensure that the human rights to water and sanitation are respected and protected.
- Action on water diplomacy must focus on building the competence of the authorities who manage and regulate water:
Inequity in water distribution suggests that, rather than international conflict, increasing physical water scarcity will cause continued and increased suffering of the poorest, most marginalised and most vulnerable people, at the local level. Rather than postulating about future conflict between nations, we need to focus on establishing or supporting the right institutional arrangements, whether formal or informal, that can lead to enhanced community cohesion and cooperation over shared water resources. Safeguarding poor and marginalised people's access to safe WASH in water-scarce areas requires careful consideration of the wider framework of water resource management. The higher the demand on water resources, the more the actions of other water users and the

³⁶ <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Climate-finance-and-water-security--Briefing-note.pdf?la=en>

competence of the authorities who manage and regulate water will affect the quantity and quality of water available for WASH³⁷.

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)?

The EU adds value in its promotion and defence of human rights. It should adopt a more prominent role in championing the human rights to water and sanitation and work to progressively eradicate inequalities in access.

- Large inequalities in access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene still exist; the least developed countries, and especially rural areas, did not meet the MDG sanitation target, and only 27 per cent of their current population has gained access to improved sanitation since 1990³⁸. Open defecation – one of the clearest manifestations of extreme poverty – is practiced by nearly one billion people globally³⁹. States are duty-bearers of water and sanitation service provision but all development partners, including the EU, should play an active role in supporting governments on service delivery and civil society in supporting communities in claiming their rights. EU development policy should acknowledge that all human rights are interrelated and indivisible from one another. For example, the right to housing requires infrastructure for water and sanitation, the right to education requires children not being prevented from accessing school due to the burden of water collection or a lack of WASH in schools, while water as a resource is clearly important to ensure the right to food especially for smallholder farmers, as growing crops requires water⁴⁰.

The scale of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) crisis requires coordinated and coherent action amongst development partners. The EU adds value through its convening power.

- Lack of access to sustainable and safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is a global crisis. One in 3 people in the world live without access to adequate sanitation facilities and 1.8 billion people are forced to drink water contaminated with faeces⁴¹.
- Effective donor harmonisation and alignment with country plans and systems will be essential for lasting progress. There are a lot of development partners active in the water and sanitation sector and therefore coordination and coherence are vital. For example, there are 21 donors supporting water supply and sanitation interventions in Kenya according to the GLAAS 2014 report. These include Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, France and the EC⁴².
- Business as usual will not deliver SDG6 on water and sanitation. The EU can play an important convening role for a broad range of actors and development partners working in the sector, including at different scales (i.e. through thematic cooperation instruments like the water facility). Joint programming offers huge potential for improving aid effectiveness in the sector.

³⁷ <http://www.waterraad.org/~media/Publications/Universal-access-by-2030-will-there-be-enough-water.pdf>

³⁸ JMP update report 2015 http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

³⁹ http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

⁴⁰ <http://www.righttowater.info/why-the-right-to-water-and-sanitation/>

⁴¹ http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_82419.html

⁴² http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/139735/1/9789241508087_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

EU aid from Member States and EU institutions have a catalytic role to play in the successful external implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation and therefore for progress in other goal areas.

- There is a significant financing shortfall within the water and sanitation sector. Currently, around a third of rural water systems fail within 10 years and only 9% of urban utilities cover even operations and maintenance costs⁴³.
- To ensure lasting and permanent access to WASH, we need to move towards sustainable service delivery models, which can only be achieved through strong country systems. It is estimated the total investments required to attain universal coverage of water and sanitation services are in excess of US\$ 535 billion⁴⁴. Basic services, including WASH, will increasingly need to be provided by domestic institutions through a combination of public, private and household finance.
- The EU is collectively the largest donor to the water and sanitation sector⁴⁵. EU aid, and external assistance in general, cannot be the “silver bullet” that delivers universal access to WASH. However, it is, and will continue to be, catalytic in helping low income and developing countries deliver these essential services in the short and medium-term. Helping to build the capacity of its partner countries will be an essential strategy to ensure that, in time, they become less dependent on EU external assistance⁴⁶.

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?

EU development policy must take a holistic approach to tackling entrenched and complex barriers to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEWE) by addressing the causes and consequences of inequalities, including access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

- The lives of women and girls are particularly compromised by poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In addition to meeting women and girl's specific needs - such as menstrual hygiene management and safe child birth - WASH is also essential for their social and economic development, contributing towards gender equality and the realisation of their rights.
- The new EU development policy must prioritise the provision of community services and infrastructure, including safely managed water and sanitation, to reduce women's unpaid care and household work. This will be a precondition for women's business creation and development. Across the world, the vast majority of unpaid household and care work is performed by women. Inadequate access to water supply and sanitation is a key factor in explaining the amount of time spent by women on unpaid work⁴⁷. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 40 billion working hours (equivalent to a year's worth of labour by the entire workforce in France) are lost every year to water collection⁴⁸.
- Ensuring GEWE will require gender-sensitive action across the broad spectrum of sustainable development goals with specific action on SDG6 on water and sanitation.

⁴³ Komives, K. et al., 2008. Water Electricity and the Poor: Who Benefits from utility Subsidies, Washington DC: World Bank

⁴⁴ Hutton. 2012. Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage

⁴⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/infrastructure/water-and-sanitation_en, accessed 26/04/16

⁴⁶ http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Essential_element.pdf?la=en

⁴⁷ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_457317.pdf

⁴⁸ <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2006%20Global%20HDR/HDR-2006-Beyond%20scarcity-Power-poverty-and-the-global-water-crisis.pdf>

Equally, achieving universal and equitable access to WASH will not come about without explicit attention to the specific gendered ways in which women and girls experience and access WASH⁴⁹.

- The new development policy must ensure that EU development partners deliver real and meaningful involvement of women and vulnerable groups in designing and implementing better strategies for water security. The EU should consider how its programming and support on gender equality can boost vocational training and instruction for women and girls to inter alia be able to manage the infrastructure and services for their communities and acquire paid work (this will also contribute to SDG 4.4 and 4.5).
- The new policy should provide an enabling environment for development cooperation implementation to be based on informed choices of the users and their knowledge of local circumstances and long-term possibilities (needs-based, not supply-based). Moreover, the new policy should set out an outline of how the EU will support partner countries to implement effective decentralisation, acknowledging the essential role of adequately resourced local authorities in delivering and maintaining basic services such as water and sanitation.

The EU's results-based approach can better incentivise the progressive reduction of inequalities.

- If we really are truly to “leave no one behind” with SDG6 on water and sanitation, there must be clear incentives to deliver sustainable WASH services for everyone everywhere. Ensuring that we are moving all populations up a ‘ladder of access’ to water and sanitation relies on us measuring progress on reaching the most important rungs – basic, safely managed, at home and in extra-household settings (schools, healthcare facilities). By measuring progress against multiple indicators, such as access disaggregated by gender, wealth and location, we can better understand the monitoring of improvement in access for marginalised groups. Conversely, with the current political narrative around development being so driven by results we risk simply chasing easy-to-measure results thus disincentivizing the delivery of services to the most vulnerable and hardest to reach.

Programming must go further. Ensuring basic services are accessible for all is vital, but it is not enough.

- The new EU development policy must also recognise and address intersectional inequality⁵⁰. For example, a situational analysis of disability in WASH in several communities in Papua New Guinea’s East Sepik province in 2014 found that age, disability, gender and social status intersected to increase the barriers to WASH access⁵¹.
- Vulnerable people could still be excluded from using the facilities if negative beliefs are not tackled, so the root causes of stigma and discrimination must always be understood and addressed. A survey in Uganda found, for example, 19% of vulnerable people (people with a disability, sickness or older persons) were prevented from touching water or accessing water sources⁵². Addressing the root causes of such discrimination can only be done through meaningful consultation and involvement of vulnerable groups

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<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/536c4ee8e4b0b60bc6ca7c74/t/56f41cee2fe131a7e0b9651c/1458838767309/Achieving+gender+equality+through+WASH+-+April+2016.pdf>

⁵⁰ Undoing Inequity project <http://www.wateraid.org/uk/what-we-do/policy-practice-and-advocacy/research-and-publications/view-publication?id=25633f29-8f85-4f0e-9a54-ffe2ca085fce>

⁵¹ WaterAid and CBM-Nossal. 2015. Papua New Guinea: exploring the intersection of gender, disability and age in access to WASH. In print.

⁵² Undoing Inequity: <https://blogs.lshtm.ac.uk/disabilitycentre/files/2015/08/Undoing-inequity-inclusive-water-sanitation-hygiene-Uganda.pdf>

throughout programme cycles and with development partners. This process will take longer and progress will be harder to measure, but arguably it can lead to more equitable and sustainable WASH services and poverty reduction for the “bottom quintile”⁵³ – and thereby significantly support the realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation. As the evaluation of the first Gender Action Plan found, this agenda must have buy-in and accountability from the higher levels of the EC. The key to change is getting senior level staff on board to champion equality and inclusion.

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?

EU development policy must make a stronger contribution to enhancing the water security of people and communities, including ensuring they have access to sustainable and resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This is a critical component of the climate-compatible development that is needed to help people adapt to change. All progress made in extending access to WASH, in addition to improved WASH approaches (such as flood-resilient sanitation systems and improved early-warning systems for disasters) effectively builds resilience to climatic variability and change. It is therefore both logical and necessary that a significant proportion of international climate finance flows is directed towards the enhancement of water security, and that within all water security projects the basic drinking water and sanitation needs of poor and marginalised people are prioritised. Ineffective or unequal water management can also create tension and even conflict between different water users, as well as higher rates of poverty (which in turn can be a factor of political instability).

Within its new development policy, the EU should:

- Promote nationally-owned and locally-owned adaptation processes, and target countries whose ability to meet the Sustainable Development Goals will be most hampered by climate change.
- Ensure that the impacts of climate change on WASH, and the co-benefits arising from WASH programmes (resilience, health, livelihoods), have sufficient priority.
- Follow through on the climate finance commitments made under the UNFCCC
- Provide absorption and readiness support and champion the simplification of process for accurate tracking and monitoring of climate finance flows for adaptation⁵⁴.
- Mainstream the human rights approach in its policies and programs

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?

See above regarding better addressing a root cause of migration and displacement.

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

⁵³ World Bank (2013) Inclusion matters.

⁵⁴ <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Climate-finance-and-water-security--Briefing-note.pdf?la=en>

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?

EU development policy must be careful not to overlook the critical, catalytic role of aid within the wider sustainable development finance portfolio.

- Most EU partner countries face an increased number of options for sustainable development finance than they did at the turn of the millennium. The increased availability of private finance and some real progress made in lifting economic growth rates has led to an assumption that international aid is declining in importance, even becoming redundant. However evidence suggests otherwise⁵⁵.
- For many low-income, Least Developed Countries and fragile states, international aid or ODA remains a vital resource for financing development. For more than a quarter of countries the ambitions for a bold new poverty eradication agenda will fail, and the aim of a world where everyone enjoys the fundamental human rights to water and sanitation will go unrealised, unless a significantly renewed impetus is given to international aid⁵⁶. The EU

⁵⁵ http://www.waterraed.org/~media/Publications/Essential_element.pdf?la=en

⁵⁶ http://www.waterraed.org/~media/Publications/Essential_element.pdf?la=en

has a role and responsibility to meet its aid commitments and champion effective aid globally.

EU development policy can maximise the impact of sustainable development finance, from all sources including domestic, aid and the private sector, by promoting improved efficiency, effectiveness and economy. The Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partners have identified four collaborative behaviours which can collectively improve long-term sector performance to deliver sanitation and water for all, everywhere and forever as well as being scalable across other sectors⁵⁷. The behaviours see all development partners collaborating to:

- Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes
- Strengthen and use country systems
- Use one information and mutual accountability platform
- Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies.

EU policy should also identify the potential and feasibility of additional funding for access to water and sanitation, complementary and not substitutive to Official Development Assistance, through extending mechanisms already existing in some Member States, like the financial transaction tax or decentralized cooperation for water (i.e. France's Oudin-Santini law).

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?

EU development policy should commit the community and individual Member States to the progressive realisation of individual and collective commitments to 0.7% of GNI as ODA (0.33% of GNI as ODA).

- Reaching this target 'within the time-frame of the post-2015 agenda'⁵⁸, the current commitment, could mean peak aid flows are not reached until well after progress on the SDGs is expected. This agreement is therefore hugely inconsistent with existing EU development policy and international commitments.

EU ODA will play a catalytic role in the implementation of Agenda 2030. EU ODA can maximise its impact by focusing on cross-cutting themes. Progress on achieving universal and sustainable access to water and sanitation is a fundamental prerequisite for progress in other vital areas of the Agenda 2030 framework. As outlined previously, there are strong links between WASH and resource management and progress in many other SDG areas.

EU ODA must also focus on sectors where progress from the MDGs was particularly lagging, for example sanitation and hygiene. The EU must ensure that no robust country plan aiming to achieve universal access by 2030 should fail because of a lack of finance.

- The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector is under-funded and in many partner countries is highly dependent on external support. Alternative sources of finance - growth in domestic resources, remittances, foreign direct investment and other official flows - will not be sufficient to bridge the outstanding financing gaps in the medium-term. A credible SDG will require increased ODA volumes to the most vulnerable and under-resourced countries, with a strong focus on equity, sustainability and strengthening systems⁵⁹.

EU ODA should be more strategically targeted to address inequalities in access to basic services such as water and sanitation.

⁵⁷ <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours/>

⁵⁸ Mimica N, answering a Parliamentary Question (European Parliament) on 03/07/15

[<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2015-006481&language=EN>, accessed 12/08/15]

⁵⁹ http://www.wataraid.org/~media/Publications/Agenda-for-Change/agenda_for_change_english_2016.pdf?la=en

- The EU should not pursue 'low-hanging fruit'. The EU can have the greatest impact by targeting support, particularly ODA, to areas, regions and populations which are furthest behind and hardest to reach. Sustainably managed water and sanitation for all means targeted support to people who are excluded geographically, economically and socially from progress, including the estimated one billion disabled people living in low income and developing countries.
- At a global scale this means Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia in particular, least developed, fragile and low income countries and middle income countries where need is high.
- WaterAid identified at least 45 vulnerable and under-resourced countries where EU ODA could have a tangible impact on progress towards SDG6⁶⁰. These are countries which – by virtue of the proportion of their people without access to the bare minimum of water, sanitation and hygiene services, their low national resource availability and overall levels of poverty – are counted as high priority countries for aid investments in water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Currently EU ODA for WASH is not targeted at those in greatest need. Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene will be a focal sector for EU development cooperation in just 13 out of more than 150 partner countries according to plans for 2014-2020⁶¹. However only 7 of these were identified by WaterAid as priority countries for external support⁶².

In addition to the issue of improving country-targeting of aid, there are several areas where aid from the EU and its Member States could be made more effective leading to better, lasting results. These include⁶³:

- addressing the significant gap between commitments made and actual funds released;
- providing more aid in the form of grants rather than loans;
- increasing the proportion of aid going to sanitation;
- reducing the strong reliance on project-based aid;
- improving the timeliness and level of aggregation of reporting.

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

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

The EU can promote solidarity partnerships and mechanisms as forms of differentiated partnerships to help deliver progress on SDG6 in middle income countries where significant inequalities in access to water and sanitation remain. India is such a country, with the greatest number of people living without access to safe water in the world (nearly 76 million people). China follows in second place, with more than 63 million people without access to this basic need and human right⁶⁴. Sanitation access is worse, with 774 million and 330 million people living without improved sanitation respectively⁶⁵.

- In many developing countries the main obstacle to delivering water and sanitation is at the point of local government and municipal authority delivery systems. These failures occur in the extension of coverage and in connections, in investments in the renewal and

⁶⁰ http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Essential_element.pdf?la=en

⁶¹ http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-water_and_sanitation/minisite/water-national-indicative-programs#sthash.bYVL3h1q.dpuf, accessed 29.02.16

⁶² http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Essential_element.pdf?la=en

⁶³ http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Essential_element.pdf?la=en

⁶⁴ http://www.wateraid.org/uk/~media/Publications/Water_at_what_cost.pdf?la=en-GB

⁶⁵ WASHwatch.org 2015 statistics

rehabilitation of infrastructure and in operation and maintenance. The net effect has been to hamper access to services, particularly for poorer communities⁶⁶.

- Local government authorities, who find themselves at the frontline of basic service provision, are key to the achievement of SDG6 on water and sanitation. Yet they can be undermined by inadequate and unpredictable funding and a lack of capacity.
- The EU should promote solidarity mechanisms as one means to support countries graduating from bilateral aid. Solidarity mechanisms, of which examples include France's Oudin-Santini Law and the Flemish Partnership Water for Development – *Vlaams Partnerschap Water voor Ontwikkeling (VPWvO)*, can help address these gaps by providing finance directly to local authorities and building the capacity of local governments and water agencies through twinning. A focus must be placed on solidarity mechanisms supporting local authorities in LDCs (financially and capacity building with knowledge and expertise) and foster solidarity between High Developed Countries and LDCs, as well as between MICs and LDCs, and even within a country between regions.

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?

The EU can enhance policy coherence for sustainable development through innovative financing and tax justice.

- The EU and its Member States should act to mitigate the impact of financial volatility and climate change. Implementing innovative financing mechanisms, such as financial transaction taxes, carbon taxes, and international transport taxes can dampen financial volatility, accelerate moves to a low carbon economy, and help meet global funding gaps in water and sanitation and other critical development areas.
- The EU should support partner countries to mobilise domestic resources through action on tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows.

The EU can enhance coherence on water resources management by promoting and ensuring sustainable production and consumption in trade, consumer protection and environmental policies.

- EU policies must ensure the accountability of the private sector in regards to its impacts on community WASH by improving water efficiency, managing pollutants, and treating wastewater.
- EU development policy – supported by other EU policies on areas including trade and environmental protection - should ensure businesses mitigate the negative impacts of their operations and supply chains on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by improving water efficiency, managing pollutants, and treating wastewater. Businesses should also be supported and encouraged to monitor water use and invest in water saving and recycling/reuse measures through more efficient practice, technology, and partnerships.
- This accountability function will be important to ensure the human rights to water and sanitation are observed and protected globally.

(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

⁶⁶ <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/think-local-act-local.pdf>

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 EU can strengthen its partnerships with other development actors to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement by adopting the OECD Principles on Water Governance⁶⁷ and the four collaborative behaviours identified by the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership⁶⁸. Whilst developed based on assessment of the WASH sector, these principles are scalable across other sectors.

1. Enhance government leadership of sector planning and reporting processes: Government leadership is essential for directing and coordinating resources – including external support – around nationally agreed sector priorities, strategies and plans. In particular, sector development requires a government-led, multi-stakeholder cycle of planning, monitoring, reporting and learning. Where such sector planning processes are weak or not in place, partners should jointly support efforts to build and strengthen them and ensure broad stakeholder participation.
2. Strengthen and use country systems: Core country systems include public financial management, HR management, statistics, procurement and contract management, anti-corruption and rule of law. They are critical for financing water and sanitation services as well as for ensuring that rules are adhered to and funds are used properly. Government and partners should agree a set of intermediate steps to

⁶⁷ <http://www.oecd.org/governance/oecd-principles-on-water-governance.htm>

⁶⁸ <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours/>

progressively strengthen and use country systems to develop, monitor and regulate water and sanitation services.

3. Use one information and mutual accountability platform: In order to decide where to invest, how to sustain and improve water and sanitation services and to understand which policies and strategies work, it is crucial that sectors have reliable data and engage in critical joint reflection and adaptive management. Effective development cooperation requires appropriate, inclusive processes that encourage all partners to demonstrate and demand mutual accountability for sector progress. Accountability has to work three ways: between partner countries and their population, partner countries between and donors and between donor countries and their populations. Accountability systems between partner countries and donors should not undermine but rather strengthen accountability of government to their populations.
4. Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies: Transparency and predictability of all resources is critical in allowing governments to exercise a leadership role in directing and monitoring sector investment. Sector financing strategies that incorporate financial data on all 3Ts (taxes, tariffs and transfers), as well as estimates for non-tariff household expenditure, and realistic estimates for all costs categories (including costs for building, managing and maintaining new WASH infrastructure and costs for governance and sector capacity strengthening), are critical components of effective sector planning in the medium and longer term. They are critical both to domestic accountability, and to the governments' capacity to hold external support agencies accountable and vice versa.

The EU can do more to strengthen its partnerships with local authorities, which will be on the frontline for implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation.

- The EU and its Member States should encourage and support the devolution of the water and sanitation sector.
- They should harmonise and align finance behind national and local government budget cycles, plans and systems.
- The EU and its Member States should also support the design and make greater use of intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to ensure equitable distribution of public finance, with the aim of boosting local government revenue and sector expenditure.
- They should invest in data collection and sector monitoring systems.
- They should consider how to develop pro-active communication strategies in-country in ways that make information on donor finance accessible to broad groups of national and local stakeholders.
- The EU can provide support for systems and institutions that can build or strengthen the capacity of local governments.

Participation of civil society in implementation, monitoring, follow up and review at all levels is essential in meeting the ambition of Agenda 2030. The EU must ensure a conducive environment for civil society organisations to engage both at EU level and within developing countries.

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

To strengthen the private sector(s) contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and specifically SDG6, the EU should encourage and help ensure operations observe the human rights to water and sanitation.

- As a minimum requirement, private sector actors should abide by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The EU has a role to play in ensuring goods for sale in the EU are not produced via operations and activities that negatively impact on the human rights to water and sanitation and other rights.

- The EU should encourage businesses to support and deliver on the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) pledge for access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at the workplace.
- EU development policy – supported by other EU policies on areas including trade and environmental protection - should ensure businesses mitigate the negative impacts of their operations and supply chains on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by improving water efficiency, managing pollutants, and treating wastewater. Businesses should also be supported and encouraged to monitor water use and invest in water saving and recycling/reuse measures through more efficient practice, technology, and partnerships.
- The EU should require EU business to ensure clear access to remedy - where legitimate disputes related to access to WASH have been raised, it is vital to provide speedy, transparent and just responses. EU development policy can also help ensure partner countries fulfil their responsibilities on water and sanitation service provision and help enable civil society in supporting communities in claiming their rights.
- The EU should take a leading role in bringing together all development partners, including the private sector, to improve WASH access for communities. This should entail work with the community to assess and manage risks by participating in community water safety planning and the provision of support for local and national government actions to address WASH challenges in the community.

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?

The EU could support and advocate for the need of an intergovernmental commission at the UN level that will ensure the political support and follow up of SDG6 and other related targets and deliver information and monitoring content to the HLPF. Currently this idea is being promoted by six European countries, and the EU could assist these countries in bringing the idea forward.

The EU might strengthen its role in the board of International Financial Institutes by initiating joint EU statements and votes during board meetings. This will increase the impact of all European countries in the IFI's investment strategies.

The EU could also support the momentum of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) that enabled all parties and stakeholders to meet and exchange on the agenda. It was one of the first instruments that allowed multi-stakeholder involvement and discussions around internal and external policies, issues linked to developing and developed countries and looked at the environmental and development agenda.

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

The Global Goals will only be achieved if they are integrated into national planning and translated into policy that aligns with, rather than duplicates, national sustainable development plans. The EU can support partner countries in these efforts by:

- Meeting the ambition of 'no one left behind' by prioritising supporting countries, populations and areas experiencing greatest inequalities, high levels of poverty and limited domestic capacity to respond.
- Ensuring no country with a credible national plan for achieving the SDGs, including universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, should fail for lack of finance. To that

end it is essential that the EU and its Member States continue to recognise and champion ODA as a pivotal tool in the external implementation of Agenda 2030.

- Bolstering initiatives to strengthen country measurement of key indicators to ensure timely, high quality and disaggregated data is collected and progress against the SDG targets is being measured and assessed.
- Being accountable as a donor, including: strengthening and using country systems to develop, monitor and regulate WASH services; being an active participant in Joint Sector Reviews; and enhancing government leadership of sector planning processes.
- Leading by example through commitment to inclusive, transparent and participatory Agenda 2030 follow up and review processes. This includes committing to the High Level Political Forum, for example i) participating in Voluntary National Reviews; ii) high level engagement at the HLPF summit in July and around the 2019 heads of state process as the first major point of review; iii) setting interim targets across all goals so it is clear whether progress is being made; and iv) supporting initiatives to strengthen inclusive and transparent participation of citizens and civil society in these fora.
- Engaging with global multi-stakeholder initiatives such as Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership to improve accountability and support coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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?

Business as usual will not deliver SDG6 on water and sanitation. The EU can add value by playing an important convening role for a broad range of actors and development partners working in the sector, including at different scales (i.e. through thematic cooperation instruments like the water facility). Joint programming also offers the EU huge potential for improving aid effectiveness in the sector.

Joint programming can provide an enabling platform for 'good' collaborative behaviours; Enhancing government leadership of sector planning processes; Strengthening and using country systems; Using one information and mutual accountability platform, and; Building sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies⁶⁹. Better coherence, complementarity and coordination is in the interests of all development partners, and so the EU should encourage and enable non-EU donors such as the United States, Norway, Japan, the World Bank or UNDP (and the UK following its exit from the EU) to participate.

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

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 of reaching everyone, everywhere with access to water and sanitation depends on the existence of a strengthened water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector capable of delivering sustainable services for all. Building these systems requires partners to work together to strengthen sector performance in a number of different areas – such as planning, financing, monitoring and coordination.

The EU as a donor and development partner, governments, other donors, the private sector and civil society organisations will all have a vital role to play in ensuring resources are put to good use. One area of particular importance is the effectiveness of development aid. Effective aid enhances the capacity of governments in recipient countries to extend and sustain WASH

⁶⁹ These are explained here <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours/>

services, and is a crucial part of efforts to realise the human rights to water and sanitation for everyone everywhere, forever.

Fragmentation remains a challenge, and donors' commitment to strengthening national institutions and addressing national priorities is sometimes overtaken by a desire to maximise short-term impacts. There is an urgent need for the sector to improve its understanding of how aid can optimise progress, and to foster mutual accountability for sector performance.

First and foremost, the EU and its development partners should adopt the Four Collaborative Behaviours identified by the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership that, if adopted, can improve the way that they work together to improve the long-term sector performance⁷⁰:

- Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes
- Strengthen and use country systems
- Use one information and mutual accountability platform
- Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies

The EU should take a leadership role in establishing a multi-stakeholder process for global monitoring of WASH aid effectiveness. This would help promote accountability and to focus political attention on key reform issues. We recommend that global-level aid effectiveness monitoring for WASH should be focused on a small subset of issues that can only be addressed at global level – for example because they originate in broader donor policy, or would benefit from peer-to-peer debate among countries and development partners. This global-level monitoring should not be seen as the apex of country-level processes, but as a pragmatic response to those issues that prevent aid from supporting country-level progress on WASH, and that are out of the reach of country-level actors and processes to resolve⁷¹.

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?

The EU can strengthen its own evidence and analysis to feed into its reviews on progress towards the SDGs by leading on comprehensive data disaggregation. Data should be disaggregated by 'income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context.' (as specified in target 17.18 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

⁷⁰ <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours/>

⁷¹ For more information, see <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Progressing-aid-effectiveness-in-the-WASH-sector.pdf?la=en>

If we really are truly to “leave no one behind” with SDG6 on water and sanitation, there must be clear incentives to deliver sustainable WASH services for everyone everywhere. This includes measuring against indicators including service level and location to ensure that we are moving all populations up a ‘ladder of access’ to water and sanitation. This relies on us measuring progress on reaching the most important rungs – basic, safely managed, at home and in extra-household settings (schools, healthcare facilities). By measuring progress against multiple indicators, such as access disaggregated by gender, wealth and location, we can better understand the monitoring of improvement in access for marginalised groups.

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 (institutions and Member States) can encourage a strong and robust approach to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda:

At all levels by:

- Ensuring follow up and review processes are inclusive, transparent and participatory and provide spaces enhancing the capacity of WASH civil society and stakeholders to hold governments accountable for the implementation of Agenda 2030;
- Supporting the universal and integrated nature of Agenda 2030, identifying decision-making mechanisms or existing policies that can undermine or prevent delivery of water and sanitation-related aspects of the Global Goals and helping to foster a coherent and mutually supportive policy environment;
- Prioritising actions to reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised groups to meet the ambition of ‘no one left behind’.
- Safeguarding the integrity of the monitoring and reporting systems by combining financial and performance monitoring and enabling third party oversight and validation of data.

At the global level by:

- Committing to the High Level Political process. This includes i) submitting to the 2016 Voluntary National Review process; ii) high level engagement at the HLPF summit in July 2016 and around the 2019 heads of state process as the first major point of review; iii) setting interim targets across all goals so it is clear whether progress is being made; iv) supporting initiatives to strengthen inclusive and transparent participation of citizens and civil society in these fora.
- The EU could support and advocate for the necessary need of an intergovernmental commission at the UN level that will ensure the political support and follow up of SDG6 and other related targets and deliver information and monitoring content to the HLPF.
- Ensuring that high-level initiatives to catalyse Agenda 2030 implementation are undertaken in a coordinated, streamlined, transparent and inclusive manner, ensuring clear leadership is given for each Goal and not duplicating the efforts of existing platforms;
- Engaging with global multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership to improve accountability and support coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

At the regional level by:

- Using existing regional and thematic platforms to coordinate, foster knowledge sharing, peer review and reciprocal learning around implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The EU has added value when it can initiate or continue dialogues on development with other regional bodies such as the African Union or the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

At the national level by:

- Developing ambitious national responses to the Global Goals within an agreed and transparent timeframe, in consultation with diverse actors involved in implementation including civil society and the private sector;
- Ensuring national reviews happen regularly (at least every two years), in line with existing national sustainable development plans and draw on adequate data and stakeholder knowledge;
- Ensuring that all stakeholders understand and apply agreed national definitions and standards, and that data collection allows for monitoring both national standards and international monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

In addition, in their capacity as donors, the EU and its Member States should:

- Support developing countries in delivering on all the areas outlined above;
- Create National Plans setting out how Member States are going to deliver Agenda 2030;
- Fulfil their commitment to spend 0.7% of their GNI on ODA;
- Bolster initiatives to strengthen country measurement of key indicators;
- Be accountable as a donor, including: strengthening and using country systems to develop, monitor and regulate WASH services; being an active participant in Joint Sector Reviews; and enhancing government leadership of sector planning processes;
- In the spirit of 'Leave No One Behind', prioritise supporting countries that are furthest away from achieving WASH-related aspects of the Global Goals.

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

Regular reviews on progress of the partner countries towards the SDGs will provide an opportunity for citizens (rights holders), the governments of partner countries (duty-bearers), the EU and other development partners to identify thematic areas, regions or populations where inequalities persist.

In the spirit of 'Leave No One Behind', EU external assistance should go on to prioritise supporting countries that are furthest away from achieving WASH-related aspects of the Global Goals. National and multiannual indicative programming needs to give sufficient flex to allow for adaptive partnerships and a redirection of support in order to respond to national reviews.

